



# Montana Officials Association

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August 2023

**TO: MOA VOLLEYBALL OFFICIALS**  
**FROM: KIP RYAN, SENIOR ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR**  
**RE: VOLLEYBALL STUDY CLUBS**

This packet contains the six study clubs that will help you prepare for the 2023-24 season.

Below is the study club regulation as it appears in the MOA Handbook:

"If a MOA member's employment prevents him/her from attending study clubs, the official may receive credit for attendance if he/she complies as follows:

1. Make prior arrangements with the Regional Director or head of the pool.
2. Complete and present the study club outlines to the Regional Director or head of the pool **in advance** of the meeting he/she will miss.
3. Request an exception from the MOA office for certain military actions or other extenuating circumstances.
4. An official whose employment requires him/her to be away from home during the week may attend study clubs at an alternate pool location if he/she receives permission from the regional director(s) and the MOA Commissioner.
5. Study clubs can be administered, with the approval of the regional director, via real-time interactive video conferencing (which includes, but is not limited to FaceTime and Skype).

Study club #2, is the NFHS 2023-24 Volleyball Exam Part II, which will help as a more thorough review of the rules. As a pool if you wish to break this exam up and cover it in smaller chunks that would be fine. Those unable to attend this study club are asked to complete the exam and send it to their pool coordinator who will score it and return it.

We sincerely hope that these study clubs are a challenging tool that you will use in your best interest and the best interest of the coaches and players. Remember to give the finished study clubs to your Regional Director before December 1, 2023, so he/she can complete your evaluation. **Do not send your study clubs to the MHSA office.** If they are not evaluated and approved by your regional director on time, you could lose your rating.

Please contact us if you have any ideas to improve the format or content of these study clubs.

As another year is set to begin, we wish you the best in your officiating endeavors, and we appreciate the work that you do for Montana's youth activities.

KR/ab  
Enclosures

**MONTANA OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION  
VOLLEYBALL STUDY CLUB OUTLINES  
2023-2024  
LESSON #1**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Preferably use before the season's first match.

- I. Review the August's Official Word and the MOA Handbook.
- II. Discuss any issues/concerns/ideas prompted by August's MOA/MHSA Rules' Clinic.
- III. Review the new (italicized) areas of the MOA Handbook. Be aware of major revisions in your sport(s) that affect you.
- IV. MOA Handbook Changes and reminders for 2023-24 are as follows:
  1. Mileage has increased to **\$.655** cents per mile this year. Per diem for each official remains at 12 cents per mile. So, the driver, for a regular season match, would receive **\$.775** cents per mile while the rider official would receive **.12** cents per mile.
  2. The per diem allowance for **invitational/regular season tournaments** is \$0.12 per mile or \$20 per day, whichever is greater, if the official does not stay overnight, and \$30 per day if the official does stay overnight. Officials working in their home city/pool site receive no travel allowance but will receive a \$10.00 per diem allowance per day if they
  4. No warmup activities will be allowed in the vicinity of the main playing floor at any time while any volleyball match is in progress. Invitational and dual tournaments would be excluded from this rule. Clarification: If there are two volleyball matches being played in the same gym on two separate floors at the same time, followed by two more matches played in that gym on two separate floors at the same time, the above MHSA volleyball rule would not apply in this situation. The matches would be treated like invitational and dual tournaments and excluded from this MHSA volleyball warm-up rule. This will facilitate matches staying on the time schedule. Violations of this MHSA rule should be reported to the MHSA office.
  5. Reminder for the MHSA Volleyball post season play, the **Baden Lexum Comp VX450c-210 red/white/navy blue microfiber composite volleyball** will be used for all post season play. For regular season play, a solid white volleyball **may** be used. If a colored volleyball is used for regular season play, it can only be a red/white/navy blue colored volleyball. For both post season and regular season play, any volleyball used for all levels of play shall include the NFHS authenticating mark. Please share this information with other appropriate volleyball personnel
- V. Reminder the MHSA Executive Board and/or the MOA Regional Directors have approved the following amendments, replacements and additions:
  - Approved to allow MOA volleyball officials to either wear the **short sleeved or long sleeved white or cyan blue polo shirt for the 2023 MHSA Volleyball Season, the R1 and R2 do**

