

OMNE VOLLEYBALL REFEREE NETWORK

Sue Mailhot

13003 S 33rd Circle

Bellevue NE 68123

402-598-4782 cell

suemvb@cox.net

www.omnevb.net

PRE-SEASON INFO

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It cannot be volleyball season. We haven't yet had March, April, May, June or July. How can it already be August and volleyball season starts in just a couple of weeks?

But as I send this message, volleyball in Nebraska is still being played. Most of the procedures on how the matches will proceed will come from the schools. But I will also share with you some of my recommendations.

From a referee standpoint, I think we can safely officiate volleyball. If you follow the guidelines, I will set forth, I do not anticipate a risk to you from a volleyball match. However, I cannot protect you from what you do on your way to the match or what you do on your days in between matches. I hope you are planning to work again this year. As the years go by, there is a need for more and more volleyball referees. If you are NOT planning to work, just let me know. If you are 'taking a break' because of the current conditions, that's okay. Just let me know if I should keep you on my list.

I reset all officials registered in Arbiter to 'Not Ready'. I will begin assigning later this week. If you want to be assigned by me this year, you must log into your Arbiter account, using the instructions below. (If you need assistance with your username or password, contact ArbiterSports directly at 801-576-9436.)

1. Click on your PROFILE tab. Update any of your personal information that has changed. (You must include an address, otherwise the system will not take into account your travel time or amount.)
2. You MUST upload a picture of yourself. (if you need assistance with that, let me know and I can help you).
3. Then make sure you click on top tab that says 'Blocks'. Enter your non-availability from August through November.
4. I have a new form posted on the MAIN page of your Arbiter account under Announcements. Please complete the form as soon as possible. (or cut and paste this link into a browser):
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/833fd7eda9c6480b926784cb3e8cdce5>
The link is also available on my website at omnevb.net under the High School tab.
5. After you complete the above tasks, return to your Main Page and click '**Ready to Be Assigned**'.

Most of my clinics this year will be online (through Zoom) or some other link. Do not worry if you haven't ever done an online meeting or clinic. I will walk you through the process. If you can click on a link, you can participate in an online meeting.

If you are new to this organization, I assign most of the matches in the Omaha metro area from middle schools to the varsity level. In Lincoln, I assign most of the lower level matches for the Lincoln Public Schools (Freshmen/Reserve) and all of Waverly's home matches. I assign for Yutan and Mead. I also assign a number of matches in Council Bluffs, so I'm always looking for referees who have registered in Iowa. Anyone who registers in Iowa does not owe a registration fee to me.

If you have not already joined the NSAA, you should do so as soon as possible (nsaahome.org). If you were registered last year, you needed to register by July 31 (the late fee could be negotiable this year). If you are new to NSAA, you

have until Aug 17 to join. However, the sooner you join, the sooner, you will get your rulebook. All NSAA registered members are now also members of NHSOA (Nebraska High School Officials Association), so all clinics are now free.

OMNEVB Fees

If you want to be assigned by me or be registered in my Arbiter assigning system, I must charge a registration fee of \$20. This fee only covers some of my expenses. You can pay me anytime you see me (or you can mail it to my home address). Thank you for your understanding. Payment of registration fees does not guarantee any specific number of assignments. But there are plenty of matches to go around.

RULES TEST REVIEW

Clinics are not mandatory but are available for your information. Please complete your online rules meeting and your test before you attend a test review session. You do not have to submit your test answers before you attend a rules test review session. At the Rules Test Review session, you can review your test answers, then enter them into the NSAA system after the review session. Answers are not due until FR Aug 21.

Wednesday	8-5	7:00 pm	Rules Test Review	online Zoom – register below to receive link
Friday	8-7	7:00 pm	Rules Test Review	online Zoom – register below to receive link
Monday	8-10	6:00 pm	Rules Test Review	online Zoom – register below to receive link
Saturday	8-15	8:30 am	Rules Test Review	online Zoom – register below to receive link
Sunday	8-16	8:00 pm	Rules Test Review	online Zoom – register below to receive link

[Rules Test Review Registration form](#)

Test answers for the NSAA part 1 test must be entered into your NSAA account by FR Aug 21.

ON-COURT TRAINING

On-court training sessions will be limited this year. All referees that are not registered with the NSAA MUST attend an in-person on-court clinic. If you only work junior high or middle school matches, you should MUST attend. Or if this is your first year, you should plan to attend. All on-court scrimmages will be held at the Union Bank and Trust Sports complex, 21015 Cumberland Dr, Elkhorn, NE 68022 Check my website (www.omnevb.net) often for an updated schedule.

Wednesday	8-12	7:00 pm	On-Court Training	register using the link below
Saturday	8-15	10:00 am	On-Court Training	register using the link below
Monday	8-17	7:00 pm	On-Court Training	register using the link below

[On-Court Training Registration Form](#)

If you are able to work at a pre-season jamboree or scrimmage, please take advantage of it.

