

Texas Charter School Academic & Athletic League
2021-2022 Volleyball Rules
(Addendums, Exceptions and Points of Emphasis to NFHS 2021 Volleyball Rules)

1. Rules
 - a. TCSAAL Volleyball will follow the rules set forth by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS): <https://www.nfhs.org/activities-sports/volleyball/>. For a detailed list of NFHS Rule Changes specific to 2021, please visit <https://www.nfhs.org/sports-resource-content/volleyball-rules-changes-2021-22>. The only exceptions that exist are amended by the TCSAAL rules found in this document or in our *Handbook*.
2. Points of Emphasis
 - a. 2021-2022 NFHS Volleyball Rule Changes
 - i. For detailed listing of rule changes to NFHS Volleyball 2021, please visit <https://www.nfhs.org/sports-resource-content/volleyball-rules-changes-2021-22> for more information.
 - b. 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 (ONLY ALLOWED AT THE VARSITY LEVEL), 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.
 - c. 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 will be allowed to finish said game with less than six players.
 - d. Libero
 - i. The libero shall be defined as a back-row player who is a defensive specialist. Only one libero may be designated per set.
 - ii. The libero, when used:
 1. MUST 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, please see NFHS 2021-2022 Volleyball Rules Book.
 - e. Division Sizes & Regular Season
 - i. 4th – 6th Grade, 6th-8th Grade, 9th – 10th Grade, and JV (All Sub-Varsity): Divisions will consist of a maximum of 5 teams and a regular season length of 8 games.
 - ii. Varsity Volleyball division size will consist of a maximum of 6 teams and a regular season length of 10 games.
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. 4th – 6th Grade, 6th-8th Grade, 9th – 10th Grade, and JV (All Sub-Varsity): Best 2 out of 3 sets wins the match (First 2 sets played to 25, win by 2, cap at 30. The third set is played to 15, win by 2, no cap. Note the third set is only played if necessary).
 - ii. Varsity: Best 3 out of 5 sets wins the match (First 4 sets played to 25, win by 2, cap at 30. The fifth set is played to 15, win by 2, no cap. Note the 4th and 5th sets 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 eligible players (6) within 15 minutes after the scheduled start time, the 1st game will be awarded to the present team.
 - 3. In the event that a team does not have enough eligible players (6) within 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. 4th – 6th Grade, 6th-8th Grade, 9th – 10th Grade, and JV age-grouping: 1 hour minimum
 - 2. Varsity: 1.5 hours minimum
 - iii. The first 10 minutes **PRIOR TO** 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.
 - 2. However, there will be a 5-minute mandatory warm-up time implemented regardless of a late arrival team or not.
 - iv. While playing in a facility with time restrictions:
 - 1. For all 4th – 6th Grade, 6th-8th Grade, 9th – 10th Grade, and JV matches: Following the 1st set, if more than 30 minutes have passed from the scheduled start time, the 2nd set will be truncated to 15 points.
 - 2. For Varsity matches: Following the 3rd set, if more than 50 minutes have passed, the 4th set will be truncated to 15 points.
 - 3. NOTE: If the facility will allow teams to play past designated rental periods, then teams should follow normal regulations and protocol.
- f. Officiating
 - i. Officials are to inform opposing team's coach of players arriving late if 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 rule compliance prior to the start of the game.
 - iii. Officials are not required to adhere to uniform standards set forth by NFHS (only TCSAAL standards). See TCSAAL uniform requirements outlined below.
 - iv. For each age grouping, TCSAAL will utilize the following numbers of officials for each match:
 - 1. For all 4th-6th Grade, 6th-8th Grade, 9th-10th Grade, and Junior Varsity matches (both division and non-division) 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 Varsity matches, TCSAAL will utilize two (2) officials during regular season and playoff rounds.
3. For all non-division sub-varsity matches, TCSAAL will utilize one (1) official during regular-season.
4. TCSAAL will provide and utilize 2 line judges for Varsity matches ONLY for the Regional and State Tournaments. Line judging for Sub-Varsity games at the Regional and State Tournaments will still be supplied by the team volunteers.
- v. Each team is required to provide 1 volunteer to serve as a line judge at every regular-season match.
- vi. Home team will be responsible for providing a second volunteer to keep the score book throughout each home regular-season match. To view instructions on how to keep the score book, you can visit the NFHS website for a training video:
<http://www.nfhs.org/sports-resource-content/volleyball-scoresheet-instructions-video>.
- vii. The home team is also required to provide a third volunteer to manage the scoreboard.
 1. If the scoreboard is electronic, this volunteer will also be required to set a timer during timeouts. If scoreboard is not electronic, timing timeouts will be the responsibility of the head / up official.
- viii. The home team is lastly required to provide a visible scoreboard of some form that effectively communicates the score with players, coaches and officials.
- ix. In summation at each regular-season match, the visiting team must provide 1 adult (minimum age 18 years old) volunteer to serve as a line judge. The home (hosting team) must provide 1 adult (minimum age 18 years old) volunteer to serve as a line judge, 1 adult (minimum age 18 years old) volunteer to serve as a score book keeper, and 1 adult (minimum age 18 years old) volunteer to operate the scoreboard.
- x. Home Team / Visiting Team Responsibilities During Playoff Rounds
 1. For all Regional & State Tournament sub-Varsity matches (4th-6th Grade / 6th-8th Grade / 9th-10th Grade / JV), the home team will be responsible for providing 1 adult volunteer to serve as a score book keeper and 1 adult volunteer to serve as a line judge. The visiting team will be responsible for providing 1 adult volunteer to operate the scoreboard and 1 adult volunteer to serve as a line judge.
 2. For all Regional & State Tournament Varsity matches, the home team will be responsible for providing 1 adult volunteer to serve as a score book keeper and the visiting team will be responsible for providing 1 adult volunteer to operate the scoreboard. TCSAAL will provide and utilize the 2 line judges for Varsity Regional & State Tournament matches.
 - a. If one team doesn't have a TCSAAL approved volunteer, the opposing team will be responsible for both volunteer roles. All other Regular Season requirements remain in-effect for Playoff Games other than the volunteer roles described above.
- xi. Teams are **not** required to conform to NFHS standards regarding standing platform for head / up 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 both sets and suit out in a different color than the opposing team should the situation arise.
 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 with the use of tape or anything similar. 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. Jewelry shall not be worn by players during warm-ups and/or competition.
 - i. Medical-alert medals are not considered jewelry and shall be taped to the body and the alert may be visible.
 - ii. Religious medals are not considered jewelry and shall be worn under the uniform and taped to the body.
- b. TCSAAL will follow all NFHS penalties regarding penalties for wearing jewelry during TCSAAL gameplay.

