

**Texas Charter School Academic & Athletic League**  
**2015-2016 Volleyball Rules**  
**(Addendums, Exceptions and Points of Emphasis to NFHS 2015 Volleyball Rules)**

1. Rules

- a. TCSAAL Volleyball will follow the rules set forth by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS): <http://www.nfhs.org/activities-sports/volleyball>. For a detailed list of NFHS Rule Changes specific to 2015, please visit <http://www.nfhs.org/sports-resource-content/volleyball-rules-changes-2015/>. The only exceptions that exist are amended by the TCSAAL rules found in this document or in our *Handbook*.

2. Points of Emphasis

- a. 2015 NFHS Volleyball Rule Changes
  - i. For detailed listing of rule changes to NFHS Volleyball 2015, please visit <http://www.nfhs.org/sports-resource-content/volleyball-rules-changes-2015/> for more information.
- b. Please note that starting this school year 9-10<sup>th</sup> grade and Junior Varsity matches will now play best 2 out of 3 matches. Not 3 out of 5 matches. After much request to make this change we allowed all present participating schools at the annual Coaches Conference to vote on this change, and it was all but unanimous for the 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> grade age group, and unanimous in the JV age grouping.
- c. Uniforms
  - i. All players should wear team uniform with individual jersey numbers on both the back of the jersey and the front of the jersey. If the team utilizes jerseys without numbers on the front of the jersey, coaches must take any necessary steps to put numbers on the jerseys by alternative means.
  - ii. For the libero position, players at the libero position must follow NFHS standards by wearing a uniform of a different color in order to differentiate themselves from the rest of the team.
- d. Team Eligibility During Game-Play
  - i. Should a team fall below six players due to illness or injury after the start of a game, they are allowed to finish with less than six players. (See NFHS rule 1-3-3)
- e. Libero
  - i. The libero is a back-row player who is a defensive specialist. Only one libero may be designated per set.
  - ii. The libero, when used:
    - 1. Shall be designated on the lineup sheet prior to each set;
    - 2. May be the team captain;
    - 3. May be used as an exceptional substitution for an injured player if no other legal substitutes are available;
    - 4. Shall not replace a disqualified teammate;
    - 5. Shall be allowed to serve in one position in the serving order.
  - iii. For more information in regard to the libero position, please see Sec. 3-a (“Libero”).

3. Specifications

a. Court

- i. Teams are to assemble and lineup on opposite sides of the net.
  - 1. The home team will choose which side of the court or net they lineup on. The away team must use the opposite side when possible.

b. Net

- i. Girls Net Height: 7 feet, 4 1/8 inches
- ii. Boys Net Height: 7 feet, 11 5/8 inches

- c. Ball
  - i. Game ball does **not** require NFHS authenticating mark.
- d. Match length:
  - i. 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>. and JV: Best 2 out of 3 games wins the match (First 2 games played to 25, win by 2, cap at 30. The third game is played to 15, win by 2, no cap. Note the third game is only played if necessary).
  - ii. 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> (Varsity): Best 3 out of 5 games wins the match (First 4 games played to 25, win by 2, cap at 30. The fifth game is played to 15, win by 2, no cap. Note the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> games are only played if necessary).
- e. Duration
  - i. If a team of at least six players is not present at the official start time:
    - 1. In this instance, the game will begin as soon as enough eligible players (6) are present for both teams.
    - 2. In the event that a team does not have enough players 15 minutes after the scheduled start time, the 1<sup>st</sup> game will be awarded to the present team.
    - 3. In the event that a team does not have enough players 25 minutes after the scheduled start time, the match will be ruled a forfeit and the victory awarded to present team.
  - ii. Hosting teams are required to provide facilities for no less than the following specified times:
    - 1. 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>. and JV Age-Grouping: 1 hour
    - 2. 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> (Varsity): 1.5 hours
  - iii. The first 10 minutes following the scheduled start time is designated for warm-ups (depending on facility availability).
    - 1. All pre-game practice time lost due to late arrival will not be made up.
  - iv. While playing in a facility with time restrictions (If facility will let teams play late then teams should follow normal standards):
    - 1. For all 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>. and JV -Grouping matches: Following the 1<sup>st</sup> game, if more than 30 minutes have passed from the scheduled start time, the 2<sup>nd</sup> game will be truncated to 15 points.
    - 2. For 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Grade (Varsity) Age-Grouping matches: Following the 3<sup>rd</sup> game, if more than 50 minutes have passed, the 4<sup>th</sup> game will be truncated to 15 points.
- f. Officiating
  - i. Officials are to inform opposing team's coach of players arriving late in the event that the late player's team was playing with less than 6 players when the late player arrived. Please note that all teams must have 6 players to start a game.
  - ii. Officials are to examine uniforms for eligibility and compliance prior to the start of the game.
  - iii. Officials are not required to adhere to uniform standards set forth by NFHS.
  - iv. For each age grouping, TCSAAL will utilize the following numbers of officials for each match:
    - 1. For all 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade, 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Grade, and Junior Varsity matches (both district and non-district) including a team from said groupings, TCSAAL will utilize one (1) official during regular season matches and two (2) officials during playoff rounds.
    - 2. For all 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade (Varsity) matches, TCSAAL will utilize two (2) officials during regular season and playoff rounds.
    - 3. For all non-district sub-varsity games, TCSAAL will utilize one (1) official during regular season.
  - v. Each team is required to provide 1 volunteer to serve as a line judge.
  - vi. The home team is required to provide an official score keeper for the official score book.
  - vii. The home team is required to provide a visible scoreboard of some form that effectively communicates the score with players, coaches and officials.
  - viii. The home team is required to provide an additional volunteer to manage the scoreboard.

