



Memorandum

To: NFHS Member State Associations

From: Lindsey Atkinson, NFHS Director of Sports

Subject: NFHS Volleyball Rule 4-1-6

Date: August 25, 2021

The 2022 NFHS Volleyball Rules Committee will be discussing rules language currently prohibiting the wearing of any hair devices that do not meet the requirements of Rule 4-1-6.

Rule 4-1-6 . . . *Hair devices made of soft material and no more than 3 inches wide may be worn in the hair or on the head. Bobby pins, flat clips and flat barrettes, unadorned and no longer than 2 inches, are also allowed.*

The current language prohibits the wearing of beads or clips that do not meet the above criteria. While both the NCAA and USA Volleyball have rules language that allows for these hair adornments, these items are noncompliant per NFHS rules.

The NFHS Volleyball Rules Committee is sensitive to how this rule is enforced. The committee strongly believes that equipment rule compliance begins with coach/player education and the responsibility to ensure all players are properly equipped falls directly on the head coach.

In the instance a player is found to be wearing a hair adornment(s) not meeting the requirements of Rule 4-1-6, the following steps may be taken by the officials to avoid disqualification or cutting out of secured hair adornments:

1. Official shall notify the head coach of the rule violation as soon as the noncompliant hair adornment is identified.
 - a. If the adornment can easily be removed, it must be removed before the athlete can compete.
 - b. If the adornment cannot easily be removed, the player must secure the hair adornment(s) in a way that will not pose a risk to the athlete or their teammates.

2. The athlete will be allowed to compete in that match with adornment removed or secured.
3. At the conclusion of the match, the state association shall be notified by the official.
4. The state association shall inform the athletic director/head coach that their team must be legally equipped to participate in the next match.

The NFHS Volleyball Rules Committee will be closely examining the current rules language in January in addition to the current penalty structure. If you have any questions or concerns related to Rule 4-1-6 do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

LA