



# Kentucky High School Athletic Association

2280 Executive Drive ° Lexington, KY 40505 ° www.khsaa.org ° (859)299-5472 (859)293-5999 (fax)

TO: Julian Tackett, Commissioner  
FROM: Butch Cope, Assistant Commissioner  
RE: Volleyball Playing Rule  
DATE: Nov. 7, 2011

Commissioner, as you are aware, the NFHS adopted a best 3 of 5 sets in the sport of Volleyball in 1998-99 with rally scoring for the fifth and deciding set in a five game match. Then, in 2004-05 the NFHS changed to full rally scoring. To help ease with the phase in of 5 sets, the option was left in place whereby State Associations could continue to play 2 of 3 sets.

As I'm sure you remember, the KHSAA Board of Control reviewed the adoption of 3 of 5 sets a few years ago and chose to currently leave that as a local option. With the adoption of rally scoring by the NFHS in 2005, the Volleyball Advisory Committee (now made up of Principals, Athletic Directors and Coaches) unanimously approved to ask the Board of Control to review full adoption of the NFHS rule whereby varsity (only) play would be 3 of 5 sets.

This group discussed it at length and the topic was also shared at the Volleyball Assignors meeting. In seeking the approval, it was shared that a great number of teams continue to play 3 of 5 sets and those that don't choose to do so in district games, rivalry games, etc. In discussing this approval, the group felt that standardization of below varsity level matches and warm-up times should also be adopted as it varies across the state. Standardization of such would assist with concerns regarding the length of play, particularly when there were tri-matches involving freshmen, junior varsity and varsity contests. Matches that previously may have been won 2-0, likely with rally scoring, you are only looking at an additional 20-25 minutes in increase of play at only the varsity level.

The group, including the assignors, also discussed the pay for volleyball officials. Currently a regular season volleyball contest official is paid \$40 per contest. Those that choose to play 3 of 5 pay an additional \$10 or \$50 per contest.

After reviewing comments from all parties and obtaining information from other states, I propose the Board consider the following beginning with the 2012-13 playing season:

Varsity Play – will be best 3 of 5 sets, rally scoring, with the fifth set being to 15 per the NFHS Rules Book.

Junior Varsity Play – will be best 2 of 3 sets to 21, rally scoring with the third set being to 21.

Freshmen Play – will be best 2 of 3 sets to 17, rally scoring with the third set being to 17.

Warm-up Time – Standard 15 minutes of warm-up time between matches: using the 4-4-4-2-1 format (4 minutes of share; 4 minutes of each team with serving team taking court first, 2 minutes of serving and 1 minute back at the bench area prior to taking the court.)

Officials Pay – Varsity 3 of 5 sets shall remain at \$40 per regular season contest. When the varsity format is played, even in tournaments, the \$40 fee shall be adhered to. With regard

to pool play within tournaments, the local school shall work with the Assignor with regard to match fee.

Following is some information with regard to surrounding states and play format:

#### Indiana

Regular Season matches 3 of 5 with 5<sup>th</sup> game to 15

Regular Season Tournament is the host choice (2 of 3 / 3 of 5)

Postseason 3 of 5 with 5<sup>th</sup> to 15

#### Ohio

Varsity head to head 3 of 5

Other levels 2 of 3

Postseason 3 of 5 with 5<sup>th</sup> to 15

#### West Virginia

Dual matches 3 of 5

Tournaments, Tri or Quad matches 2 of 3

#### Tennessee

Regular and Postseason Matches 3 of 5

Non-District and Varsity Regular Season Tournaments 2 of 3

#### Missouri

Regular and postseason 2 of 3

Sub-varsity level 2 of 3

Schools option to play 3 of 5 Varsity level only

#### Virginia

Regular and Postseason Matches 3 of 5