



North Shore Juniors Volleyball Tournament Protocol

Dear Players and Parents

It is tournament time for the North Shore Juniors Volleyball teams. Each team will be participating in daylong tournaments under the NERVA format on alternate Sundays. I wanted to take this opportunity to explain what can be expected at these tournaments in terms of schedules, scoring format, rules to be aware of, and general tips for players and parents regarding getting the most enjoyment out of these events.

Tournaments may be held at any of the thirty-six program sites in the NE Region. Although the schedulers try to place teams at sites near their home site, it is not always possible. We will be playing under USAV rules that are similar, but somewhat different than you are used to seeing in New England high school matches.

Tournaments generally start around 8:00 or 9:00AM. Teams are seeded according to past tournament play and start with round robin play in four, or five team pools – playing two 21-point rally score games against each team in the pool. The top two teams in each pool advance to the playoffs. Pool play normally takes four hours, with another hour and a half to conduct the semis and finals. This makes for a long day, so players and parents should be ready for the long haul. Players will need quick energy foods to eat between matches as well as proper liquids to replace lost fluids during the matches. Teams usually have one period when they are not playing or working, but time may be too tight to leave the gym and get food.

Certified referees are not used at the Club Team level of play in NERVA Juniors. The work team provides the entire set of officials, including the first referee. In order to prepare our players for this task, we have committed an entire practice to teaching the players how to referee. However, not all teams do this, and even those that do will not be able to give the players enough refereeing experience to make them fully qualified referees. Therefore, we ask all players and parents to understand this, and not to expect a top-level refereed match. The coaches will be there to assist the players and to make sure things go as smoothly as possible, but they will not be making the judgment calls for the players. Please have patience with the work teams. It has been my experience that bad calls (or 'no calls') even out over the match, and I try to encourage my players to get ready for the next play and not dwell on the previous one.

The theme of the NERVA Juniors program is to provide players with the opportunity to participate in team play with others of their general age and skill level through tournament play. The NSJVB coaches will make every effort to provide each player with the greatest amount of playing time possible at these tournaments. However, player and parents should realize that there are strategic and logistical limitations to achieving this goal. For example, a team with only two or three setters and four or five outside hitters will result in more total playing time for the players who are setters.

I hope this helps everyone understand how the NERVA tournament formats are run, and what to expect in the second half of the season. Enjoy the experience.

Doug Beach
NSJVB, Director