

Court Protocol

1. Pre-match Ceremonies

Pre-match ceremonies include the national anthem and introductions.

- a. Following timed warm ups, the team players will line up on their respective end lines. The officials take their position on the court. First referee (R1), second referee (R2) and the line judges are standing by the referee platform with R1 and one line judge to the right of the platform (facing the score table) and the R2 and other line judge standing to the left of platform. The R1 and R2 are closest to the platform.
- b. National Anthem is sung or played.
- c. Team introductions take place. Schools have the option of introducing their entire squad starting with the reserves followed by the starters or announcing starters only. Introduce the libero player. As the name is called, the player takes a step forward then back to the line. Visitors are introduced first followed by the home team.
- d. Coaches are introduced.
- e. Match officials are introduced.
- f. Game administrator is announced.
- g. R1 then blows the whistle and motions teams to proceed down their right sideline to shake hands with the opponent at the net.
- h. Teams go to their respective team benches, while officials take their respective places.

Note: Introductions after the first match are NOT made. Only the starting six go to the end line prior to the start of their match. Introductions are made again before championship match.

2. To start the first set of the match

- a. After officials have taken their positions on the court, the R1 blows the whistle and directs the starting players to their respective end lines, with the libero waiting on sideline. (if libero is used)
- b. When all officials are ready, the R1 blows a second whistle and signals the players onto the playing court. **No team huddles will be allowed. Players are directed to go to their starting position.** Note: Teams are asked to use same “no huddle” procedure to start each set.
- c. The R2 moves to the sideline beside the court and checks the receiving team’s lineup first, signals the libero (if used) to enter the court and indicate, with an open hand, the floor captain to the R1. The floor captain shall respond by raising her arm toward the R1. The R2 follows the same procedure for the serving team.
- d. The R2 then takes the ball from the score table and rolls it to the serving team.
- e. Match begins.

3. End of set – non-deciding

- a. The R1 blows the whistle & signals “end of set.”
- b. The R1 then whistles and directs the teams to change courts or move to the appropriate team benches. Teams no longer need to go to the endlines, on the signal they are directed to their appropriate bench on the change of court signal.
- c. Players proceed counter clockwise along the sideline outside the standards, then directly to their appropriate team benches.
- d. The timer begins timing the three-minute interval between sets beginning with the R1’s whistle and change of court signal.
- e. At the end of the three minute interval, the R1 blows the whistle and signals the players directly onto the playing court. **Note: No team huddles will be allowed. Players are to proceed to their starting positions.**
- f. The R2 shall check line up positions of each team.

4. Prior to deciding set

- a. The R1 whistles, signals the end-of-set and directs the teams to their benches.
- b. The R2 double whistles and raises coin in the air to signal the captains to go near the officials’ table for the deciding set coin toss. The home team calls the toss.
- c. Upon completion of the deciding set coin toss, the R2 communicates the results of the toss to the R1 by extending an outstretched arm on the side of the team to serve first and giving the appropriate signal indicating if teams will remain on their own sides or change courts.
- d. The R1 whistles and gives the appropriate signal indicating whether the teams will remain on their current sides or will change courts.
- e. R2 directs the timer to start the clock for the 3 minute interval between sets.

5. End of the match

- a. R1 blows the whistle and signals “end of set”
- b. Then whistles and releases the players.
- c. The R2 then verifies the score by initialing the scoresheet. The match becomes official when the scoresheet is initialed, and no change of score shall be allowed thereafter.