



# Volleyball Clarification of COVID Related Playing Rule Modifications

## Modification

“Tape will be applied to the floor 3 feet from the centerline on each side of the net.”

- **Clarification**  
Recommend the tape to be 2” in width. The side of the tape furthest from the net shall be 3 feet from the center of the centerline. This line is to be applied from sideline to sideline.
- New terminology- The area from the back of the 3 foot line to the net will be known as the “COVID Zone”.

## Modification

“To reduce intermittent contact with opponents, front row plays will be restricted from traditionally attacking the ball while the ball is above or in front of the 3-foot line”

- **Clarification**  
It is a fault for a player to attack a ball, if, on contact, the ball is both completely above the height of the net and in the “COVID Zone”. The play becomes illegal when the ball has completely crossed the net untouched or is legally blocked by an opponent.
- The fault and corresponding signal is illegal attack.

## Other information

When applying the new 3 foot line. The use of athletic tape is **not** recommended. Painters tape is acceptable.

The location of the ball and not the player is the determining factor.

## **Definition of an attack from NFHS rules.**

“Attack – Any action other than a block or a serve that directs the ball toward the opponent’s court. A team’s third hit is always considered an attack. A completed attack occurs the instant the ball completely crosses the vertical plane of the net, or is legally contacted.”

## **There are no restrictions on blocking**

## **Definition of a block from NFHS rules.**

“Block – the action of a player(s) close to the net that deflects the ball coming from the opponent by reaching higher than the top of the net at the moment of contact. A block may involve wrist action provided there is no prolonged contact.”

“NOTE: If a player near the net is reaching above the height of the net and opponents legally cause the ball to contact them, the player is considered to be a blocker (including simultaneous contact).”

## FAQs:

### What is the COVID Zone?

The area from the temporary 3 foot line to the net.

### Can a setter jump set in the COVID zone?

- YES.— However, if the setter sets the ball while it is completely above the height of the net on contact and the ball crosses the plane of the net untouched by a teammate or is legally contacted by an opponent, **by rule this is an attack and is illegal under COVID rules.**

### Can a setter dump a second ball over the net?

- If the ball is completely above the height of the net and the ball is in the COVID zone – NO
- If the ball is partially below the height of the net – YES

### Can you cover in the COVID zone? - YES

### Can you attack an overpass?

Reminder- a ball must break the plane of the net before it can be legally attacked.

- If the ball is completely above the height of net and the ball is in the COVID zone – NO
- If the ball is partially below the height of the net. – YES

### Can a player land in the COVID zone after playing the ball legally? -YES

### Can you block an overpass? – YES

- Redirecting an overpass with one or two hands, while the ball is completely above the height of the net in a blocking action is **legal**
- If the action of the blocker is judged to be an attack, while the ball is completely above the height of the net, it is **illegal under COVID rules** A blocker may be judged to be an attacker if they “load” or swing their arm to contact the ball.

### Can a joust occur? – YES. By rule, both players are considered blockers.

### Will these modifications apply to the Fall 2 season?

Will be determined at a later date.

**EDUCATIONAL ATHLETICS**



MIAA | 33 Forge Pkwy | Franklin, MA 02038 | 508-541-7997

