

**2019 USAV Rules Commission**  
**Editorial Corrections, Rules Changes & Points of Emphasis**  
**February 27-28, 2019 at Denver, CO**

**Editorial Corrections & Clarifications**

**\*All page references are to the current 2017-2019 DCR**

**\*Underlined words, phrases, or sentences indicate an editorial correction or rule change.**

Page 31, remove misplaced “4.1.2” in body of *USAV 4.1.1b: A team may consist of a maximum of 15 players and five coaches/staff personnel (unless modified by the Specific Competition Regulations). ~~4.1.2: One of the players, other than the Libero, is the team captain, who shall be indicated on the score sheet.~~* (See also 4.1.1 below in Approved Rules Changes)

Page 31, Rule 4.1.2, add gray box – *USAV 4.1.2: The Libero can be team or game captain.*

Page 33, Remove NOTE, *USAV 4.3.3.1c: Color combinations, ~~such as including but not limited to purple/black, dark green/black, navy/black, white/light yellow or navy/maroon,~~ are not distinctive enough to comply with the rules. ~~NOTE: Beginning with the 2018-2019 season, the~~ The color of the number must clearly contrast with the color of the jersey irrespective of any border around the number.*

Page 34, *USAV 4.3.5: For nationally-sanctioned competition, uniforms must be identical with the exception of sleeve length and the Libero players. An exception will also be made for a single manufacturer’s logo or trademark on the outside of the jerseys or shorts, provided ~~that~~ the logo or trademark does not exceed 14.6 square cm (2 1/4 square inches). Sponsor logos are permitted provided they are identical on each uniform and do not obstruct the view of the uniform number. Editorial: *USAV 4.3.4 needs to be place in a gray box**

Page 35, edit *USAV 5a: The Libero ~~CAN~~ can be team or game captain. ~~, game captain or both.~~*

Page 37, USAV 5.2.3.2 must be placed in a gray box.

Page 40, clarification – *USAV 6.4: Matches that are two sets out of three ~~would~~ will have a ~~default~~ match result of 0-2 or 1-2 depending when the default occurs.*

Page 41, delete USAV 7.3.1a; moved to 6.4.2 (see below in Approved Changes)

Page 48, *USAV 9b: When competition is scheduled or is occurring on adjacent court(s), it is a fault for a player to enter the adjacent court(s) to play a ball or after playing a ball. The free zone, including the service zone on an adjacent court, is a playing area. Adjacent courts may not share the same service zone.* (NOTE: Page 47-48, USAV 9a & 9b need to be in italics, AND there is no “USAV 9” listed on the first line of the gray box prior to “Each team must...” .)

Remove “Test Rule” verbiage in USAV gray boxes: Page 42, USAV ~~TEST~~ Rule 7.3.5.3; Page 44, USAV ~~TEST~~ Rule 7.5.4; Page 45, USAV ~~TEST~~ Rule 7.7.2; Page 61, USAV ~~TEST~~ Rule 15.9.2.3a & b.

Page 46-47, Rule 8.4.2, add to gray box – *USAV 8.4.2 ~~b~~ iv. The ball contacts the ceiling or any obstruction after the team’s third hit.*

Page 49, in References column, Rule 9.3.2 Assisted Hit – include reference to signal D11(10) (or new signal pending FIVB input)

Page 59, USAV 15.3.3 must be placed in a gray box.

Page 66, “USAV 19.2:” must be placed in a gray box.

Page 67 – Remove the “Beginning with the 2018-2019 season...” in the box where it talks about contrasting number

Remove references to “Technical Time-out” – Rules 4.2.3.2, 15.1, 15.4 (title), 15.4.2, 15.4.3, 15.4.4, USAV 24.2.6, 26.2.2.3 & USAV 26.2.2.3, Definitions – page 109, Index – page 232; page 79, delete USAV 24.2.6

## **Approved Indoor Rules Changes**

Page 31, REVISED USAV 4.1.1b: A team may consist of a maximum of 15 players and five coaches/staff personnel (unless modified by the Specific Competition Regulations). An American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter may be included among the coaching staff or team personnel; see ASL Interpreter Guidelines, page XX.

