

Create a Safe Environment

Risk minimization is at the heart of all NFHS activities. If you are going to be on a volleyball court, you need to be aware of some of the dangers of hard floors and flying volleyballs.

As a point of emphasis, the committee wants coaches, game managers, and athletic directors to be aware of and to limit non-participants who are on their courts. Often, younger brothers and sisters come out of the stands, mothers and fathers help retrieve warm-up balls and members of other athletic teams offer their help.

The referees are responsible for the coaches, players and team managers. Referees have control over players' dress and behavior via Rule 4. Referees can warn or penalize players and coaches who do not comply with dress and behavior rules. However, a school is responsible for those non-players on the floor. Having them out there on the court actively participating in the warm-ups in unsafe footwear (bare feet or flip-flops) or having them on the floor with electronics (cell phones, music devices, etc.) exposes them to risk.

Those people are out there because they want to be helpful. Teams can ask them to continue – if they will put on proper footwear and remove electronics – the same conditions that coaches, players and managers follow.

As officials please ask the school to address these incidents and if you come across a situation you feel is especially unsafe please note you can always turn in a special report documenting the situation.