**not have to wear the same length of sleeve in the match they are officiating, but must have the same color.**

- All MOA volleyball officials shall wear solid black pants, predominately black colored athletic shoes, but the shoes may have some clear or grey trim or deviate slightly from solid all black and whenever possible, any different color must be dyed or colored over with black, and black socks. All officials must wear an MOA patch or they may have an embroidered patch as long as the embroidered patch is the same style font and size as the MOA patch and has black lettering with a white background on the left breast of the officials' uniform.
  - a) An American flag, if worn, will be on the left shoulder.
  - b) Jewelry, except a wedding band/ring, a watch if necessary or a medical alert bracelet, shall not be worn while officials are working.
- **MOA Volleyball Officials who are acting as line judges will be allowed the option of wearing a black coat and/or an all white /cyan blue long sleeved collared polo shirt or an all white/cyan blue short sleeved collared polo shirt. If officials that line judge wear a black jacket, both officials that line judge must wear the black jacket.**
- Reminder: the standard jacket for volleyball will be: A standard jacket, solid black with rib knit cuffs and collar, full zip or button up, unadorned (except for MOA service pins), is allowed.

**Reminders:**

- **The volleyball prematch conference (with the head coaches and captains) will occur before the twenty (20) minute warm-up clock starts for varsity and fifteen (15) warm-up clock starts for sub varsity.**
- For post season volleyball play, volleyball teams will not be allowed on the playing floor, with volleyballs, until 30 minutes before the start time of the match.
- Pink whistles may be used by officials at contests designated as breast cancer awareness events. Any other uniform modifications for the purpose of supporting a charitable fundraising event must be approved in advance by the MOA Commissioner.
- **If the server serves from the left third of the service area, and encroaches on the line judge's position, the line judge on the serving team's side shall move a few steps to the side in line with the extension of the end line until the ball is contacted for the serve.** See NFHS Volleyball Rule 5-9-2a NOTE:
- During matches, some fans become unruly and school administrators need to be made aware of the potential problem so they can handle it. Officials should not address or visit with fans during a volleyball contest or remove a fan. The "role" of the official is to fairly administer the rules of the match by communicating what they observe using the proper NFHS Volleyball signals. At times fans will disagree with "the call" of an official, when the fan comments become inappropriate the official should notify school administration so they can deal with the fan. If this can be done during a time out or between quarters it is less disruptive to the match, but if it needs to be dealt with right away, the official should stop the match and go to game management for assistance. If officials don't know where game management is they should go to the scorers' table and ask them to assist in finding a school administrator.
- The R1 and the R2 should use all the tools at their disposal. The R1 should not make a call before they look at the R2 or the line judges. Referees just need to slow down and not be in a hurry to make the call and use all the other officials working with them.
- Officials utilizing lodging accommodations provided by the tournament manager may be provided a single room when feasible and at the discretion of the tournament manager.
- The R2 is not allowed to use an electronic device at any time before and during a match.
- NFHS Volleyball Rule 4-2, Legal Uniform, does not prohibit the wearing of an arm sleeve or an arm guard which has padding for the elbows.
- **Concussion: Officials' Responsibilities:**  
**THE MHSA/MOA WILL REQUIRE EACH OFFICIAL TO TAKE THE "NFHS CONCUSSION IN SPORTS – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW" COURSE EACH YEAR. THAT COURSE**

**MUST BE TAKEN JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> OR AFTER FOR THE SUBSEQUENT SCHOOL YEAR AND MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE OFFICIATING SCRIMMAGES OR CONTESTS. ALSO,** Officials are asked to use their best judgment in observing the signs, symptoms and behaviors of a concussion and other possible serious injuries. If there is a player that exhibits signs and symptoms of an injury, officials will make coaches aware of the injured player and call an injury time out. The official should notify the coach by making the following statement:

“Coach, you need to take a look at this player; he/she is exhibiting signs and symptoms of an injury.”