1. If the scoreboard is electric, this volunteer will also be required to set a timer during timeouts. If scoreboard is not electric, timing timeouts will be the responsibility of the head official.
- ix. Teams are not required to conform to NFHS standards regarding standing platform for head official.
- g. Uniforms
  - i. Teams are required to wear uniforms that meet the following criteria:
    1. Coloring
      - a. A jersey or shirt that is of similar color for every player on the team.
      - b. Opposing teams are permitted to wear similarly colored jerseys, but teams with two sets of jerseys are encouraged to bring them and suit out in a different color than the opposing team.
    2. Jerseys & Numbering
      - a. Jerseys require unique and correct numbering on the back and front of the jersey.
      - b. In the event that a team does not have enough jerseys for their players, teammates may alternate jerseys amongst themselves, however, the numbers always need to reflect the different player in said jersey.
        - i. For example, if two players are sharing a jersey, the number will need to be changed each time the jersey is exchanged between players. A player wearing an incorrect number at any time will be ruled ineligible.
      - c. Numbers and players must match identically with official rosters submitted to TCSAAL.
    3. Jewelry
      - a. TCSAAL adheres to NFHS guidelines in regards to jewelry, with the following exceptions:
        - i. Any extra-uniform article or accessory of décor worn for the purpose of appearance, as determined by officials and/or TCSAAL administration, is not permitted.
        - ii. Players wearing jewelry during play will be subject to unsportsmanlike conduct, as well as potential ejection.
- h. Eligibility.
  - i. Players are expected to be familiar with and in compliance with all guidelines set forth in the *TCSAAL Handbook*.
  - ii. In order for a player to be eligible in accordance with the *TCSAAL Handbook*, he/she must be included on the participating team's official roster which is to be submitted to TCSAAL administration at the end of the business day immediately prior to the day of the game.
    1. Violations of this eligibility clause are subject to, but not limited to, any and all repercussions detailed in the *TCSAAL Handbook*.
  - iii. If a player meets all TCSAAL eligibility requirements, then the player is determined to be eligible pending approval by the official.
  - iv. Team members who arrive late must check-in with the official in order to become eligible take the court.
    1. Officials are then required to notify the other team of the additional player.
4. Rules & Guidelines
  - a. Libero
    - i. The TCSAAL 2015-16 Volleyball Season will function with the inclusion of the libero player for the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade (Varsity) league only. TCSAAL will abide by all NFHS rules and regulations in regards to the libero position with the exception of any amendments listed below. In non-district sub-varsity games, teams will not be able to utilize the libero position.

1. Teams competing in the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade (Varsity) league are able to play with the libero position, but are not obligated to do so. In addition, teams may opt to begin playing with and/or cease playing with the libero position at any point in the season.
  - b. Penalties
    - i. TCSAAL will adhere to penalty guidelines set forth by NFHS with the following addendums:
      - a. Unsportsmanlike Conduct.
        - i. Players committing Unsportsmanlike Conduct infractions are subject to immediate ejection, as deemed appropriate by officials.
        - ii. Depending on the severity of the infraction, players ejected are subject to further suspension for additional games as deemed appropriate by league administration.
        - iii. Teams and fans committing persistent Unsportsmanlike Conduct infractions will be subject to forfeiture of the game result, as deemed appropriate by officials.
        - iv. Excessive littering from fans or players, as determined by league administration, is subject to forfeiture of game and additional fines.
        - v. Teams not adhering to the TCSAAL *Handbook* or teams that pose substantial risk to the safety of others, as determined by league administration, may have the remainder of their season forfeited.
  - c. Instances.
    - i. Inadvertent Whistle.
      1. In the instance that the official unintentionally blows his/her whistle:
        - a. The serve will be replayed.
5. Appendix
- a. Definitions
    - i. Libero – Name for a position or player
    - ii. Warm-ups – The 1<sup>st</sup> ten minutes following the scheduled start time.
    - iii. Scheduled Start Time – Scheduled time of game as indicated by TCSAAL administration. Not necessarily the time when the game will start.
    - iv. Scorebook – Official score sheet that documents score, stats, and substitutions.
  - b. Court Diagram
    - i. Please see NFHS for diagrams and specifications.
6. Final Notes
- a. All teams are expected to possess a copy of and be familiar with the entire contents of NFHS *2015-16 Volleyball Rules Book* and the TCSAAL *Volleyball Rules* addendum.
  - b. All coaches, players, and fans attending any TCSAAL volleyball game or volleyball related events are also expected to be familiar with the entire contents of the TCSAAL *Handbook* and are also required and bound by all TCSAAL rules within the *Handbook*.