



2025

VOLLEYBALL HANDBOOK

South Carolina High School League

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803-798-0120

www.schsl.org



REGULATIONS

1. The host school will prohibit the use of loud noisemakers such as cowbells, air horns, megaphones, and musical instruments. The tournament director will forbid noisemakers during tournament play. SIGNS (with the exception of welcome signs) WILL NOT BE PERMITTED IN POST SEASON.
2. When tri-matches are played, the two visiting teams should play first (the home team should be ready to play at match time in the event one of the scheduled teams is not present and ready to play). The loser then plays the home team and the winner of the first match will play the home team in the final match. Exceptions are allowed for travel time purposes. (It may be helpful for the team with the furthest travel to play in the first two matches).
3. In single matches and in the first match of a tri-match, teams will be given six minutes separately on the court to warm-up. The team designated as the home team will have the first warm-up period. In the second and third matches of a tri-match, teams having already played will be given 3 minutes (3-3) separately to warm-up. The team having just played in the previous match will warm-up second and their opponent will warm-up first.
4. During regular season and tournament play, a team that has not arrived at the playing site and ready to play at the scheduled time will forfeit its initial set. If the team has not arrived within 30 minutes after the scheduled starting time, the match will be forfeited. For 3 out of 5 matches, wait an additional 15 minutes.
5. During the season when rescheduling occurs and teams are added or dropped, notify your district director as well as the other team(s) involved. Refer to page 80 in Rules and Regulation's section of the SCHSL handbook.
6. Teams are required to wear their regular jersey starting at the call of the captains/coaches meeting.
7. Each team shall be responsible for providing and training at least one line judge for each match played. It is strongly recommended that adults be used. If players are used, they may not be dressed in their team uniform. Both schools will provide a line judge. If the visiting team does not have a line judge, they forfeit their right and the home school will provide a second line judge.
8. All matches must start on time based on the listing time in Arbiter. This is very important as far as the public and game officials are concerned. Officials are not expected to help set up the court.
9. Officials who do not report to the match site at least thirty minutes before starting time should be reported in writing to the South Carolina High School League Office and your director.
10. A 3 OUT OF 5 MATCH MAY ONLY BE PLAYED WHEN ONLY TWO SCHOOLS ARE INVOLVED IN A SINGLE MATCH.
11. So that the official can hear the contact of the serve and in order to detect overlapping, there should be no noise from team personnel during the serve. To promote sportsmanship fans are expected to follow the same protocol.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICIALS

Officials are reminded to:

1. Keep a current and correct preferred mailing address and home, business and cell phone numbers on file in the Arbiter. (www.arbitersports.com)
2. Check and update Arbiter daily.
3. During the volleyball season, an official must report any irregular procedure of the match or any unusual conduct on the part of the crowd, players, school officials or students to their director and the South Carolina High School League Office. This includes instances such as a team walking off the court and refusing to play, disqualifications (players and coaches), other unsportsmanlike acts, inadequate court markings, etc.
4. Leave the volleyball court at the completion of the match.

VOLLEYBALL OFFICIALS' FEES

	First 2/3 Match	Additional 2/3 Matches	3/5 Match
Regular Season	\$50.00 (R)	\$50.00 (R)	\$70.00 (R)
	\$40.00 (U)	\$40.00 (U)	\$60.00 (U)
Upper/Lower State			\$70.00 (R)
			\$60.00 (U)
State Finals			\$70.00 (R & U)
			\$25.00 (L)
Sub-Varsity Matches	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$70.00

Travel Allowance shall be 55 cents per mile to each official with a minimum of \$11.00.

OFFICIALS UNIFORM

The South Carolina High School League requires that officials wear an official SCHSL logo volleyball patch with a plain white shirt, or officials may wear the certified officials blue (cyan) or gray collared shirt; black slacks (not cords, jeans, spandex or cargo shorts); black gym shoes and socks. Shorts are permissible through regular season. Officials must be dressed alike. The default shirt will be plain white.

