

**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES FROM  
THE MSHSAA VOLLEYBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WED., NOV. 19, 2008 – MSHSAA OFFICE (COLUMBIA, MO) – 10:00 AM**

**All actions taken by the committee are not final until approved by the MSHSAA Board of Directors—in other words, nothing listed here is going to necessarily happen until approved by the Board.**

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Present: Dwayne Clingman – Owensville (South Central District)  
Ken Corum – Oak Park (Missouri High School Volleyball Coaches Association)  
Davine Davis (MSHSAA)  
Susan Dean – Parkway West (St. Louis District)  
Carmen Johnson – Blue Springs South (Kansas City District)  
Tammy Miller – Logan-Rogersville (Southwest District)  
Kayla Schoonover – Mound City (Northwest District)  
Stacy Thomas – Santa Fe (Central District)  
Cathy Viets (coordinator of state officials and rules interpreter)  
Stephanie Whitehead – Fulton (Northeast)

Absent: Kris VanDeven – Dexter (Southeast District)

Corum and Viets are non-voting members of the committee—they can offer input and discussion, but can't vote.

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**SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN:**

1. The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) establishes the rule book for high school volleyball nationally and MSHSAA is mandated to follow those rules. Anything dealing with rule changes must go through NFHS and the national committee meeting, which takes place in early January. States may make suggestions for rule changes via proposal or by answering the NFHS rule change survey.

The following questions (concerning rule changes for next year) were on this year's NFHS survey and the MSHSAA Volleyball Advisory Committee's response (yes or no were the only options) is listed after each:

**ABOUT THE RULES FOR 2009-10 – WOULD YOU FAVOR...**

Adding a statement to clarify the court and adjacent playable surface must be flat, smooth and free of obstructions other than required equipment. **NO**

Changing the term "game" to "set" in order to update to current terminology in the sport. **NO OPINION** (Comment: even though it was a yes/no question, it didn't really matter to the group much)

Changing the substitution procedure to provide that a team intending to make more than one substitution shall have the substitutions made in succession – one pair (incoming and outgoing) of players after another as beckoned onto the court by the R2. **NO**

Allowing the style and color of the libero's uniform bottom to differ from those worn by the libero's teammates. **YES**

Restricting the libero from completing an attack from anywhere if, at the moment of contact, one or both of the libero's feet is not touching the floor. **YES** (Comment: the committee felt the entire premise of the libero was to be defensive in nature, and an increasing number of teams are setting their liberos—and getting kills—in a good number of their rotations. This would also take judgment for officials out of the equation on whether the ball is above the height of the net or not.)

Changing the restriction of the libero from “completing an attack” to “completing a spike” from anywhere if, at the moment of contact, the ball is entirely above the height of the net. **NO**

Allowing the ball to be played by any part of the player's body. **NO** (Comment: the coaches survey indicated that 65% of Missouri coaches do not want to change the current rule)

Allowing substitution requests prior to the start of the game to be permitted and recorded as such. **YES**

Requiring the referee's whistle to be black. **NO OPINION**

Requiring all pieces of the ball to be white or a combination of colors in which case at least one-third of the pieces shall be white. **YES**

Permitting the head coach to stand in the libero replacement zone and provide instruction during live-ball play. **YES**

Allowing flat barrettes or rubber headbands to be worn during warm-up/play. **YES** (the MSHSAA Volleyball Advisory Committee took no further action on bobby pins, because it appears that NFHS will address this at the national meeting because this question was on the survey)

Allowing an intermission between game Nos. 2 and 3 of no more than 10 minutes, with three minutes for warm-ups to be included within this time. **NO** (this pertains to states that play 3 out of 5 game matches)

2. The committee approved that MSHSAA-sanctioned coaches be **exempt** from the “shoe rule.” Players and managers would still be required to wear athletic shoes during warmup.
3. The committee approved that line judges **may** use flags during the regular season, districts and sectionals—and it will be optional. Line judges at the state tournament will use flags.
4. If a school would like to host a breast cancer awareness match, MSHSAA would like to be notified. A phone call or email to MSHSAA would suffice, and they will issue a response of approval for the match to take place and would be allowed to deviate from some NFHS rules (i.e. playing with a pink ball, allowing officials to wear pink shirts, etc.).
5. Some Saturday tournaments across the state were playing 3 games in pool play matches (for various reasons)—in other words, playing 3 games in a match no matter what, it didn’t matter if one team won the first two—a third game would always be played. This is not allowable according to MSHSAA by laws for volleyball pool play. The committee saw no reason to change by laws to allow this form of pool play, so 3 games in pool play continues to be illegal.
6. The continuous standing policy for fans in post-season play was only supposed to be applied in basketball, but many volleyball districts across the state let it happen. So, the committee approved the policy for volleyball matches as well.
7. A suggestion was made to sound a horn with one minute remaining in a team’s six-minute warmup time. The committee felt that it was up to the coach to watch the clock and divide the time up as they wish. Some teams don’t use the last minute to serve. No change in that rule.
8. POSTSEASON FORMAT – This ended up being the huge topic of discussion—probably about 3-4 hours long on this alone!

