

**2009-2011 DOMESTIC COMPETITION REGULATIONS  
SIGNIFICANT VOLLEYBALL (INDOOR) RULE CHANGES AND  
CLARIFICATIONS**

**Add to 1.3.4: Coach's restriction line**

1. Delete 1.3.4: "On each court, an attack line, whose rear edge is drawn 3 m back from the axis of the center line, marks the front zone. For FIVB World and Official Competitions, the attack line is extended by the addition of broken lines from the sidelines, with five 15 cm short lines 5 cm wide, drawn 20 cm from each other to a total length of 1.75 m (70")."
2. Replace with 1.3.4: "On each court, an attack line, whose rear edge is drawn 3 m back from the axis of the center line, marks the front zone. For FIVB World and Official Competitions, the attack line is extended by the addition of broken lines from the sidelines, with five 15 cm short lines 5 cm wide, drawn 20 cm from each other to a total length of 1.75 m (70"). The "coach's restriction line" (a broken line which extends from the attack line to the end line of the court, parallel to the side line and 1.75 meters from it) is composed of 15 cm short lines drawn 20 cm apart to mark the limit of the coach's area of operation."

**Add 1.4.4: "Libero Replacement Zone"**

1. "The Libero Replacement Zone is part of the free zone on the side of the team benches, limited by the extension of the attack line up to the end line."
2. Renumber 1.4.4 to 1.4.5.
3. Renumber 1.4.5 to 1.4.6.

**USAV 2.1** – Change the net height for 60 years and above, Female/Reverse Co-ed from 2.13 m (7'0") to 2.19 m (7'2 1/8").

**USAV 4.5.1 – Add: "Casts, even if padded, are forbidden."**

1. Deleted USAV 4.5.1: "It is forbidden to wear hats or jewelry. An exception will be made for religious or medical medallions and, for adult competition, a flat band ring worn on the finger. If worn, medallions shall be removed from chains and taped or sewn under the uniform. If a ring, other than a flat band, cannot be removed, it shall be taped in such a manner as not to create a safety hazard. Braces, prosthetic limbs or headgear that may cause an injury or give an artificial advantage to the player must not be worn. If a brace, prosthetic limb or headgear is used, padding or covering may be necessary."
2. Replaced with USAV 4.5.1: "It is forbidden to wear hats or jewelry. An exception will be made for religious or medical medallions and, for adult competition, a flat band ring worn on the finger. If worn, medallions shall be removed from chains and taped or sewn under the uniform. If a ring, other than a flat band, cannot be removed, it shall be taped in such a manner as not to create a safety hazard. Braces, prosthetic limbs or headgear that may cause an injury or give an artificial advantage to the player must not be worn. If a brace, prosthetic limb or headgear is used, padding or covering may be necessary. Casts, even if padded, are forbidden."

**Narrative Explanation of Change in Regulation**

This change clarifies that under no circumstances will a player be allowed to play while wearing a cast.

## **Add USAV 4.5.2**

New USAV 4.5.2: "If a player's equipment falls to the floor and creates a safety hazard, play is stopped and a delay sanction assessed."

### **Narrative Explanation of Change in Regulation**

This change clarifies how to handle a safety hazard caused by player equipment.

#### **5.1.2.3: Add: "in the absence of the coach"**

1. Deleted 5.1.2.3: "to request time-outs and substitutions."
2. Replaced with 5.1.2.3: "in the absence of the coach to request time-outs and substitutions."

**New USAV 5.1.2.3:** "The captain may request a time-out."

#### **USAV 5.2.3: Defines when the coach can request a line-up check.**

Add New USAV 5.2.3: "During the match the coach is authorized to speak to the referees to verify the positions of the teams."

#### **USAV 7.2.2 replaced with USAV 7.2.2a, USAV 7.2.2b and USAV 7.2.2c**

1. Delete USAV 7.2.2: "For nationally sanctioned adult competition, it is recommended that teams warm up together at the net for 10 minutes if both team captains agree; otherwise, each team will have five minutes separately. For consecutive warm-ups, the team with the first service has the court first. The protocols described on pages 165 and 166 will be used at the Open Division of the Adult Championships, High Performance Championships and any nationally sanctioned Junior Olympic Competitions."

2. Add New USAV 7.2.2.a: "For adult competition, it is recommended that teams warm up together at the net for 10 minutes if both team captains agree; otherwise, each team will have five minutes separately. For consecutive warm-up periods, the team with the first service has the court first."

3. Add New USAV 7.2.2.b: "For junior competition, when one team has exclusive use of the court, the other team must either be at its team bench or out of the playing area. Warming up with balls at the team bench or the spectator walkways is not permitted."

4. Add New USAV 7.2.2.c: "For nationally sanctioned competitions, the protocols described on pages 165 and 166 will be used."

### **Narrative Explanation of Change in Regulation**

These changes clarify the different warm-up procedures for adult and junior competitions.

#### **USAV 8.4.2 Add: ", other than a served ball."**

1. Deleted USAV 8.4.2: "A ball shall remain in play if it contacts the ceiling or other overhead objects 4.6 m (15') or more above the playing area."

