



October 8, 2025

NFHS Volleyball Weekly Rule Interpretations

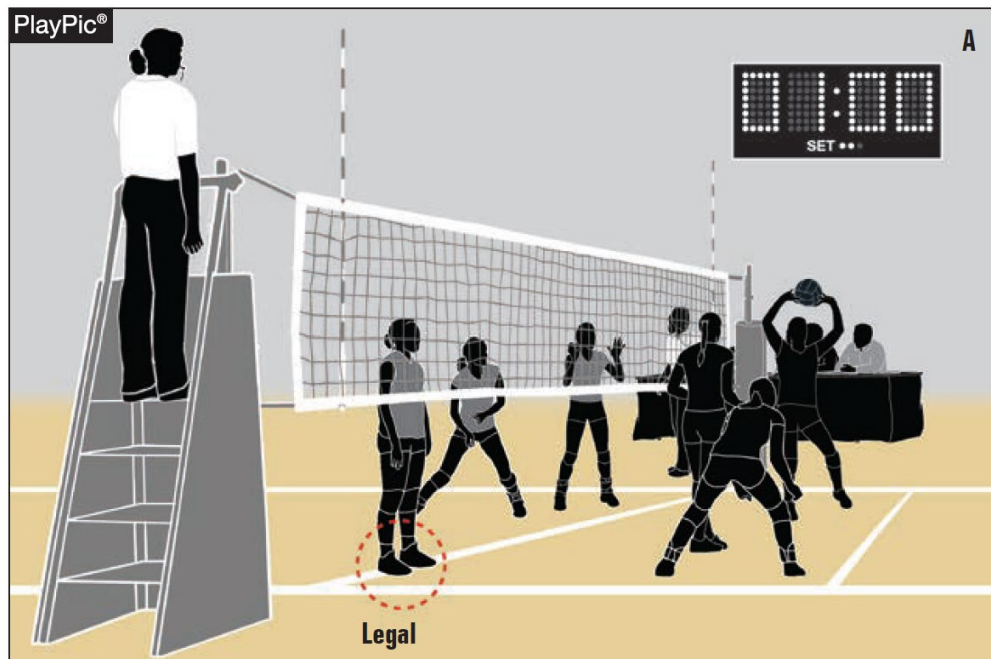
NET PLAY

According to the 2023-24 National High School Sports-Related Injury Study (High School RIO) the most commonly injured body part in girls volleyball was the ankle and the outside hitter, middle blocker and setter were the most commonly injured positions. Due to the higher risk of injuries from play at and around the net, the NFHS Rules Committee continues to maintain strict rules around net play – specifically net faults and center line faults.

CENTER LINE FAULT

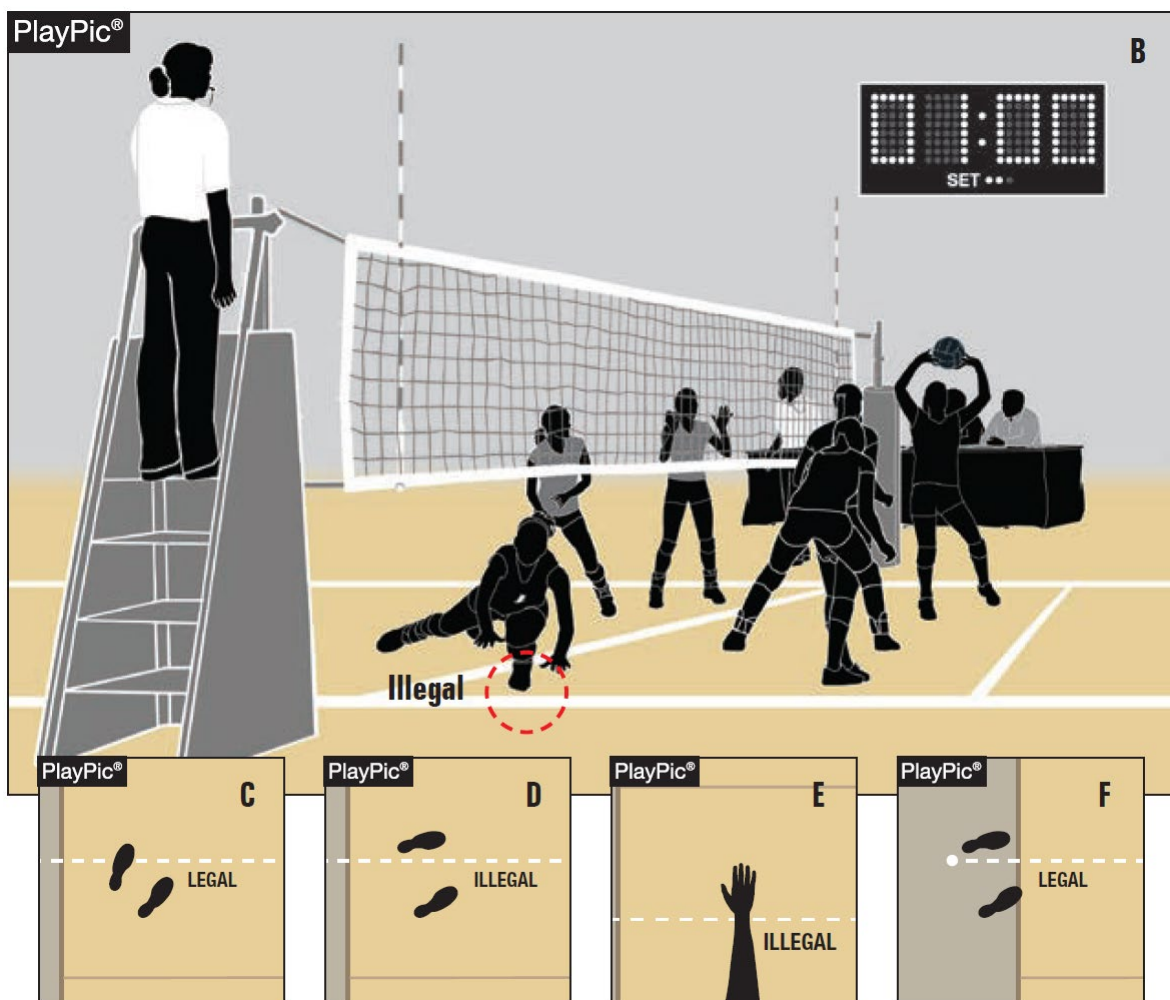
SITUATION 1: A defensive blocker is standing on the center line while the action on the other side of the net is: (a) away from the blocker; (b) near the blocker. **RULING:** (a) Legal; (b) Legal provided the blocker does not interfere with the opponent's attempt to play the ball.