Purchase of shirts:

Plain white shirt – Purchase officials' gear

Certified Volleyball Official Shirt Blue (Cyan) or Gray - <https://vbofficialsgear.com/>

NORTH VS. SOUTH ALL-STAR MATCH OFFICIALS

The following officials have been honored by being chosen to officiate the Annual North-South Volleyball Match sponsored by the South Carolina Coaches Association of Women's Sports.

1979	Elaine (Sam) Harp	Sarah Sanders
1980	Millie Still	Peggy Macmillan
1981	Sarah Pitts	Melanie Hutto
1982	Bob Waldrop	Kat Laye
1983	Fran S. Bristow	David Brune
1984	Peggy Macmillan	Ann Sprouse
1985	Anarie Duckett	Irene Lewis
1986	Anne Howey	Sherry Haithcock
1987	Kat Finkbeiner	Patti Moore
1988	James A. Gilstrap	Becky Dunn
1989	Sue A LeBlanc	Ron Hinnant
1990	Sherry Haithcock	George Nichols
1991	Marie Dompierre	Jim Prather
1992	Jenny Norris	Penny Bostain
1992/93	Mickie Phillips	Dianne Owens
1993	June Ammons	Kim Haywood
1994	Kathy Stewart	Joni Jordan
1995	Kim Lorick	Paul Mack
1996	Donna Minter	Gary Douty
1997	Janie Julian	Millie Kennedy
1998	Ann Cioffi	Bennie McCoy
1999	Becky Dunn	Johnnie Silon
2000	Deborah Russell	Charles Hershey
2001	Linda Brown	Charlie Pickens
2002	Kathryn Smith	Teresa Tinchler
2003	Eric Melaro	Rene' Glass
2004	Jesse Cheadle	Kelly Owens
2005	Rich Behrends	Linda Ensor
2006	Kathy Sullivan	Eddie Price
2007	Lisa Weeks	Mack Edwards
2008	Carol Bodie	Pete Smith
2009	Harold Moffitt	Walt Williams
2010	Rebecca Anderson	Reggie Rhodes
2011	Laura McKelvey	Ron Post
2012	Wanda Wiggins	Ron Hinnant
2013	Chuck Eaton	Joy Stauffer
2014	Steve Ravan	Kim Haywood
2015	Susan Thomas	Peggy Burgoon
2016	Marvin Howell	Reenata Clark
2017	Louis Ambrose	Barney Downing
2018	Kyle Davis	Bob Wnukowski
2019	Ray Reilly	Lauren Olson
2020	No games	
2021	Doug Speight	Becky Dunn
2022	Zell Madison	Jamie Banks
2023	Sammie McDuffie	Terry Jones
2024	Casey Melton	Johnny Cauthren

LINE JUDGES

Good line judges are essential for a volleyball match. Poor line judges put both teams at a disadvantage. **It is the school's responsibility to select, instruct and train line judges.** Well in advance of the beginning of the volleyball season, school personnel should recruit and select line judges (**preferably adults**) who are willing to volunteer their time and services. Paying line judges will not solve the problem of the need for better line judges. Proper instruction and training will! The line judge must be able to ignore spectator criticism and maintain complete concentration on the game.

It is impossible for the R1 to instruct and train line judges in the short time allocated just prior to a match. Time permits only a brief, general review of their duties and responsibilities.

