



## 2001-02 Season is here!

### Presenting the NEW Eastside Volleyball Officials Association Newsletter!

*Black and White* is a new publication of the Eastside Volleyball Officials Association. Beginning this season, this publication will serve members by presenting thought provoking articles, plays, techniques, and other information. See page 4 for information on how to send ideas for *Black and White*.

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### National Federation Rule Changes for 2001-02

There have been a number of rule changes for the 2001-02 season. Many are moving us closer to alignment with other rule codes, while others work to provide a safer environment for student athletes. Included with each change is its corresponding rulebook reference. As always, be sure to check the casebook/officials manual for additional discussion.

**4-2-1** Effective with the 2002-03 season, all uniforms must be free of all hard and unyielding items such as buttons, zippers, snaps, and fasteners.

**Rationale-** Restriction from uniforms with hard and unyielding adornment.

**4-2-3f** The top of the number on the front of the uniform shoulder can be no more than five inches down from the shoulder seam OR placed so the number is centered **NO MORE THAN TWO INCHES BELOW THE NECKLINE OPENING** on the upper body. **Rationale** - The upper body of the uniform top provides for a clear view of the number.

**5-4-3-b-13** The umpire notifies the coach when a team uses their 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th

substitutions. **Rationale** - A courtesy to the coaches, warning them when they are close to the substitution limit.

**5-5-3-l** The scorer shall notify the umpire when a 19th substitution is requested. **Rationale** - Consistent with change in substitution limit.

**5-7-3c** The line judges shall indicate when the ball touches the net, net antennas, and or net supports not entirely between net antennas. **Rationale:** Clarifies that the antennas are considered out-of-bounds. (We have done this for many years - no change to our current mechanics or rules.)

**7-1-2** Line-ups are due two minutes prior to the end of timed pre-match warm-up. An accurate, written line-up of the uniform numbers for the six starting players in proper serving order must be turned in by the coach. The first server should be identified by circling that player's number. (Note: THE POSITIONS ON THE SUBMITTED WRITTEN LINEUP TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER THE CIRCLED PLAYER. **Preventive officiating should be used when the first server's number is not circled.** **Rationale** - Addition of wording in the rule for clarification purposes. *Typical case: If the receiving coach submits a line-up with the player in the left back position circled, the player in the right front will actually be the first server.* Officials should check the line-up when handed in to help prevent such errors.

**9-5-1b, 9-5-4** Omit "With the intention of" from the definition of attack.

**Rationale** - Results are officiated, rather than the intent of the player. Simply put, any ball directed toward the opponents court (other than a block or serve) is considered an attack, regardless of player intent.

(see 'Rule Changes' - pg.3)

# From the President...

Where does time go? It hardly seems possible that the high school volleyball season is upon us already! It has been a busy "off-season." Unfortunately, since we last met, our officiating ranks, and indeed our association, have lost two dear and special people. George Forester and Virginia Valentine, both long time active members of our association, passed away last month. They were wonderful people who positively touched all with whom they came in contact. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families in their time of loss. Let those of us that knew them never forget their commitment to the sport and to officiating excellence.



**Fusako Hines, ESVBOA President**

For the fifth consecutive year, our association is proud to host one of the most comprehensive training clinics of its kind in the state. I have heard nothing but positive comments about the way it has helped area officials improve their game. The positive results are evident judging from several of our officials I have worked with in the past few years! If you have not attended one of our clinics, I ask that you embrace this opportunity to get the most out of your game. If you have attended in the past, make sure that you continue your efforts by joining us again for this most rewarding experience. The coordinators have been working hard in the past several months to make this the finest clinic that we have hosted yet!

It amazes me each year how much our association changes and grows in such a positive direction. It seems like yesterday that just a few of us were sitting around a table talking about volleyball rules. Oh, how times have changed. My hope for the upcoming season is that all our members have good health, raised spirits, and a set of solid goals. It's hard work that will get you where you want to go. There is no such thing as setting a goal that is too high. As I mentioned at our first meeting, when you look up there are a thousand better than you. When you look around, you may find yourself very much ahead of the pack. If you keep making and meeting high goals, one day you can look around and find that the group in front of you is much smaller than the group behind you.

