

2019 NFHS Substitution Protocol Summary for MAVO Officials [Updated 7 16 2019]

Substitution Requests:

Only two ways to request a substitution under NFHS rules:

Request by head coach, or

Entry of substitute into substitution zone

Do not recognize and whistle requests after R1's whistle and beckon for serve

Recognized improper request (mind change, ineligible player, etc.) requires delay sanction

R2 Substitution Mechanics:

Whistle (double whistle) and signal substitution

Release players quickly, once numbers are recognized

Communicate with players through eye contact, loud voice and clear signal (outside hand)

Turn to scorer only after players are released

Pregame with scorer on what R2 will say and how scorer should respond:

e.g.: R2: "*Substitution on your right, seven over four*"

Scorer: "*Seven over four – Got it!*"

After scorer responds, return to base, scan both benches, return court to R1 (outside hand)

(After 15th – 18th substitutions, alert coach to the number used before returning court to R1)

R2 Tips:

Substitutions may occur prior to start of set, including to correct improper lineup

If substitutions on both sides, direct one side to wait before administering the other

If multiple substitutions, allow only one in substitution zone, next substitute must wait in replacement zone, then immediately step in when prior players released

No need to whistle and signal again for multiple substitutions or substitutions on both sides

If substitution requested during timeout, administer only after the timeout is completed

Only one substitution per team during same dead ball (cannot proceed & follow timeout)

Administer closer to table than to sideline - communication with scorer is paramount

No need to step to side of substitution if communication with players is adequate

Anticipate requests – recognize substitution patterns, be aware of game context

Establish prompt and smooth rhythm early in the match

Educate teams on proper procedure at lower levels and early in the varsity season

Insist on proper procedure by coaches and players:

Distinguish substitution zone from replacement zone

Do not allow players to enter without R2 authorization (bring back to do it right)

For multiple substitutes, allow only one at a time into substitution zone

R1 Tips:

R1 mirrors R2 substitution signal, does not mirror whistle or number of substitutions

R1 may whistle and signal if R2 fails to recognize substitution request. R2 mirrors signal and completes authorization.