Page 31, add NEW USAV 4.1.1c: A complete junior team consists of a minimum of six players and a USAV certified juniors' coach.

Page 33, REVISED USAV 4.3 a: A player's uniform consists of a jersey and shorts or athletic/sport pants. # When undergarments, including but not limited to T-shirts, boxer shorts, tights, leotards, body suits, bicycle shorts, sports bras, etc., are worn in such a manner that they are exposed, they will be considered a part of the uniform. In that case, they must be similar and the same color for any team members (except the Libero) who wear such a uniform an undergarment. Socks and sport shoes are not part of the uniform.  
USAV 4.3 b: The legality of a team's uniform(s) is not grounds for a protest by their opponent. The determination of a team's uniform legality is the responsibility of the match referee(s), head referee(s), and/or tournament staff.

Page 33, REVISED USAV 4.3.1: The color and design for the jerseys and shorts or athletic/sport pants must be uniform for the team (except for the Libero).

Page 34, REVISED USAV 4.5.1: It is forbidden to wear hats or casts (even if padded). Braces, jewelry, prosthetic limbs or other 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. A junior volleyball athlete participating in a junior event may not wear jewelry. An exception will be made for: 1) religious or medical medallions that are removed from chains and taped or sewn under the uniform; and 2) soft, flexible unadorned wristbands or soft hair control bands made of rubber, soft plastic or string.

Page 36, REVISED USAV 5.1.2.2: For nationally-sanctioned 44-and-under competition, the coach may act in place of the game captain to perform the functions stated in 5.1.2.1 and 5.1.2.2.

Page 40, add NEW USAV 6.4.2: If failure to adhere to Rule 6.4.2 is due to insufficient players on a team to begin a match, the team ~~defaults~~ forfeits the first set at match time. After a team ~~defaults~~ forfeits the first set of a match, an interval of up to 10 minutes shall be allowed for the team to produce sufficient players to play the next set. If the team is complete (per USAV 4.1.1c) prior to the expiration of this interval, the late team will be permitted use of the full court for a four-minute warm-up before play begins. If, after the 10-minute interval the team is not complete and ready to play, the second set shall be declared a default forfeit. If the match consists of the best three out of five sets, an additional 10-minute interval shall be allowed before declaring the match a default the match is declared a forfeit. NOTE: This was originally USAV 7.3.1a

Page 42, add NEW USAV 7.3.4: If a team submits a line-up sheet that has a player's number listed as both a Libero and as a starting player, the coach or captain shall immediately decide whether that player will be a Libero or a starting player. If the duplicate number will be a Libero, the coach must correct the line-up but only in the starting position where the Libero's number was recorded. If the duplicate number will be the starting player, another player may immediately be designated as Libero. The team will not be charged with a substitution.

Page 53, REVISED USAV 12.4.3: In addition to the above, the ~~entire service action~~ contact of the serve must take place on the playing area. At least part of both server's feet must be in contact with the playing surface

prior to the referee whistling and beckoning to authorize the serve. After the referee authorizes the service, if the server steps entirely off the playing surface with either or both feet, it is a service fault (Signal 22).

Page 60, Revised USAV 15.7:

USAV 15.7 a: An exceptional substitution is not counted as a regular substitution or as part of the total team substitutions.

USAV 15.7 b: Priority for exceptional substitution:

- i. by the starter or a substitute who has played in the position of the injured player, or by any substitute who has not already participated in the set;
- ii. by any substitute on the bench, regardless of position previously played;
- iii. by the Libero.

NOTE: USAV 15.7b was originally 15.7a. It was renumbered with the addition of the NEW 15.7a.