Once the official notifies the coach, it is now the coach’s responsibility. The official does not need written permission for an athlete to return to play nor does the official need to verify the credentials of the appropriate health-care professional. **THE YOUTH CANNOT RETURN TO PLAY UNTIL THEY ARE EVALUATED BY A LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL AND RECEIVES WRITTEN CLEARANCE TO RETURN TO PLAY FROM THE LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL.**

VI. Please review and discuss information found in the **2023 NFHS Volleyball Preseason Guide:**

VII. **Match Format** – please review the following match formats adopted for the 2023-24 volleyball season:

**Varsity** (regular season)

- ✓ Best 3 out of 5 sets to 25 points with no cap (you must win by two points)
- ✓ 5<sup>th</sup> and deciding set to 15 points with no cap (you must win by two points)
- ✓ Two time-outs per set
- ✓ Let serve will be utilized
- ✓ Libero player can be utilized and may serve in one position in the serving order

**Sub-varsity** (regular season)

Best 3 out of 5 sets – sets 1 and 2 to 25 points cap at 30 points – sets 3, 4 and 5 to 15 points cap at 20 points

- ✓ Two time-outs for sets 1 and 2 – One time-out for sets 3, 4 and 5.
- ✓ Let serve will be utilized
- ✓ Libero player can be utilized and may serve in one position in the serving order

**OUTLINE MUST BE SIGNED BY ALL PRESENT AND SENT TO YOUR REGIONAL DIRECTOR BY DECEMBER 1, 2023.**

**MONTANA OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION  
VOLLEYBALL STUDY CLUB OUTLINES  
2023-2024  
LESSON #2**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

The MHSA/MOA regional directors have required that mechanics be reviewed and covered each year within the study clubs.

The MOA designate study club #2 to be centered on mechanics training for volleyball. The MHSA Office wants each pool to design this study club related to mechanics in a way that allows their pool to get the most out of it.

- I. Take orally as a group the NFHS 2023-24 Volleyball Rules Examination – Part II. Discuss and clarify uncertainties with any questions on the exam by referring to the relevant rule(s) reference(s): This can be broken down into smaller chunks and covered in multiple meetings to allow more discussion.

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VOLLEYBALL STUDY CLUB OUTLINES  
2023-2024**

**LESSON #3**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
CLUB \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

R1 & R2 Responsibilities  
Rules 5-4 & 5-5

This lesson will go over a few of the responsibilities of the R1 & R2

**Prematch**

1. How early should each referee be to the site of the match?
  - a. Both the first (R1) and second (R2) referee should be in uniform and at the site of the match no less than 30 minutes before the starting time.
2. Who examines the competition volleyball, inspects court markings, net supports, net antennas, first referee's stand, or other equipment?
  - a. R1; however, the R2 can assist the R1
3. Who measures the net height, establishes non-playable areas, and defines any additional ground rules which may be necessary?
  - a. R1; however, the R2 can assist the R1
4. Who reviews specific duties/responsibilities with line judges, the scorer, libero tracker, and timer?
  - a. The R1 reviews specific duties with the line judges. The R2 reviews specific duties with the scorer, the libero tracker, and the timer.
5. Who runs the pre-match conference (including verifying with the head coach that all teammates are wearing legal uniforms/equipment and conducting the coin toss)?
  - a. R1

**Play**

6. Where should the R1 be positioned?
  - a. The R1 should be positioned on an elevated platform at the end of the net opposite the officials' table so that the R1's head is 2-3 feet above the net in order to have an unobstructed view of both playing areas of the court.
7. Where should the R2 be positioned?
  - a. The R2 should be positioned in a standing position on the floor opposite of the R1, outside the sideline boundary and back from the standard. At the moment of the serve, the R2 shall be standing away from the net on the side of the receiving team to view illegal alignment and illegal block or attack of the serve. During a live ball, the R2 should move quickly to the side of the net opposite the ball and focus on the play by both the offense and defense near the net.
8. When are some instances where the R1 whistles?
  - a. R1 whistles to direct only starting players to their end lines prior to the first set only; then again to direct them onto the court to begin play. The R1 also whistles for each serve and dead ball. The R1 may also whistle a warning at 45 seconds if the R2 is still checking the scoresheet. The R1 whistles and signals "end of set" and directs players to respective benches. Illegal alignment of the serving team, faults (double, back row, illegal hits)
9. When are some instances where the R2 whistles?
  - a. R2 whistles and gives signals for calls they initiate including time-outs, substitutions, ball out of bounds for an antenna fault on their side of the net, net faults, illegal alignment on the receiving team at the moment of the serve, and hand/foot faults at the center line.