COMMENT: Players may touch the floor across the center line with one or both feet provided part of the foot/feet remains on or above the center line. A net fault occurs if contact with an opponent interferes with the opponent's legitimate effort to play the ball. [9-5-7, 9-6-7d(1)]



SITUATION 2: A defensive blocker stumbles recovering to position and the blocker's left foot lands completely over the center line (PlayPic B/D) while the action on the other side of the net is: (a) away from the blocker; (b) near the blocker. **RULING:** (a) and (b) Illegal. **COMMENT:** A player may not contact the floor across the center line with the foot/hand unless they have part of the foot/hand on or above the center line regardless of where the ball is. (9-5-7)

SITUATION 3: A1 hustles after a first contact by a teammate and plays the ball, still on Team A's side of the net, before A1's foot completely crosses the extension of the center line outside the court between the sideline and standard (PlayPic F). **RULING:** Legal. **COMMENT:** A player may cross the extension of the center line outside the court at any time provided the player does not interfere with play by the opposing team. (9-5-8)

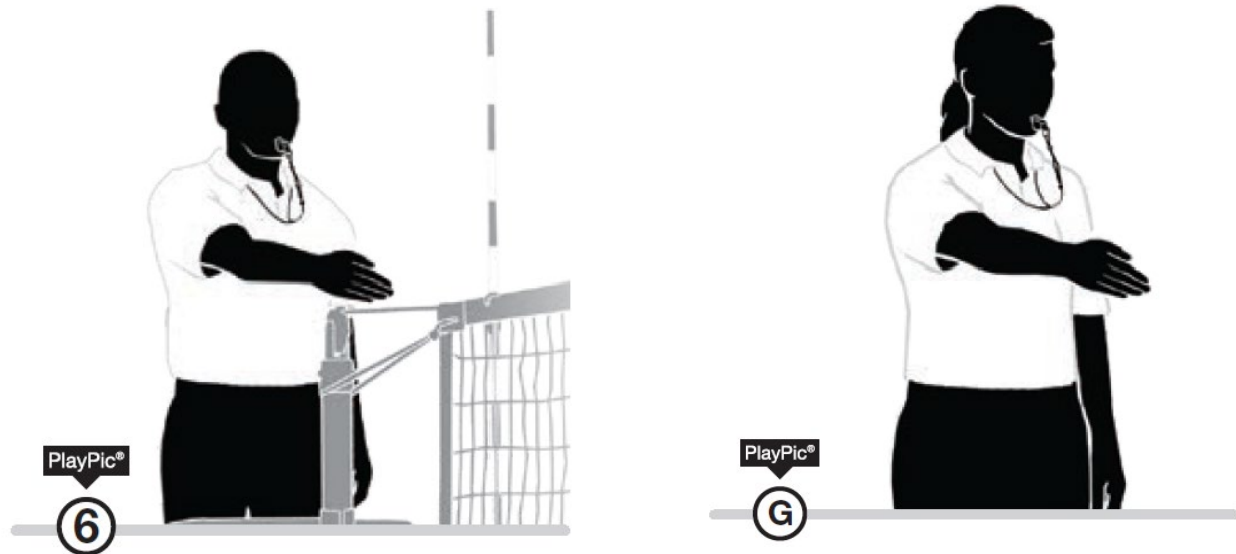


NET FAULT

MECHANIC CHANGE – Net Fault/Net Serve: Hold the arm outstretched on the side of the violating team with open hand, fingers together and palm toward the net. **The first referee touches the net/cable with the hand on the side of the fault.** (Officials Manual Signal 6)

NOTE 1: If the location of the referee's stand does not allow for the R1 to reach the net or cable, it is appropriate for the R1 to touch the pole itself.

NOTE 2: The R2 signal for Net Fault has not changed – The R2 does not contact the net when signaling. (Officials Manual Signal G)



SITUATION 4: The outside hitter for Team A fakes an attack and contacts: (a) the net, or (b) the antenna. The ball is played to the right-side hitter and the outside hitter's contact with the net had no impact on the play. **RULING:** (a) and (b) Net fault. **COMMENT:** A player may not contact any part of the net including net cables or net antennas regardless of where the action is. (9-6-7a)

SITUATION 5: The setter, No. 31, is wearing a towel tucked into their waistband during play. (a) The towel; or (b) No. 31's hair; touches the net while playing the ball. **RULING:** (a) Net fault; (b) No fault. **COMMENT:** When any part of the player's body (except loose hair), uniform or equipment touches the net it is a net fault. (9-6-7a)

