



What You Need To Know

RULE 12 – CONDUCT

Definition

- 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
 - The NFHS disapproves of any form of taunting which is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule or demean others under any circumstances including on the basis of race, religion, gender or national origin
- No official or game personnel shall use any form of alcohol or tobacco product beginning with arrival at the competition site until departure following the completion of the match

Conduct: Players, Coaches and/or Team Attendants

- Prior to the match, referees shall meet with the head coach and captains to discuss sporting conduct expectations
- No player, coach and/or team attendant shall act in an unsporting manner while on or near the court before, during or between sets
- It is considered a serious offense (red card) for any player, coach and/or team attendant to use any form of tobacco product
- The captain(s) and the head coach from each team shall attend the prematch conference
- A team shall not refuse to play when directed to do so by the first referee

Conduct: Players, Coaches and/or Team Attendants

- Assistant coaches shall remain seated on the bench during a set except to*
 - Ask the second referee, during a dead-ball situation
 - To review the accuracy of the score
 - To verify the number of time-outs used
 - The serving order of his/her team
 - Verify the proper server for the opponent
 - Stand at the bench to greet a replaced player
 - Confer with players during a time-out
 - Spontaneously react to an outstanding play by a member(s) of their own team
 - Attend an injured player with permission of a referee
- *these exceptions also apply to the head coach (see next slide)

Conduct: Players, Coaches and/or Team Attendants

- A head coach may stand in the libero replacement zone to coach his/her players
- During play, the head coach shall be no closer to the court than 6 feet from the sideline
- If a card is issued to the head coach, assistant coach(es) or team bench, the head coach must remain seated for the remainder of the match except
 - To request a time-out or substitution during a dead ball
 - To confer with officials during specifically requested time-outs
 - *And include exceptions provided in the previous slide

Conduct: Players, Coaches and/or Team Attendants

- Non-playing team members and other bench personnel shall remain seated on the team bench during a set except to
 - Spontaneously react to an outstanding play by members of their own team
 - Go to a nonplayable area to warm up without volleyballs prior to entry into the set as a substitute
 - Stand at the bench to greet a replaced player(s), then immediately sit down

Conduct: Players, Coaches and/or Team Attendants

- Unsporting conduct for a coach, substitute or team attendant includes, but is not limited to the following
 - Use of disconcerting acts or words when an opponent is about to play the ball
 - Entering the court while the ball is in play
 - Attempting to influence a decision by a referee
 - Disrespectfully addressing a referee
 - Questioning a referee's judgment
 - Disrespectfully addressing, baiting or taunting anyone involved in the contest

Conduct: Players, Coaches and/or Team Attendants

- (continued) Unsporting conduct for a coach, substitute or team attendant includes, but is not limited to the following
 - Using electronic equipment, excluding computers for coaching purposes during the set or any intermission
 - Using a sounding device at courtside for coaching purposes
 - Holding unauthorized conferences
 - Attempting the re-entry of a disqualified player
 - Illegally leaving the designated bench during the set
 - Making any excessive requests designed to disrupt the set
 - Abusing the re-serve rule

Conduct: Players, Coaches and/or Team Attendants

- Unsporting conduct by a player includes but is not limited to:
 - Use of disconcerting acts or words when an opponent is about to play the ball
 - Disrespectfully addressing a referee
 - Questioning or trying to influence a referee's decision
 - Showing disgust with referees' decisions
 - Using profane or insulting language or gestures or baiting/taunting anyone involved in the contest

Conduct: Players, Coaches and/or Team Attendants

- (continued) Unsporting conduct by a player includes but is not limited to:
 - Making any contact with an opponent which is deemed unnecessary and which incites roughness
 - Using any part of a teammate's body or any object to gain physical support for advantage in playing the ball
 - Deliberately serving prior to the signal for serve
 - Abusing the re-serve rule
 - Spitting other than into the proper receptacle
 - Making any excessive requests designed to disrupt the set

Penalties

- Unsporting conduct shall be penalized as follows
 - Warning (yellow card) for first minor offenses
 - Unsporting penalty (red card)
 - For first serious offense, or
 - Second minor offense
 - Loss of rally/point awarded opponent
 - Disqualification (yellow and red card)
 - For first flagrant offense
 - Second serious offense, or
 - Third minor offense
 - Loss of rally/point awarded to opponent
 - Offender is disqualified from further participation and may be removed from the vicinity of the team bench
 - Forfeit results when
 - Disqualified individual violates conduct rules again
 - Coach is disqualified and removed from premises and no other authorized school personnel is available to take the bench
 - Team refuses to play when directed to do so by the first referee

Procedure for Unsporting Conduct Violations

- The first referee, as the head official, sets the tone for the match, therefore only the first referee shall administer the cards as follows
 - Hold the card(s) in the hand(s) on the offending team's side of the court with the arm outstretched, elbow bent 90 degrees and hand(s) held head high
 - Verbalize to the second referee the number of the player(s) or which coach is receiving the card
 - Under no circumstances shall the referees permit unsporting conduct to occur without penalty
 - If there are multiple offenses, each offender shall be penalized

Procedure for Unsporting Conduct Violations

- When the second referee sees or hears an action or response that necessitates a card
 - He/She shall move to the offending team's side of the net
 - Take a few steps onto the court toward the first referee
 - Hold the card(s) in the middle of their chest
 - Indicate verbally the number of the offending player(s) or coach
 - It is the responsibility of the first referee to immediately administer any card(s) requested by the second referee

Procedure for Unsporting Conduct Violations

- Warning (yellow card)
 - Administered at first dead ball
 - Recorded in the Comments section of scorebook
 - No penalty assessed
- Penalty (red card)
 - Administered at first dead ball
 - Recorded in the Comments section of scorebook
 - Loss of rally/point to opponent

Procedure for Unsporting Conduct Violations

- Disqualification (yellow and red card)
 - Administered at first dead ball
 - Cards are displayed apart
 - Recorded in the Comments section of scorebook
 - Loss of rally/point to opponent
 - Offending player/coach is disqualified
 - The offending player may be removed from the vicinity of the team bench provided there is authorized school personnel available to supervise
 - The offending coach (or other adult team personnel) shall be removed from the premises
 - The referee shall notify the appropriate coach of the reason for the disqualification
- Forfeit, if awarded to opponent, shall be recorded on the scoresheet

Procedure for Unsporting Conduct Violations

- If the situation warrants, the referees may issue a red card or a yellow and red card on a first unsporting conduct violation
- The second referee shall direct the scorer to record the proper notations and verify that the scorer has recorded them
- All cards carry over from set to set throughout the match
- The second referee may keep notations on the lineup card
- The scorer shall notify the second referee of any previous violations by the same individual

Procedure for Unsporting Conduct Violations

- When unsporting conduct occurs from the bench or court and the referees cannot determine the specific offender(s), the warning or penalty is issued to the coach
- Any cards issued for unsporting conduct prior to the first set or between sets shall be administered at the beginning of the set immediately following the violation
- Request such as time-out, serving order check, substitution, etc. shall not be recognized until after the card(s) is administered
- If the team captain asks in a proper manner, the first referee shall give the reason for the penalty, but shall not permit further discussion of the penalty
- When a spectator becomes unruly or interferes with the orderly progress of the set, the first referee shall suspend the set until the host management resolves the situation
- In the absence of a designated school representative, the home head coach shall serve as the host management