Let's start the new millennium with positive attitudes. Try to watch and mimic your idol. It will make you a better official.

Have a great season,  
Fusako

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## Tribute to Our Fellow Officials:

*We remember Virginia Valentine and George Forester for their many years of dedicated service and friendship*

### **George W. Forester Jr.**

George was a life-long resident of Birmingham. Born on August 28, 1920, he was the last of six children of Mary Elizabeth Clift and George Wayne Forester, Sr. George received his high school education at Baldwin High School, graduating in 1938 and earning nine varsity letters in football, basketball and baseball. George attended Western Michigan Teacher's College from 1939 to 1940 where he played freshman football. He attended training camp with the Detroit Lions in 1942 and is an alumnus of the team. While at camp he received his draft notice and entered the U.S. Army Signal Corps. George served in the South Pacific from 1942 to 1945 and was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant. He began working at General Motors during the mid-1940's, eventually becoming a product designer. In 1946, George married his beloved Frances Marian Wimsett. He continued to play several sports in recreational leagues until his children began arriving at an almost alarming rate. During the 1950s he was an Assistant Equipment Manager for the Detroit Lions. Their six children arrived quickly, born from 1953 to 1962. The family spent many happy summers in the cottage that George and his wife built. George was a very dedicated

sports official, working many recreational and school games in various sports for over 50 years. George realized a long-time dream when he umpired the Class C softball state title game in 1986. He also umpired the softball all-star games from 1985 to 1989. This year, George received a "Golden Whistle Award" from the Michigan High School Athletic Association, "Recognizing 40 years of Service." He helped coach the Little Caesar's women's slow-pitch softball team winning two world championships in the 1980s. He was active in supporting athletics at Seaholm High School from 1965 until just a few weeks before his death. He had been a long-time fan and volunteer coach for the Seaholm girls softball team. When the new Seaholm softball field was dedicated in 1994, a sign was attached to the backstop which reads, "GEORGE W. FORESTER JR. SOFTBALL FIELD." Frances, his friend and wife for 63 years, mourns his loss. George is also survived by his six grandchildren, two brothers, two sisters, many nieces and nephews, great nieces and great nephews and also some great great nieces and nephews. He was a man who made friends easily and was always ready to help when he was needed.

*(See "Tribute" on pg.3)*

## Rule Changes

(continued from pg. 1)

**10-1-2a, 10-2-1** A substitution request can now be made by the coach **or** by a player entering the "substitution zone." The sub zone is the area between the attack line and center lines extended. **Rationale:** This change helps to speed up the substitution process, and subsequently the game.

**10-3-2, 10-3-6, 10-3-7b3** Teams are now allowed 18 substitutions and unlimited individual entries. Starting the game does not count as a team sub. An illegal sub does not count as a substitution if the sub is removed from the court. The penalty for excessive team subs is unnecessary delay. **Rationale:** Gives coaches more flexibility with substitutions.

*Many of these changes are motivated by modifications to other rule codes. If you would like more information on changes at other levels of play, visit the the ESVBOA Web Site (see below).*

## Tribute

(continued from pg. 2)

In lieu of flowers, his family suggests memorials to American Diabetes Association, Leader Dogs for the Blind, or Seaholm Softball Boosters.

## Virginia Valentine

Virginia "Ginny" Valentine was a long-time member of the Eastside Volleyball Officials Association. She was involved in volleyball since its inception as a varsity sport in Michigan. Virginia taught and coached the Dearborn Fordson varsity team to its only state title in 1976. Ginny also coached the Fordson softball team several times to the state quarterfinals. For volleyball achievements, she and her 1976 championship team, were honored as a "Legends of the Game" in a ceremony held at the 1998 MHSAA Volleyball Finals in Kalamazoo. That same year, Virginia was also selected to work as a line judge for the Class A final. She was on the Dearborn Parks and Recreation Board of Commissioners and was inducted into the Dearborn Sports Hall of Fame.

