

Referees,

First and foremost, I hope you, your families and your friends are all staying healthy! Crazy times we're living in right now...

We have our summer OVR Board of Directors (virtual) meeting tomorrow (Sunday, July 12), so if there's any topic any of you would like me to bring forward on the Board agenda, please pass it along to me ASAP.

Since many of you officiate high school and collegiate volleyball, you know it's a very fluid situation right now. The OHSAA has not yet made a decision about fall high school sports, West Virginia sounds like they're leaning toward not having fall sports (that's NOT yet confirmed), and Pennsylvania looks like they're trying to make the fall season happen.

On the collegiate side, some major announcements have been made by conferences this week -- some have canceled their entire fall sports season, others have limited their season to conference play only (NO non-conference), and many others are still in a hold pattern.

It's ever-changing, and we need to be ready if/when we're called into action!

In that regard, three things:

1 - I'm sending all of you a survey that I'd like you to fill out as timely as possible. (Separate email forthcoming.)

2 - If you don't have a hand-held whistle, you might want to start looking for one. I have no inside information in that regard, but I know there's speculation that we may need to go that route. I do NOT have a recommendation for a particular brand. None of them tend to be loud enough to suit our purposes, so we're going to have to adapt.

3 - Might sound silly, but see if you can fit a standard whistle beneath a face mask and still blow it properly! There are some masks that provide enough room. Give it a try - just in case.

Lastly, I'm going to be on a mini vacation all of next week (northern Michigan). When I return, I plan to host another virtual meeting with all of you - I'll send details when it's set up.

Stay safe - wear your mask - be compassionate!

All the best to each of you,

Brian Hemelgarn  
OVR Referees' Chair