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*, they must be included on the participating team's official RSpportz roster, which is to be submitted by 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 to 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 2021-2022 Volleyball Season will function with the inclusion of the libero position for the Varsity age-grouping 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-division sub-varsity games, teams will NOT be able to utilize the libero position.
 - 1. Teams competing in the Varsity age-grouping 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:
 - 1. Unsportsmanlike Conduct.
 - a. Players committing Unsportsmanlike Conduct infractions are subject to immediate ejection, as deemed appropriate by officials.

- b. Depending on the severity of the infraction, players ejected are subject to further suspension for additional games as deemed appropriate by league administration.
 - c. Teams and fans committing persistent Unsportsmanlike Conduct infractions will be subject to forfeiture of the game result, as deemed appropriate by officials.
 - d. Excessive littering from fans or players, as determined by league administration, is subject to forfeiture of game and additional fines.
 - e. 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.
 - 2. Failure to Submit Roster in Prematch Conference
 - a. In conjunction with NFHS 2021-2022 rule changes, TCSAAL will adopt the administrative yellow card penalty instead of the previous rally/point penalty.
 - 3. “Seatbelt” Rule Clarification & Penalty Progression
 - a. A coach no longer has to remain seated after receiving a yellow card for unsporting conduct. If a red unsporting conduct card is issued, the coach **MUST** remain seated for the remainder of the match.
- c. Instances
 - i. Inadvertent Whistle
 - 1. In the instance that the official unintentionally blows their whistle:
 - a. The serve will be replayed.
 - ii. When the ball strikes the cables and/or the diagonal poles used to retract ceiling suspended net systems, the official(s) will stop play and determine if the ball was playable. The official(s) will signal either out-of-bounds or replay.
- d. Placement of Cheerleaders During Match Play
 - i. During match play (regular season & playoffs), cheerleaders should be positioned behind the bench of THEIR OWN team. Cheerleaders should never be behind the bench of the opposing team. In addition, cheerleaders will move with team as they switch benches from set to set.
 - ii. EXCEPTION: If the head official decides that there is not enough space for the cheerleaders to be positioned behind their team’s bench, they must be positioned in the stands. When in the stands, the cheerleaders do NOT have to move with the team. They can remain where they are for the duration of the match.

5. Roster Deadlines

- a. The deadline to make roster changes is a specified date set by TCSAAL each school year. All roster changes must be made through your TCSAAL Regional Director before 5:00 pm on the date listed in the Roster Lock Deadline Document found on our website’s Rules & Documents page.

6. Appendix

- a. Definitions
 - i. Libero – Name for a position or player
 - ii. Warm-ups – The ten (10) minutes **PRIOR TO** the scheduled start time.
 - iii. Scheduled Start Time – Scheduled time of game as indicated by TCSAAL administration.
 - iv. Scorebook – Official score sheet that documents score, stats, and substitutions.
- b. Court Diagram
 - i. Please see <https://www.nfhs.org/media/882332/court-diagrams.pdf> for diagrams and specifications.

7. Final Notes

- a. All teams are expected to possess a copy of and be familiar with the entire contents of *NFHS 2021-2022 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*.

Any rules not covered in the TCSAAL Volleyball Rulebook will follow the NFHS Volleyball Rulebook.

All players, coaches, staff members, and spectators are bound by these rules and the TCSAAL Handbook.