

Fellow officials,

The 2026 girls season is almost over! I hope you are having a successful season. There are some items brought to me in the last few weeks that are worthy of everyone's attention.

Confirming matches - It is a good practice to reach out to the athletic department and your partner(s) for each of your assignments shortly before any scheduled match to verify the information on Arbiter is accurate. Sometimes schedules change at the last minute and Arbiter does not get updated. Contact information for all schools is available on Arbiter.

Availability - Your schedule needs to be kept up to date! Whether it is an entire day, part of a day, or something else, if you cannot officiate during a particular time period you should block those times. If you are unfamiliar with how to block times on Arbiter, [this video](#) can help. Assigners' jobs are difficult enough without having to make multiple efforts to fill assignments because schedules are not being kept up to date.

Rules questions - Sometimes things come up in a match that are out of the ordinary, even for the most experienced officials. The first resource you can access is your rules and case books. Calls to other officials are helpful in many cases as well. If you can't find an answer these ways, you should reach out to our Chapter Interpreter Sharon Hughes to get her input. You can reach her at (201) 755-5617 or via email at sharonhughes13@optonline.net

Sportsmanship - One of this year's points of emphasis is bench conduct. The NJSIAA also requires officials to read their sportsmanship statement prior to every match. If any team personnel engage in unsporting activities officials should take steps to stop the behavior. We have several tools at our disposal ranging from informal actions up to, and including, disqualification. Ignoring the behavior will not improve the behavior. It will likely encourage its growth.

Cadet Training - Our 2027 training class will start at the end of January. If you know of anyone who may be interested in becoming a certified NFHS volleyball official please refer them to [our website](#) where they can access the details on the process.

Photos of Athletes in Electronic Communications - Please do not take photos of student-athletes and include them in emails, texts, group chats, or social media, even when the image appears to show a uniform color or number violation. Because the athletes are minors, images can be forwarded or posted publicly once sent, which can embarrass students and expose officials and our association to complaints. Instead, describe the issue in writing (teams, date, level, and the specific rule) and report it through your assigner or our chapter interpreter.

I hope the rest of your season is successful and that you have the opportunity to officiate county and state tournament matches!

Sincerely,

[Kevin Kane](#)

President, NE2 Volleyball Officials Association

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