Coaches should communicate to players and fans the fact that line judges are assistant officials. They **assist** the R1 but do not make decisions. As the head official, the R1 makes all decisions. The R1 merely considers the calls made by the line judges. The R1 may overrule a line judge's call at any time. **It is required that line judges use red flags.**

Characteristics of a Good Line Judge:

1. Reports to the R1 no less than 20 minutes before the scheduled starting time of the match.
2. Reports promptly to the prematch meeting with the officials.
3. Is properly instructed and trained in all duties and responsibilities.
4. Performs duties in a confident, quiet, efficient manner.
5. Is appropriately dressed.
6. Is always courteous to other line judges, officials, coaches and players.
7. Is cooperative and responds in a positive manner to suggestions and directions from the R1.
8. Remains aloof from players and spectators during the match.
9. Refrains from reacting as a spectator to anything that occurs during the match.
10. Makes objective calls that are both quick and decisive, using the correct signals.
11. Concentrates on duties and responsibilities without distraction from other people.
12. Is always alert and ready to move quickly into the best position to make a call without interfering with play.
13. Shows respect for the calls of other line judges.
14. Shows respect for and accepts, without question, all decisions of the R1.

General Guidelines:

1. Line judges are assigned their positions by the R1.
2. Line judges shall hold these same positions relative to the court throughout the match.
3. Line judges are to make calls for balls landing on or near the sideline and end line closest to them prior to retrieving the ball.
4. In general, a line judge should be in a position near the intersection of the sideline and the end line.
5. Line judges **MUST MOVE** to be in the best position for an unobstructed view to make the call.
6. Line judges never enter the playing area.
7. Line judges must be alert to avoid being struck by the ball or interfering with a player's opportunity to make a play.

Specific Duties (Rule 5) - Line judges shall:

1. Determine at the moment of contact for the serve whether the server touches the end line or the floor outside the lines marking the width of the serving area.
2. Indicate when the serve, or any played ball, crosses the net not entirely between the net antennas.
3. Indicate when the ball touches the net and/or net supports not entirely between the net antennas.
4. Indicate whether a ball is in bounds or out-of-bounds when it lands near any line for which the line judge is responsible.
5. Indicate when a player touches a ball that is going out-of-bounds on the player's side of the net.

2025-26 VOLLEYBALL MAJOR RULES CHANGES

3-2-1 NOTE (NEW): Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, state associations may adopt the use of a non-smooth or textured volleyball.

Rationale: Allows either boys or girls to adopt a textured volleyball with no restrictions on color or shape of panels to be inclusive of all current textured volleyballs on the market.

4-2-1h(3), 4-2-1i(2): Team members may wear black, white or gray undergarments in addition to undergarments that match the predominant color of the uniform top/bottom under the uniform top and/or bottom. All team members, other than the libero, wearing an undergarment must wear the same color.

Rationale: Aligns with other NFHS rules codes allowing athletes to wear more commonly found colors of undergarments.

4-2-4d, f: Beginning July 1, 2029, the number on the front of the uniform must be centered on the upper half of the uniform top eliminating the measurement requirements from the shoulder seam and neckline.

Rationale: Removes officials from the position of measuring uniforms to verify the legal distance of the number from the shoulder or neckline, creates consistency in number placement, and allows for number placement variances due to player body types.

5-3-2b, 5-5-3b(9): Eliminates the requirement for the second referee to carry and use a lineup card to check the starting lineups.

Rationale: Allows veteran officials to use each coach's submitted lineup sheet to check the starting lineup while allowing the use of the lineup card as a training tool for newer officials to assist with tracking rotations during the match.

9-4-8c (NEW): Eliminates the judgment call of a multiple contact fault in a single attempt to play the ball on the second team hit if the ball is next contacted by a teammate.

Rationale: Allows for play to continue when multiple contacts on the second contact does not create an advantage for the offending team.

10-4 PENALTIES 1: Changes the penalty administration for an illegal libero replacement to an unnecessary delay if identified before contact of serve and an illegal alignment if identified after contact for serve.

Rationale: Aligns the penalty for an illegal libero replacement with the definition of illegal alignment which occurs on contact of serve.

2025-26 Volleyball Editorial Changes

4-1 & 4-2 PENALTIES; 4-2-4c; 7-2a; 7-4; 7-1-4 PENALTIES 1 & 2; Signal 1

2025-26 Volleyball Points of Emphasis

1. Lineup Card
2. Ball Handling
3. First Referee Assigning Line Judges
4. Uniforms - Contrasting Colors