10. Discuss the responsibilities of the R1 & R2 prior to a deciding set.
  - a. The R1 whistles, signals end-of-set and directs the teams to their benches. The R2 double whistles and raises a coin in the air to signal the captains to go near the officials' table for the deciding set coin toss. Home team calls the toss. Upon completion of the deciding set coin toss, the R2 communicates the result to the R1 by extending an outstretched arm on the side of the team to serve first and gives the appropriate signal indicating if teams will remain on their own sides or change courts. The R1 whistles and gives the appropriate signal indicating whether the teams will remain on their current sides or will change courts. The timer will begin the three-minute clock after this final signal.
11. Who administers cards for misconduct by players, coaches, or team members?
  - a. R1. However, the R2 may notify the R1 of unsporting conduct violations by players, coaches or other team personnel.
12. Who is responsible for dealing with the unsporting conduct of spectators?
  - a. When a spectator becomes unruly or interferes with the orderly progress of the set, the R1 shall suspend the set until host management resolves the situation, and the set can proceed in an orderly manner. Additionally, in the absence of a designated school representative, the home head coach shall serve as the host management. (Rule 12-3)

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**MONTANA OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION**  
**VOLLEYBALL STUDY CLUB OUTLINES**  
**2023-24**  
**LESSON #4**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Discuss and review with your pool.

For the 2023-24 season Montana will go back to the coin flip at the start of the match and switching sides between sets. Take the time to review and cover the protocol for each of those with your pool.

**Rule 1-2 Match**

ART. 1 . . . A match shall consist of the best three-of-five sets. The first team to win three sets shall be the winner of the match. The fourth and fifth sets shall not be played unless it is necessary to determine the winner of the match.

NOTES: 1. By state high school association adoption, teams may play a best two-of-three sets match in which a team is considered the winner of the match when it wins two sets. All sets shall be 25 points (no cap). The third set shall not be played unless it is necessary to determine the winner of the match. If a third set is necessary, a coin toss shall be conducted prior to that set. 2. By state high school association adoption, modification of match format is permitted for series other than dual varsity matches.

ART. 2 . . . The interval between sets is a maximum of three minutes unless an intermission for promotional or special recognition activities is used. (11-5-1) Any intermission shall not exceed two minutes.

ART. 3 . . . A match shall entitle each team a maximum of two time-outs per set.

ART. 4 . . . The serve/receive for set No. 1 is determined by a coin toss conducted during the prematch conference. If a deciding set is required, the serve/receive and playing areas are also determined by a coin toss.

a. First set – During the prematch conference, a visiting team captain shall call the toss. The winner shall choose to serve or receive.

b. Deciding set – If necessary, prior to the deciding set, a home captain shall call the toss. The winner shall choose to serve/receive or the playing area. The loser of the toss shall be given the remaining choice.

**Rule: 1-6 Prematch**

Art. 1 ...Upon entering the facility, the home team selects its team bench.

Art. 2 ...Prior to timed warmups, a conference shall be conducted with head coach and a captain(s) from each team.

Art. 3 ...During the prematch conference, a coin toss shall be conducted between the captains and head coach of each team. A visiting captain shall call the toss. The winner shall choose either to serve or receive.

Art. 4 ...A timed warm-up period shall be afforded each team. (Varsity 20 minutes, sub varsity 15 minutes)

**Rule: 9-1 Team Benches**

ART. 1 . . . All nonplaying team members shall be seated on the designated team bench during the set. The head coach may stand during the set in the coaching zone, subject to Rule 12-2-5.