Page 63-64, REVISED USAV 17.1.1: Should a serious accident occur while the ball is in play, the referees must stop the ~~game~~ rally immediately and permit medical assistance to enter the court. The rally is then replayed. If the injured player cannot continue playing following a 30-second evaluation period within a reasonable amount of time, 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.

17.1.1 a: If the referees are informed before or immediately at the conclusion of the 30-second evaluation period that a substitute will replace the injured player, no time-out will be charged regardless of the time required to safely remove the player from the playing area.

Page 80, add NEW points to USAV 24.2.7:

a. The 2nd referee reports substitutions 9, 10, 11 and 12 to the appropriate coach or game captain and reports substitution 12 to the 1st referee.

b. Failure to report team substitutions or time-outs to the coach or captain is not grounds for a protest.

c. During the match, the coach or captain may request verification of the number of team substitutions or time-outs. If incorrect information is provided by the 2<sup>nd</sup> referee and the team immediately acts upon this misinformation resulting in an illegal substitution (per USAV 15.9.1) or an excessive time-out, the referee's error will be corrected with no penalty assessed to the team.

Page 80, USAV 24.3.1:a: The 2nd referee's check of the line-up is a courtesy. The responsibility to ensure that the correct players are on the court rests with the captain and/or coach.

a: The 2<sup>nd</sup> referee's line-up check, prior to the start of any set, is a courtesy. It is the responsibility of the captain and/or coach to ensure the players maintain the correct service order once the 2<sup>nd</sup> referee has completed this line-up check.

b: During the match, the coach or captain may request verification of player positions or may confirm the correct server. If incorrect information is provided by the 2<sup>nd</sup> referee, and the team immediately acts upon this misinformation resulting in a rotational fault (wrong server), the referee's error will be corrected. The point(s) scored by the wrong server will be canceled. The team will be placed in the correct order and will resume serving from the moment the incorrect information was provided. However, if the referee's error is discovered after the opponent has served and scored a point, the team at fault will retain any points scored and will be placed in the correct order. No additional point will be awarded to the opponent. (See also USAV 7.5.4)

Page 84, change USAV 27.2.1.6 verbiage to: USAV 27.2.1.6: The decision regarding any contact with the antenna by any player during his/her action of playing the ball or interfering with the play is that of the 1st and 2nd referee. The decision is not a responsibility of the line judge. A line judge may signal when a player contacts the top 80cm (32") of either antenna.

## **Approved Beach Rules Edits and Changes**

Page B18, add NEW *USAV 4.3.1: Players are not required to wear uniforms of the same color and style. Matching bottoms and tops are encouraged. For nationally-sanctioned events, junior female athletes are required to wear a top that covers the midriff/midsection when standing, and bottoms such as spandex, shorts or leggings with a 1" inseam. No bikinis will be permitted. Junior male athletes are required to wear a tank top or t-shirt that covers the midriff/midsection when standing, and bottoms such as swim trunks, surf shorts, or volleyball shorts. No brief-style swim trunks will be permitted. Implementation of these uniform requirements is planned for all other USAV-sanctioned events no later than the 2021-2023 rules cycle.*

Page B18, REVISE *USAV 4.3.3: Players' shirts or shorts do not require numbers for USA competition. However, if numbers are worn, players' tops may be numbered from 1 to 99. Teammates shall not wear the same number.*

Page B19, top of page, section header is incorrect: ~~Rule 4. Team Leaders~~ should be Rule 5. Team Leaders

Page B34, REVISE ~~USAV Test Rule~~ *18.1: An interval is the time between sets. All intervals last 2 minutes.*

## **Referee Points of Emphasis (POE) from the USAV Rules Commission**

*Note: Language is under development for this section*

USAV 4.5.1: What is jewelry, what isn't?

