



April 29, 2026

NFHS Volleyball Weekly Rule Interpretations

SCREENING

Screening is an action which prevents receivers from seeing the contact of the serve or the flight of the served ball. The guidelines provided below and included in the 2025-27 NFHS Volleyball Officials Manual (5.5 Screening) are intended to assist referees in determining when the serving team may be screening the server from the receiving team members. Screening is an illegal act that some teams commit intentionally and/or unintentionally.

NOTE: During the 2026-27 season players on the serving team will be prohibited from raising their hands above their heads.

Guidelines:

Because players on the receiving team are only assured the right to see the contact of the served ball or the path of the served ball, there are few instances when a screen might be called. However, there are some situations when potential screens exist, and the referees should be certain to appropriately address.

- Potential screens exist when a player on the serving team raises or waves arms, jumps or moves sideways when the service is executed if the ball is served directly over that player.
- Potential screens exist when two or more teammates stand in close proximity and the ball is served directly over them.
- A screen may occur when players are not standing close together, but are stacked between the server and receivers, limiting the sight of the receivers.

The factors to be weighed when judging screening are:

- relative positions on the serving team;
- path of the serve;
- speed and trajectory of the serve.

If the players of the serving team are positioned close to each other and a fast low trajectory serve passes over these players, the probability is greater that a screen has been committed.

A screen is less likely to occur if:

- the players are not positioned close to each other;
- the players are attempting to avoid a screen (i.e. bending over);
- the path of the serve is not over the players;
- the speed of the serve is slow;
- the trajectory of the serve is high.

No player on the receiving team is entitled to a specific position on the floor. If a player on the receiving team cannot see the server, that player should move. If, after that player moves, the serving team's player moves to take another position which blocks that player's view of the serve, the first referee should call screening, if the ball is served with a low trajectory over the players restricting the view on the serving team.