October 21, 2026

NFHS Volleyball Weekly Rule Interpretations

Unsporting Conduct

Rules References: Rule 12

Unsporting Conduct includes actions which are unbecoming to an ethical, fair and honorable individual. It consists of acts of deceit, disrespect or vulgarity and includes taunting.

PENALTIES: Unsporting conduct shall be penalized as follows:

1. **Yellow Conduct Card (warning)** for first minor offense;
2. **Red Conduct Card (penalty**) for first serious offense or second minor offense and loss of rally/point awarded to opponent;
3. **Disqualification (yellow and red card displayed apart)** for first flagrant offense, second serious offense, or third minor offense and loss of rally/point awarded to opponent. Offender is disqualified from further participation in match and may be removed from the vicinity of the team bench.
4. **Forfeit** results when:
    a. Disqualified individual violates conduct rules following disqualification;
    b. Coach is disqualified and removed from premises and no other authorized school personnel is available to take the bench;
    c. Team refuses to play when directed to do so by the first referee.

SITUATION 1: Team A's coach is visibly upset with a perceived non-call by the officials and steps onto the court while the ball is in play and: (a) immediately steps back into the coaches area without disrupting play and continues coaching their team; (b) stays on the court yelling and motioning towards the first referee. **RULING:** In (a), play continues until the rally ends and a yellow conduct card is administered to Team A's head coach. In (b), play is stopped and Team A's head

coach is issued a red conduct card. **COMMENT:** Since play was not disrupted and Team A's head coach committed their first minor offense in (a), a yellow conduct card is assessed. In (b), play is interrupted and Team A's coach has committed a major offense which shall result in a red conduct card and loss of rally/point awarded to the opponent. (12-2-8b)

SITUATION 2: Team A is celebrating an ace serve from the bench with: (a) enlarged card deck Aces; or (b) spontaneous towel waving. **RULING:** In (a), a yellow conduct card is assessed to the head coach; (b) legal. **COMMENT:** Using props on the bench is prohibited and results in a yellow conduct card for a first offense and a red card for subsequent offenses. Spontaneously celebrating with game equipment such as towels is legal. (12-2-8)

A.

B.

SITUATION 3: Team A's spectators are chanting: (a) using an opposing player's name or number; or (b) in support of their own team. **RULING:** In (a), the official shall suspend play until host management resolves the situation. In (b), the chanting is legal. **COMMENT:** When spectators direct chants at opposing players using their names or numbers, the official shall suspend play and request that host management resolve the situation before proceeding with the set. In the absence of a designated school representative, the home head coach shall serve as host management. Host management should educate spectators on appropriate ways to support their team and prevent similar situations. (12-3)