## Philosophy - The Challenges of Judging Ball Handling: Being at "Peace" with yourself and your game

By Steve Miller

In the middle of a recent high school season, it happened. One of those nights that come along every once in a blue moon. It was a high-powered match with two teams who had it out for each other. My partner, who I had known many years and worked numerous matches with, had a vast array of experience under his belt - including Division II college ball. As a referee, he is as good as they come. Not that night...

Both coaches were very upset with the match he was calling. From my position as umpire, the only thing that seemed out of the ordinary was that he was calling a "looser" match than I was used to seeing him call. Overhand passes (mostly on the first team contact in reaction to quick attacks) were the main culprits. I did my duty, protecting and serving my referee, by keeping the coaches off his back as much as I could. Before the end of the three-game match, one of the coaches received a yellow card for his efforts. It was clearly an experience that builds character.

Several months after the end of the season, that referee and I were discussing the aforementioned match. In a truly philosophical exchange that ensued, we picked apart the topic of perception of officials. We hypothesized that the best referees are those that the coaches perceive as making the least errors in the most critical moments of a match. During the course of the discussion, I was somewhat surprised by my partner's admission that maybe he should have whistled a few of those questionable contacts. I was caught off-guard because he is one that normally takes a strong stand on his philosophies. One of my favorite quotes is, "The first step to recovery is admitting the problem." Couldn't we all be more honest with ourselves? Witnessing his experience, coupled with his admission of guilt, I discovered and adopted a profound, philosophical change to my own game.

From the time I began officiating volleyball, I had struggled judging legality of contacts. Finally, I found myself "at peace" with my game and consequently myself. Being "at peace" meant that I called what I thought the majority of the coaches wanted called, while not compromising my own beliefs. Suddenly, I was much less worried about what the coaches thought of my game and concentrated more on enjoying the experience that officiating provides. My change in philosophy had such an impact, it filtered over to every other aspect of my life. For the first time in my officiating career, I had finally found "peace" with my whole self. I urge you to look inward and find your "peace."

Visit the Eastside Volleyball Officials Association on the Internet!

<http://members.home.net/eastsidevolleyball>

The purpose of the site is to provide quick and easy access to information about our association and the sport of volleyball. Our website features information of general interest such as links to other volleyball related sites, caseplays and rulings, and articles/stories relating to officiating. Check it out!!

## **Eastside Volleyball Officials Association Mission**

From the beginning, the goal of the Eastside Volleyball Officials Association has been the promotion of quality for volleyball officials. As we progress into a new century, the game grows larger and increases in popularity. We owe the sport, and those who play it, to put as much effort into our roles as they give to theirs. Growing, changing, and sharing is, and forever will be, the overwhelming theme of this association.

## **How do I get my plays and ideas in *Black and White*?**

*Black and White* is always looking for plays, situations, or story ideas, from ESVBOA members about volleyball officiating. If you are interested in submitting ideas or plays, send them to Steve Miller at [scmiller11@home.com](mailto:scmiller11@home.com) Please put "*Black and White*" in the subject line of your e-mail. File attachments are gladly accepted, however, please send only Microsoft Word documents. If you do not have e-mail, you may send your materials to Steve Miller, c/o *Black and White*, 15220 Toepfer, Eastpointe, MI 48021.

## **Miss the Last Rules Meeting? No problem!**

The Eastside Volleyball Officials Association is once again pleased to host the MHSAA Make-Up Rules Meeting.

**Tuesday, December 18, 2001**

at

**L'Anse Creuse High School**

(see ESVBOA Web Site for directions)

**7:00p.m.**

***Remember, rule meeting attendance is mandatory for assignment to playoff matches!***

## Inside the Rules - Improvement, Prayer, and Patience

By Jay Shaheen

When I speak to officials associations, I often begin with something like this: "If it's true that you learn from your mistakes, then I am the smartest person in this room!" And although the line undoubtedly gets a chuckle while serving as an ice-breaker, it's probably more accurate than I wish to admit. I am referring, of course, to the part about making mistakes.