ART. 2 . . . Teams shall occupy the bench located on the side of the net adjacent to their playing area throughout the match.



NOTE: By state association adoption, teams may remain on the same benches throughout the match.  
Montana has moved back to switching benches after each set.

**Rule: 9-2 Court Protocol**

ART. 1 . . . A team may use electronic devices during the match:

- a. The location and use of the device(s) shall not be in a restricted area as determined by host management.
- b. The first referee may restrict the use of the device(s) if it is determined the device(s) interferes with the contest.

NOTE: State associations may also have policies in place to further address the use of electronic devices.

ART. 2 . . . For sets two, three and four in a five-set match, teams shall change playing areas and benches immediately when directed by the first referee unless state association rules determine otherwise.

NOTE: In a three-set match, teams shall change playing areas and benches for set two.

ART. 3 . . . After each set,

- a. When directed to do so by the first referee, the players proceed immediately to change courts or to their respective team benches.
  - b. When directed by the first referee to change courts, the teams shall proceed immediately to their new team benches and the players shall proceed counterclockwise along the sideline past the standard to their new team benches.
  - c. When directed by the first referee following the coin toss for a deciding set, the teams shall remain at their respective team benches or shall change courts immediately, as signaled by the first referee.
- PENALTY: For delay in following the court protocol procedures (5-4-4), unnecessary delay or an unsporting conduct penalty may be assessed.

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DECEMBER 1, 2023**

**MONTANA OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION  
VOLLEYBALL STUDY CLUB OUTLINES  
2023-24  
LESSON #5**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Study Club Questions for MOA 2023-2024

Circle the correct answer.

1. The server tosses the ball up for a serve. Which of the following would be called for a re-serve?
  - A. The server tosses and catches the ball
  - B. The server tosses, swings, and misses
  - C. The server tosses, swings, misses, and the ball contacts the foot
  - D. The server tosses and the ball contacts the knee before hitting the floor
2. At the moment the ball is contacted by the server; the server's foot is touching the end line. At the same time, CB on the serving team is closer to the net than teammate CF. Which of the following is correct?
  - A. Foot Fault
  - B. Double Foul
  - C. Multiple fouls
  - D. Simultaneous foul
3. Immediately following a joust, the ball rolls along the top of the net into the antenna, landing out of bounds on Team A's side of the net. What is the call?
  - A. Point to Team B
  - B. Replay
4. Immediately following a joust between #2 on Team A and #5 from Team B, the ball rolls along the top of the net and lands in Team A's court. Who touched the ball last?
  - A. Player #5
  - B. Player #2
5. Immediately following a joust between #2 on Team A and #5 on Team B, the ball rolls along the top of the net and lands out of bounds on Team A side of the net. Which team gets the point?
  - A. Team A
  - B. Team B
6. The libero can attack the ball behind the 10' line when the ball is completely below the top of the net.

- A. True
  - B. False
7. When libero #7 enters the set as a replacement for #11, the libero tracker should cross out #11 and write \_\_\_\_\_ on the line next to #11 on the tracking sheet.
- A. #7
  - B. L
8. Blocking the ball on the opponent's side of the net is not permitted.
- A. True
  - B. False
9. Which is not considered an unnecessary delay?
- A. Late submission of a team's line up
  - B. A team repeatedly using an improper substitute procedure
  - C. Taking a time out one point after the previous time out
  - D. A libero replacement enters the court through the end line
10. Attacking the ball in the opponent's court is permitted.
- A. True
  - B. False
11. A coach turns in the line up before the start of the match. The same coach realizes at the end of the pre-match warm up that the wrong line up was submitted. The coach asks the R2 if the correct line up could be submitted. R2 allows the change and awards a point to the opposing team.
- A. Correct Procedure
  - B. Incorrect Procedure
12. The libero sets the ball with overhead hand action behind the 10' line and the outside hitter attacks the ball into the opponent's court.
- A. Legal
  - B. Illegal
13. When the coach requests a substitution the R2 blows 1 short whistle and rotates the forearms with open hands at shoulder height 2 times.
- A. True
  - B. False
14. LF on Team S and the RF on Team R are engaged in play at the net. LF on Team S lands first with one foot partially across the center line. The RF on Team R then lands with one foot partially across the center line on top of the Team's S's player's foot. The player on Team S falls and/or stumbles, but play is not affected as that player was not involved in the play on the ball. No whistle was blown.
- A. Correct procedure
  - B. Incorrect procedure