USAV 5.1.2.2: Coach may never cross the court to speak with the 1<sup>st</sup> referee; referee may need to leave stand and go to coach to answer questions if there is no professional 2<sup>nd</sup> referee

Rule 7.1.1 The toss is taken in the presence of the two team captains. *Commentary: We recognize that junior teams often have more than one player serving as team/game captain, and that special team circumstances may result in the coach sending multiple players to the captains' meeting. It is acceptable for multiple team representatives to attend the captains' meeting, and the first referee will need to confirm which player will be representing the team for the toss.*

USAV 16.1.6: Referees are to ignore verbal requests for substitution and should remind the coach that the only request for substitution is the entry of a substitute into the substitution zone, except for a substitution related to an injury situation.

USAV 20.1.3: Referees must recognize the difference between emotions/reactions during competition and conscious decisions or actions that result in unsporting conduct.

Rule 24.3.2.8: 2<sup>nd</sup> referee may whistle when served ball passes over/outside his/her antenna; 1<sup>st</sup> referee whistles when served ball hits either antenna

USAV 27.2.1.6: Line judge calling player contact with antenna

**NEW TECHNIQUE:** 1<sup>st</sup> referee does not repeat 2<sup>nd</sup> referee's signal for substitution or time-out; however, if the 1<sup>st</sup> referee whistles either of these interruptions, the corresponding signal is shown

USAV 5.1.2.1: Protest Procedures.

- (NEW) Includes scoring discrepancy
- (NEW) Coach may handle protests for any age level; team or game captain is encouraged to participate in the process for educational purposes
- Protest must occur immediately at the end of the rally in which the protested situation occurred
- A serve negates a protest of any previous rally
- Last rally of a set/match must be protested within 60 seconds of the end of that set/match
- Coach may NOT cross the court; 1<sup>st</sup> referee must come off the stand if necessary
- Judgment decisions are not protestable

For tournaments with a Protest Committee:

- Referee(s) stay at the court; send responsible work team member to tournament staff
- Referees wait on their respective side of the court; no discussion among referees or with any coach, team member, work team crew, or spectator
  - Coach and player behavior are still subject to sanction
- 1<sup>st</sup> referee informs Protest Committee which team lodged the protest; PC then speaks with that coach and/or captain
  - PC may request sanction during this time if behavior is unsporting; sanction is assessed prior to next serve at conclusion of protest proceedings

- PC may approach any member of the officiating team to collect more facts to make a ruling
- PC informs both teams of decision and may assist with preparing the teams and court to resume play
- Coach may discuss decision with PC after the match

## **Editorial Corrections & Clarifications: Techniques, Mechanics & Procedures, pgs. 117-126**

Page 120-121, NEW Referee Techniques #18: **Requests for game interruption by opponents during same dead ball:** When opponents request a time-out or substitution during the same dead-ball period, the 2<sup>nd</sup> referee acknowledges each team's request with a separate whistle. Multiple substitutions by the same team require only one whistle.

Page 124, NEW Referee Techniques #29: **Line judge position when server is within 1-2 meters of the line judge:** When a server takes a position within 1-2 meters of the line judge, the line judge must step away from the server along the imaginary extension of the end line. After the service contact, the line judge should quickly return to position at the intersection of the end line and sideline.

Page 125, Referee Points of Emphasis, NEW Disruptive Coaching #5: Includes loud or abusive language; comments to officials or to opposing teams; throwing of objects; attempting to influence an official's decisions (Rule 20.1.3); and, displaying disgust in an overt manner.

Page 125, Referee Points of Emphasis, Player Equipment #7 – correct “e”, which is currently missing any verbiage:

- e. For junior competition, soft, flexible unadorned wristbands or soft hair control bands made of rubber, plastic or string may be worn provided the item is unadorned and does not have any hard, unyielding parts that present a concern for safety.