2. Replaced with USAV 8.4.2: "A ball, other than a served ball, shall remain in play if it contacts the ceiling or other overhead objects 4.6 m (15') or more above the playing area."

### **Narrative Explanation of Change in Regulation**

This change clarifies that a served ball that contacts the ceiling or other overhead objects is out of play.

#### **USAV 8.4.2c: Add ", other than a served ball."**

1. Deleted USAV 8.4.2c: "A ball is out of play and a play-over directed..."

2. Replaced with USAV 8.4.2c: “A ball, other than a served ball, is out of play and a play-over directed...”

### **Narrative Explanation of Change in Regulation**

This change clarifies that a served ball that contacts the ceiling or other overhead objects is out of play and a play-over is NOT directed.

#### **Add 10.1.3: new under the net rule**

New 10.1.3: “The ball that is heading towards the opponent’s court through the lower space is in play until the moment it has completely crossed the vertical plane of the net.”

#### **11.2.2.2: new centerline rule**

1. Deleted 11.2.2.2: “To contact the opponent’s court with any other part of the body is forbidden.”
2. Replaced with 11.2.2.2: “to touch the opponent’s court with any part of the body above the feet is permitted provided that it does not interfere with the opponent’s play.”

#### **11.3.1: new net touch rule**

1. Deleted 11.3.1: “Contact with the net by a player is not a fault, unless it is made during the action of playing the ball, or it interferes with the play. Some actions of playing the ball may include actions in which the players do not actually touch the ball.”
2. Replaced with 11.3.1: “Contact with the net by a player is not a fault, unless it interferes with the play.”

#### **11.3.2: new net touch rule**

1. Deleted 11.3.2: “Once the player has hit the ball, he/she may touch the post, rope or any other object outside the total length of the net, provided that it does not interfere with play.”
2. Replaced with 11.3.2: “Players may touch the post, ropes, or any other object outside the antennae, including the net itself, provided that it does not interfere with play.”

#### **11.4.2: new centerline rule**

1. Deleted 11.4.2: “A player penetrates into the opponents’ space under the net, interfering with the latter’s play.”
2. Replaced with 11.4.2: “A player interferes with the opponent’s play while penetrating into the opponent’s space under the net.”

#### **11.4.3: new centerline rule**

1. Deleted 11.4.3: “A player penetrates into the opponents’ court.”
2. Replaced with 11.4.3: “A player’s foot (feet) penetrates completely into the opponent’s court.”

#### **11.4.4: new net touch rule**

1. Deleted 11.4.4: “A player touches the net or the antenna during his/her action or playing the ball or interferes with the play.”
2. Replaced with 11.4.4: “A player interferes with the opponent’s play by (amongst others):
  - a. touching the top band of the net or the top 80 cm of the antenna during his/her action of playing the ball, or
  - b. taking support from the net simultaneously with playing the ball, or

- c. creating an advantage over the opponent, or
- d. making actions which hinder an opponent's legitimate attempt to play the ball."

#### **Add USAV 12.6.1.2**

New USAV 12.6.1.2: "It is a serving fault if the service toss touches any obstruction before the service contact."

#### **Narrative Explanation of Change in Regulation**

This change further defines an improperly executed service.

#### **Add USAV 12.6.2**

New USAV 12.6.2: "After the ball has been correctly hit, it is a service fault if the ball touches any overhead obstruction."

#### **Narrative Explanation of Change in Regulation**

This change further defines an improperly executed service.

#### **15: Add "An interruption is the time between one completed rally and the 1<sup>st</sup> referee's whistle for the next service."**

1. Deleted 15: "REGULAR GAME INTERRUPTIONS Regular game interruptions are TIME-OUTS and SUBSTITUTIONS."

2. Replaced with 15: "REGULAR GAME INTERRUPTIONS Regular game interruptions are TIME-OUTS and SUBSTITUTIONS. An interruption is the time between one completed rally and the 1st referee's whistle for the next service."

#### **15.2.1: Add "Regular game"**

1. Deleted 15.2.1: "Interruptions may be requested by the coach or the game captain, and only by them. The request is made by showing the corresponding hand signal when the ball is out of play and before the whistle for service. For FIVB, World and Official Competitions it is obligatory to use the buzzer and then the hand signal to request time-out."

2. Replaced with 15.2.1: "Regular game interruptions may be requested by the coach, or in the absence of the coach by the game captain, and only by them. The request is made by showing the corresponding hand signal, when the ball is out of play and before the whistle for service. For FIVB, World and Official Competitions it is obligatory to use the buzzer and then the hand signal to request time-out."

#### **Add USAV 15.2.2**

New USAV 15.2.2: "A time-out before the start of a set is permitted."

#### **Narrative Explanation of Change in Regulation**

This change further clarifies when a time out may be taken.

#### **15.10.3: Substitutions are only recognized when the sub enters the zone. There is no longer a request from the coach or captain.**

1. Deleted 15.10.3: "At the moment of the substitution request, the substitute player(s) must be ready to enter the court, standing close to the substitution zone. If that is not the case, the substitution is not granted and the team is sanctioned for a delay.

