

## SO YOU WANT TO BE A HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL REFEREE?

1. To referee Nebraska or Iowa high school matches, you must be a registered member of the association in the state in which you live (Nebraska – [nsaahome.org](http://nsaahome.org) or Iowa – [ighsau.org](http://ighsau.org))
  - a. Registration usually starts in June.
  - b. You do not need to be a registered member to officiate middle school or junior high matches.
2. About one month after registration, you will receive a rulebook and casebook. It is important that you read the ENTIRE rulebook. In the casebook is a section about how to officiate. That section will explain all the steps of how to facilitate a match.
3. Most matches are assigned by an assignor. Some assignors might have additional requirements for you:
  - a. Paying dues
  - b. Attendance at a clinic to learn more about the rules
  - c. Attendance at a clinic to learn more about mechanics and techniques.
  - d. Some assignors have no additional requirements, but expect that you learn on your own.
  - e. Assignors will assign you to the appropriate level for your experience level.
  - f. I am one of the assignors in the Omaha/Council Bluffs/Lincoln area.
    - i. I use an online assigning system called Arbiter to track your availability to work, to assign you to specific matches, and to allow the schools to see who will be working.
    - ii. If you are interested in being assigned by me, send me an email ([suemvb@cox.net](mailto:suemvb@cox.net)), so I can add you to Arbiter.
4. The season starts about the last week of August and most of the matches are finished around the middle of October. There are very few matches in the last couple of weeks of October.
  - a. The junior high season starts about the second week in September and finishes the first week in October. Most junior high matches are played on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.
  - b. Junior high matches can start at 3:30 pm, 4:00 pm or 4:30 pm.
  - c. Lower level high school (freshman/reserve) matches usually start at 4:30 pm or 5:00 pm.
  - d. It is rare for matches to be played on Wednesdays.
  - e. There are tournaments that start play on Friday evenings (4'ish) and finish on Saturday mornings.
5. Some on-court training sessions could be offered prior to the start of the season in the Omaha/Lincoln areas. On-court sessions involve learning mechanics, learning how to blow the whistle and when to blow the whistle. A mentor will assist you through the training sessions.
6. Line judge training is also offered. Many schools ask for line judges to be assigned to all levels of matches.
7. The pay for matches varies depending upon the level. At most matches, you will complete a voucher to be mailed a check from the school later.

To start officiating, you also need a uniform. The uniform consists of black polyester dress pants and a black belt. You will also need ALL black athletic shoes and black socks. Then you need a plain white polo shirt with no logos. There are some 'official' white polos that you can buy. Contact me if you want to buy one.

There is other officiating gear that you also need. A pealess (Fox 40) black whistle, a black lanyard, a coin, a chain to check the net height, a ball pressure gauge, a writing utensil and some index cards. You also need a small bag to carry these items. You can order a starter kit (with all the necessary officiating supplies plus a bag) from [roofsportswear.com](http://roofsportswear.com) for about \$26. You can also order a white polo from them.