NSAA INFO

WE July 31	Deadline to register (if registered last year)
FR Aug 21	Deadline to register (if new this year)
MO July 27 – TU Aug 11	NSAA Online Rules meeting (no charge)
WE Aug 12 – TU Aug 18	NSAA Online Rules meeting (\$25 fee)
WE Aug 19 – FR Aug 21	NSAA Online Rules meeting (\$50 late fee)

MO Aug 10	First practice date
MO Aug 17 – SA Aug 22; 24,25	NSAA Jamboree dates
FR Aug 21	NSAA online test due
TH Aug 27	1 st competition date
WE Sep 9 – FR Sep 14	Part 2 test (required of all referees who want to be classified as ‘certified’)

NSAA is changing their certification procedures. There will be two levels of certification. If you just want to maintain your ability to officiate, you just need to register every year and take the open book test. However, if you want to be considered for post season opportunities, you must add an additional step of taking the closed book test every year. This is in addition to working at least 4 varsity matches. Varsity matches are only counted if they are entered into your online NSAA schedule.

ASSIGNMENTS

Just so we are ‘all on the same page’ regarding assignments, I try and assign everyone as many matches as I can. However, I will assign first, those referees that work mostly for me and this organization. After assignments for those referees have been completed, I will make assignments to other referees who are available. If you notice openings in the schedule after most of the assignments have been made, I do not mind if you contact me and offer to work any open matches. I will always assign referees first before making any line judge assignments.

Your assignments in Arbiter are NOT assigned by position. You can figure out with your partner, who will be the R1 and R2 for the assigned matches. But, do NOT let me hear that you are always picking to be the R1 on varsity matches.

If you are assigned to work at a tournament, a secondary schedule will be sent with specific times and assignments.

Most of my communication is done through email. So during the season, you should check your email often.

USING ARBITER

For an online help article on how to register and put in your non-availability, please refer to the How To Guide for Officials on the Support Articles tab on the main page of your Arbiter account.

For those of you that will be assigned matches by me, here are a few things you need to know about the Arbiter system:

1. To find the name of your partner on an assigned match, click on the match number.
2. You can use the school name under the SITE tab to get the school address.
3. You can click on the AD’s (or secretary’s) email address to send an email directly to them (as long as your computer is configured to do this).
4. If you are assigned by other assignors, please make sure you keep ALL your assigning sites up-to-date.

LINE JUDGES

More and more schools are asking for line judges to be assigned to their matches. You do not have to be a referee to be assigned as a line judge. If you know anyone who would be interested in being a LJ, just have them contact me.

I only make line judge assignments after I’ve assigned all referee positions for that date. If you know anyone who would be interested in working as a line judge, please have them contact me. Former players are especially welcome.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Click on this link](#) to enter some additional information. I need to know if you want to be assigned as a line judge, how early you can work, if you are registered in Iowa, etc. (If the link does not work, you can also access it on my website.)

ENTER YOUR VARSITY SCHEDULE on www.nsaahome.org

You no longer have to state how many varsity matches you worked the previous year when you register with the NSAA. The only way your varsity matches are tracked is if you enter them on the NSAA website. In order to advance in certification level, an official must have worked at least 4 varsity matches in the previous year. For more information about this policy, please read the officials manual on the NSAA website. As soon as assignments are completed, you can do this. If you do not enter your varsity schedule this year, you will not be able to do it next year when you register and none of your varsity matches will be counted.

NSAA OFFICIALS MANUAL

Warm-up protocol and other information regarding high school matches can be found in the NSAA Officials Manual. The manual can be printed from the NSAA website. Go to the NSAA website at www.nsaahome.org – click on the Officials tab (toward the far right of the upper menu). The 2020-2021 Officials Manual is the top listing on the left side.

REFEREE COVID GUIDELINES

In this time of unknown, I am recommending the following procedures to assist in your safety as well as the safety of other participants at volleyball matches:

1. Schools will have the final say in how matches will be handled at their schools. Hopefully you will know about these procedures in advance (if I know, I will publish them on my website). However, there could be times when changes are made recently and we, as the rules enforcers, must now be the rules followers. As an official, it is not the time for you to make a 'statement' regarding your personal opinions regarding procedures. If you want to officiate, you must assist all involved in following the school directives. If you are uncomfortable with any of the school's procedures, you should inform me as soon as possible.
2. Some schools might choose to not change benches. Some schools might require temperature checks prior to entering the gym. Teams will NOT shake hands prior to the start of the match nor at the completion.
3. If a school requires participants to wear masks, then you WILL wear a mask at all times while in the school and gym. If a school does not require you to wear a mask, I would STRONGLY RECOMMEND that you still wear a mask (what will it hurt?). You, as the rules enforcer can set the example for others.
4. I would definitely recommend that you invest in an **electronic whistle**. Some of you have already ordered them. Some of you have ordered them and they will be delivered in the future (hopefully before the season starts). Almost any of them will do the job in a single court situation. Check different websites to see what might be available. However, DO NOT pay more than about \$30 for a whistle. It is not necessary for you to spend \$100 +/- to get a whistle. Just order it now and use it when it arrives. If the season starts before your whistle arrives, you might have to wear your mask over your whistle, as you do not want droplets being spread throughout the gym. If you want suggestions on where to order one, just email me.
5. This year more than ever, it will be important that you do not interact closely with players or participants. Even though you are wearing a mask, you should still try to maintain a 6' distance from others. If you need to travel with

your partner, you will have to make your own decision about traveling together or should you wear a mask while in the car.

6. You should not bring your own personal flags to a volleyball match. If the school does not have them, then flags will not be used. If flags are provided, make sure the handles are sanitized frequently throughout the match(es). LJ's are subject to wearing a mask, if the school has that requirement.

This is not an all-inclusive list. I'm sure before we start the season, there will be changes. Look for additional newsletters.