Page 126, Referee Points of Emphasis #8 – add commentary regarding opponent interfering with a player's attempt to play the ball:

### **Interference with Play:**

- a. A player who places a hand/hands near the net in the path of a ball to deflect the natural rebound of a ball that has been passed into the net by the opponent has committed a net fault according to the FIVB/USAV interpretation of “interferes with play.”
- b. If a player contacts an official (2<sup>nd</sup> referee or line judge) during an attempt to play the ball legally, the 1<sup>st</sup> referee may award a replay if the physical interference impeded that player's attempt.
- c. A ball that contacts an official (referee or line judge) is ruled “out” per Rule 8.4.2.
- d. A player may not interfere with an opponent who is making an attempt to legally play the ball, including in the free zone. Contact, the anticipation of contact, or physical or verbal distractions by the opponent may constitute interference.

## **Suggestions from the USAV Rules Commission**

**Ball handling Guidelines:** The following is suggested to be included at beginning of rulebook with Philosophy of Rules and Refereeing on page 18. A similar statement was included in previous versions of the DCR but it hasn't been in there since prior to 2015:

In accordance with the spirit of ~~international competitions~~ the rules and to encourage longer rallies and spectacular actions, only the most obvious violations will be whistled. Therefore, when a player is not in a very good position to play the ball, the 1st referee will be less severe in his/ her judgment of ball handling faults. For example: 1) A player running to play the ball or forced to make a very quick action to reach the ball in order to set. 2) A player is forced to run or make very quick actions to play a ball after it has rebounded from the block or from another player. 3) The first team contact may be freely made except if the player catches or throws the ball.

**Concussion Guidelines:** The Rules Commission recognizes the importance of addressing concussions in youth sports. As such, the commission recommends including Concussion Guidelines be added with Blood Guidelines (page 225).

Verbiage will need to be provided. Here's an example from the CDC

([https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/pdfs/youthsports/HEADS\\_UP\\_Youth\\_Sports\\_Officials-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/pdfs/youthsports/HEADS_UP_Youth_Sports_Officials-a.pdf)):

### **How Can I Spot a Possible Concussion?**

Athletes who show or report one or more of the signs and symptoms listed below—or simply say they just “don’t feel right” after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body—may have a concussion or other serious brain injury.

#### **Signs Observed by Sports Officials, Parents, or Coaches**

- Appears dazed or stunned.
- Forgets an instruction, is confused about an assignment or position, or is unsure of the game, score, or opponent.
- Moves clumsily.
- Answers questions slowly.
- Loses consciousness (even briefly).
- Shows mood, behavior, or personality changes.
- Can't recall events prior to or after a hit or fall.

#### **Symptoms Reported by Athletes**

- Headache or “pressure” in head.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Balance problems or dizziness, or double or blurry vision.
- Bothered by light or noise.
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy.
- Confusion, or concentration or memory problems.
- Just not “feeling right,” or “feeling down.”

*Need to add a course of action for referees or coaches when there is concern a player may have sustained a concussion.*



**Non-participant Conduct Issues:**

- Rules Commission emphasizes importance of spectator conduct and protecting/supporting game officials.
- Also, would like emphasis on Club Directors' role, address in terms of compliance with rules and team conduct; perhaps include statement/position in front of DCR with spectator code of conduct; inquire with RVA

**American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreter Guidelines**

- An ASL interpreter who is an assistant coach is afforded the rights and responsibilities of an assistant coach.
- An ASL interpreter, who is not a coach, may sit on the team bench during the match and may participate in any team activities afforded other rostered team members.
- Per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the requirement of "effective communication" between coach and athlete can be achieved one of two ways: (a) the ASL interpreter is allowed to go anywhere, during the play, that the coach goes, or (b) the coach needs to adjust her/his coaching style to ensure that she/he is always within sufficient distance of the interpreter to facilitate interpreting.
- In all cases, anyone serving in the role of ASL interpreter will have frequent contact with and/or authority and control over junior athletes, and therefore, must be a USAV member with a clear background screen and must have completed SafeSport training.