For FIVB World and Official Competitions, numbered paddles are used to facilitate the substitution."

2. Replaced with 15.10.3a: “The actual request for substitution is the entrance of the substitute player(s) into the substitution zone, ready to play, during a regular interruption.”

3. Replaced with 15.10.3b: “If that is not the case, the substitution is not granted and the team is sanctioned for a delay.”

4. Replaced with 15.10.3c: “The request for substitution is acknowledged and announced by the scorer or second referee, by use of the buzzer or whistle, respectively.” For FIVB World and Official Competitions, numbered paddles are used to facilitate the substitution.”

**USAV 17.1.1 Add: “, a legal Libero replacement (if the Libero is not on the court at the time of the injury)”**

1. Deleted USAV 17.1.1: “If the injured player cannot continue playing within 30 seconds, the player must be replaced by substitution or the team must take a legal time-out if the player is to remain in the set.”

2. Replaced with USAV 17.1.1: “If the injured player cannot continue playing within 30 seconds, the player must be replaced by substitution, a legal Libero replacement (if the Libero is not on the court at the time of the injury), or the team must take a legal time-out if the player is to remain in the set.”

**Narrative Explanation of Change in Regulation**

This change provides another option that may be taken when an injured player must be replaced.

**19.1.1 and USAV 19.1.1: Libero(s) designation.**

1. Deleted 19.1.1: “Each team has the right to designate among the list of players one (1) specialized defensive player: “Libero”.”

2. Replaced with 19.1.1: “Each team has the right to designate from the list of players up to two (2) specialized defensive players: Liberos.

For FIVB and World Competitions for Seniors where a team chooses to have more than twelve (12) players, it is compulsory for the team to designate amongst the list of players two (2) specialized defensive players: “Liberos.”

3. Add new USAV 19.1.1: “Each team may designate one specialized defensive player (Libero) per set.”

**19.1.2: Libero(s) designation.**

1. Deleted 19.1.2: “The Libero must be recorded on the scoresheet before the match in the special line reserved for this. His/her number must also be recorded on the line-up sheet of the first set.”

2. Replaced with 19.1.2: “All Liberos must be recorded on the score sheet before the match in the special lines reserved for this. For FIVB World and Official Competitions, all Liberos must be recorded on the score sheet before the match only in the special lines reserved for this.”

3. USAV 19.1.2 remains unchanged.

**19.1.3: Libero(s) designation.**

1. Deleted 19.1.3: “The Libero can be neither team captain nor game captain.”

2. Replaced with 19.1.3: “One Libero designated by the coach before the start of the match will be the acting Libero. If there is a second Libero, he/she will act as the reserve Libero.”

**Add 19.1.4: (old 19.1.3)**

New 19.1.4: "The Libero cannot be either team captain or game captain at the same time as performing the Libero function."

**Add 19.3.2.5: Illegal Libero Replacement defined.**

New 19.3.2.5: "The consequences of an illegal Libero replacement are the same as those for a rotational fault."

**19.3.3.1: Re-designation of Libero defined.**

1. Deleted 19.3.3.1: "In case of injury of the designated Libero, and with the previous approval of the first referee, the coach or set captain can re-designate as new Libero one of the players not on the court at the moment of the re-designation. The injured Libero may not re-enter to play for the remainder of the match."

2. Replaced with 19.3.3.1: "The coach has the right to exchange the acting Libero with the reserve Libero for any reason, but only once in the match, and only after the regular replacement player has returned to court. This exchange must be recorded in the Remarks section of the scoresheet and on the Libero Control sheet. The original Libero may not re-enter to play for the remainder of the match. In case of illness or injury to the reserve Libero, the coach may designate as Libero for the remainder of the match any other player (except the original Libero) not on the court at the moment of the re-designation. The team captain may relinquish all leadership privileges to be re-designated as the Libero, if so requested by the coach. Exchanges due to injury or illness of the Libero or re-designated Libero are not counted as replacements."

3. USAV 19.3.3.1 remains unchanged.

**Add 22.2.3.3**

1. New 22.2.3.3: "In the case of an attack hit fault by back row or Libero players, both referees indicate according to 22.2.3.1 and 22.2.3.2 above."

2. Renumber old 22.2.3.3 as new 22.2.3.4.

**USAV 24.3.2.4 Add: "The first referee and"**

1. Deleted USAV 24.3.2.4: "The second referee decides, whistles and signals the attack hit faults of the Libero and back-row players."

2. Replaced with USAV 24.3.2.4: "The first referee and the second referee decide, whistle and signal the attack hit faults of the Libero and back-row players."

**Narrative Explanation of Change in Regulation**

This change clarifies that both the first and second referee may call back-row and Libero attack hit faults.

**USAV 25.2.3.3: Defines when and by whom the scoresheet is signed.**

1. Deleted USAV 25.2.3.3: "The team captains and the second referee are not required to sign the scoresheet."

2. Replaced with USAV 25.2.3.3: "The second referee is not required to sign the scoresheet(s). For junior competition, the coaches sign the scoresheet(s) after the match to verify the results. For adult competition, the team captains sign the scoresheet(s) after the match to verify the results."