15. The hand signal for a line violation is to indicate where the violation occurred by extending the arm on the side of the net where the infraction occurred and pointing toward the line with hand open (palm down).
- A. True
  - B. False
16. The ball is over passed by Team A. It has crossed the plane of the net when a player from Team B jumps and attacks the ball. The ball is hit into the net. The player who hit the ball drops to the floor and plays the ball out of the net. What is the call?
- A. No call – can't have a double contact on 1<sup>st</sup> ball over the net
  - B. Double hit is whistled
17. The libero sets the ball with overhead hand action, with 1 foot on the 10' line. The attack is completed above the top of the net into the opponent's court for a kill. What is the call?
- A. Illegal Hit Signal #3
  - B. No call – Legal
  - C. Illegal Attack Signal #7
18. At the end of the timed warm up, #6 on Team A gets sick and needs to be replaced before the set begins. The coach immediately subs #12 for #6 and also subs #3 for #5. What is the call?
- A. Legal substitutions
  - B. Illegal - #5 must start the set
  - C. Team A is charged with 2 substitutions
19. #12 on Team A tosses and catches the ball to force a re-serve after realizing the team is out of rotation. #4 replaces #12 and serves the ball within the 5 seconds. #4 serves 3 points before having a bad toss and lets the ball hit the floor. What is the call?
- A. A re-serve is called
  - B. Illegal Hit Signal #3
20. If a spectator begins to interfere with the orderly progress of the match, the R1 should suspend the set and remove that spectator from the gym.
- A. True
  - B. False

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DECEMBER 1, 2023.**

**MONTANA OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION  
VOLLEYBALL STUDY CLUB OUTLINES  
2023-2024  
LESSON # 6**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Review Your Group's Season

- a. **What issues does your group believe are important universal issues that need to be addressed by all officials' pools throughout the state? If possible have your pool develop a study club that can be used in next year.** Please send these items to Kip Ryan at the MHSA office so they may possibly be included for rules clinics and for study clubs.
- b. Discuss potential MOA Hall of Fame candidates in your area. Application forms are available from your regional director, on the MHSA webpage at [www.mhsa.org](http://www.mhsa.org) under the MOA Tab.
- c. Discuss your methods of evaluating and retaining fellow MOA members. Are the methods working properly and positively? Should you start a method if you're not evaluating at the present time? ***These evaluation procedures are especially important to review and discuss because of the process for selecting tournament officials and because the rankings/ratings of each pool are used to help determine selection.***  
  
Do these methods work for "upgrading"? Are they fair to all of your levels? Are you allowing anybody to upgrade? Are your methods for not allowing an upgrade fair?
- d. For everyone's benefit, review dues deadlines and upgrading procedures/requirements. Be aware of the importance of notifying the MOA office of address changes. Know the "dues due" date.
- e. You have an obligation to read the MOA Handbook. All officials should be aware of the governing body's rules and regulations. Any changes you'd like to see should be directed to your regional director for the meeting in December.
- f. The NFHS rule change proposals if any by your pool is due by November 15. The Federation has implemented a new electronic proposal form (all new rule proposals should be submitted electronically to NFHS <http://www.nfhs.org/rulechangeproposal>)
- g. Be sure to submit your rule change proposals earlier, so MHSA can look those over and have the suggested rule change OK by the deadline. The Federation will not accept any proposal after the deadline.
- h. Take time to discuss your pool's assignment practices. Is your method fair to all involved? What areas may need some improvement or change in relation to assignment of officials?
- i. Are there any items, issues, clarifications that possibly would benefit all officials by putting it in our official's publication, The Official Word?

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