Here were the parameters the committee had to work with:

- The premise was to attempt to get more teams involved in the state series (past districts) and to attempt to get the best teams to the state tournament
- 73% of coaches surveyed statewide would be in favor of taking two teams out of each district
- 69% of coaches surveyed statewide would be in favor of creating an 8 team state tournament
- 65% of coaches surveyed statewide would be in favor of keeping pool play as part of the state tournament
- The number of post-season playing dates could not be increased
- The committee needed to be aware of extra costs of officials, facilities, workers, etc.
- The committee was aware of current travel time issues that arose across the state

- The committee was aware that many schools turn down requests by MSHSAA to host sectionals and many officials turn down requests by MSHSAA to officiate sectionals—so to increase those numbers of sites and number of qualified officials may be a hardship
- MSHSAA is only interested in geography and numbers. There is no interest from MSHSAA in equalizing districts by ability. In other words, schools are placed into districts based on geography alone and so that approximately the same number of teams are in each district
- MSHSAA would not like to eliminate the state third place match

So, with that being said—here’s what the committee came up with. **AGAIN, THE MSHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MUST APPROVE THIS—THE GAMEPLAN FOR US AS COACHES TO GET THAT DONE IS AT THE END OF THESE MINUTES.** There are details that can be resolved later, but here are the major points—I know some of you would like to draw this out in bracket form—sorry about that. Rest assured, the committee did, and it works out:

#### DISTRICTS AND SECTIONALS:

- Districts would operate the same way as they are now—local control, single elimination, must be completed by Thursday. The only difference is that both the first and second place teams would advance to sectionals.
- Sectionals would still be held the following Saturday. Instead of four sectionals per class, the number of sectionals per class would increase to eight. Each sectional would still have four teams and would be single elimination. There would still be four sectional sites in each class, but each site would host a sectional in the morning and one in the afternoon. (this solves the issue above of trying to get more sites and more officials—the same officials can work both sectionals all day long at the same site)
- The district champion and runner up from each district would be placed into DIFFERENT sectionals (cross bracketed), so they would not play each other again in the sectional round. Also, this way, it would be possible for two teams from the same district to make the state tournament.
- Each sectional would be played the same way as it is now—two semifinals and one final. Except that each of the EIGHT sectional winners would go to state.

#### STATE TOURNAMENT:

- Coaches meeting on Wednesday evening, but no scheduled practices in Kansas City mandated by MSHSAA.
- To keep pool play and have eight teams in each class, one additional day of play is necessary (Thursday, Friday, Saturday) – additional facility cost for MSHSAA (this may end up being the huge sticking point for the Board of Directors)
- Two pools would be created geographically in each class
- It would take 12 matches to complete pool play in each class (48 pool play matches total)—pool play would take place Thursday and Friday (exact format to be determined)

- In order to have third place and championship matches on Saturday as it currently exists, there would not be time for semifinal matches. Therefore, the top team from each pool would play for the championship on Saturday and the second place teams would play for third place on Saturday. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place teams from each pool would not advance to Saturday play.

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Comment: Just to let you know, a huge number of other possibilities were discussed, but this best fit the parameters we were given and will address about any road blocks that administrators may throw out there. Of course, it's not perfect, but it definitely gets more teams out of districts and gets more teams to experience the state tournament!

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### **WHAT'S NEXT WITH THIS PROPOSAL?**

There are a number of rinse cycles this has to go through before it becomes reality. At this early stage, it's unknown how soon this would be able to go into effect, but the sooner we act on this, the better.

**The biggest thing that coaches MUST do now is to talk with our activities directors, principals and superintendents in support of this proposal. Even if you don't like parts of it, the major premise is to get 2 teams out of districts and 8 to state. We can still tweak a few things. But, that's the major idea we need to get them on board with!!**

It's these people that actually get to make the final vote on these issues and if they don't hear the rationale from YOU about why this is so important, they will take one look at this and say things like, "why should volleyball take 8 to state when no one else does?" or "it going to take more time and money to host sectionals or to go to state" and they will take 5 seconds to vote NO. Show them the coaches survey and see that we have reliable hard data of how the majority of coaches want to move to this concept!

So, lay the groundwork now and let your administrators know that this issue going to be brought up in MSHSAA surveys and questionnaires very soon and they need to know how to vote on the issue. **The only way to get this done is if we ALL do our parts to get the people who vote understanding our viewpoint as coaches.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM. There may be another meeting in January to discuss the post-season format further after more feedback is obtained from other stakeholders and MSHSAA staff.