Frankly, we all make mistakes. Some referees more, some less. Regardless of where we fall on this scale, our goal should be to make fewer errors every match, every season. We should focus less on how good we are today, and more on how much improved we can be tomorrow. I would prefer to be a good official constantly improving, than a better official who has stagnated. For one day, the good will pass the better.

The secret to making mistakes without letting them ruin our day is what we do after making them. If we take the "oh well" attitude, or the "I *think* I got it right" approach, then we have learned nothing! This is how I originally became interested in studying and analyzing rules and case plays. For instance, a situation would occur during a game. I would make a ruling or a non-ruling, mentally note the events, then go home and look it up. Whether I made the correct or incorrect decision during the match, I would read and study everything I could find on the topic. Additionally, I would imagine "what if" situations surrounding that which actually *did* happen and look up those too in the rule book. If still confused or unclear on any variation of my game situation, I would phone a veteran official for further clarification. This, then, is truly how we learn from mistakes. Better yet, we can learn even if we made the correct decision especially if we were merely guessing or not totally certain. If during my match I had made an error, I would commit to not repeating it. If I had in fact gotten it right, the next time I would be sure!

I recall a volleyball match a few years ago: Prior to the start of the first game, one of the team's setters approached and asked me if it was okay for her to have a small towel tucked in the waistband of her uniform

bottoms. As I looked at the towel positioned snugly in the back of her compression shorts, I replied, "Um...yes." She smiled, thanked me, and trotted away. Yet I continued to myself, "I *think* so."

A big deal? No. A safety issue? No...or *is* it? What if the towel falls to the floor during play? What if the opponents claim that the hand towel gives her a hand-up? What if every player wishes to sport a tucked towel to keep their fingers dry? As I took my position to begin the contest, I remember hoping, "Don't let the opponents question it...and *please* don't let it fall out."

My prayers were answered.

I have no memory of what I ate for dinner after the match since I was reading throughout the entire meal. But, I got smarter! The *next* time I would be sure: Under National Federation rules, it is prohibited for any player to have a towel tucked in the waistband. Effect: There is rule book support for penalizing the team with an unnecessary delay if the player attempts to enter or is found in the game, yet case book support for merely requiring the player to remove the towel. (4-1-4; 4-1-4 Pen.; Case Book 4-1-4B) So, in the absence of a more thorough interpretation from NFHS, rule according to the dictates of your conscience.

Experienced officials know and understand that knowledge of the rules alone, no matter how thorough, do not make a great referee. However, the best mediators of athletic events, among other critical skills, do possess the ability to prescribe fouls and penalties properly much more often than not. These things take time. Be patient.

In the next issue of *Black and White*, I promise less rhetoric and more rules for this column. So, until then, keep improving. I will.

...will you?

### ESVBOA Financial Report for 2000-01

Beginning of Season Balance		\$331.00
Income from Dues & Clinic Fees		1,061.00
		<hr/>
		\$1,392.00
Expenditures:		
Meeting/Clinic Snacks	\$572.00	
Duplication and Postage	249.00	
Site Rental (Meetings)	50.00	
Bank Charges	110.00	
Donations in memory of deceased members	50.00	
	<hr/>	1,031.00
End of Season Balance		<u>\$361.00</u>

*Thank you to all who paid their dues in a timely manner!*

# ESVBOA 2001-02 Meeting Dates

Sunday, October 28, 2001	U of M - Dearborn Fieldhouse	2:00 pm
Saturday, December 1, 2001	L'Anse Creuse Middle School - Central <i>5th Annual Volleyball Clinic</i>	8:30 am
Sunday, January 6, 2002	Westfield Community Center 2700 Westfield Road Trenton, MI. <i>(1/2 block north of West road just East of I-75)</i>	2:00 pm
Sunday, February 24, 2002	Peace Lutheran Church <i>(on 12 mile road East of Hoover)</i>	2:00 pm
Sunday, March 17, 2002	Peace Lutheran Church <i>Year-End Pizza Party!!</i>	2:00 pm

BLACK AND WHITE  
15220 Toepfer  
Eastpointe, MI 48021



**Eastside Volleyball Officials Association**

*An MHSAA Approved Association*