

## **2017-2019 Significant Rule Changes and Clarifications**

**New USAV 2.2:** For USAV competition, the horizontal band described above may be 5 to 7 cm (2 to 23/4") wide, made of two-fold white canvas, and sewn along the full length of the net. All other aspects of the net as described remain unchanged.

**USAV 4.1.3a and USAV 4.1.3b:** Change USAV 4.1.3b to USAV 4.1.3a and add the underlined portion: Unless modified by specific competition regulations, at least 10 minutes before the start of each match, including tournament play, each team shall submit a roster listing the names and uniform numbers of players eligible to participate in the match. Change USAV 4.1.3a to 4.1.3b.

**New USAV 4.2.1:** In conjunction with rule 4.2.1 above, any team member may occupy any available seat on their team's bench, including the first chair previously reserved for the coach.

**USAV 4.3.3.1:** Color combinations such as 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 color of the number must clearly contrast with the color of the jersey irrespective of any border around the number.**

**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 may be assessed.

**USAV 5a:** USAV 5 changed to USAV 5a.

**USAV 5.1.2.2:** For nationally sanctioned 14-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.

**New USAV 5.1.3.1:** thanks the referees but is not required to sign the score sheet after the match.

**USAV 5.2.2:** The coach does not sign the score sheet before the match except in the Open Division of the USA Volleyball Open National Championships.

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**New USAV 5.2.3.2:** The coach may sit anywhere on the team bench but may also stand or walk in the team bench area as described in USAV 5.2.3.4 below.

**New USAV 5.2.3.4:** During play, the coach may give these instructions while standing or walking within the free zone in front of his/her team's bench from the extension of the attack line up to and including the warm-up area, no closer to the court than 1.75 m (5'10") from the sideline and its extension without disturbing or delaying the match. The extension of the attack line is drawn to a distance of 1.75 m (5'10") from the sideline.

**New USAV 5.3.1:** One assistant coach at a time may stand to give instructions to the players on the court, but has no right to intervene in the match. During play, the assistant coach may give these instructions while standing or walking within the free zone in front of his/her team's bench from the extension of the attack line up to and including the warm-up area, no closer to the court than 1.75 m (5'10") from the sideline and its extension without disturbing or delaying the match. The extension of the attack line is drawn to a distance of 1.75 m (5'10") from the sideline.

**USAV 6.3a:** For tournament play, the match is won by the team that wins two sets out of three. The 1st and 2nd sets are won by the first team to score 25 points with a minimum lead of two points. The deciding (3rd) set is won by the first team to score 15 points with a minimum lead of two points. Teams change courts in the deciding set when one team has scored 8 points.

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

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**USAV TEST Rule 7.3.5.3:** If the positional fault is discovered before the opponent serves, all points scored subsequent to the fault must be cancelled. In addition, all time-outs taken by the team not at fault, as well as substitutions and team sanctions charged to either team subsequent to the commission of the positional fault, must be cancelled. Individual misconduct sanctions assessed to either team, and time-outs taken by the team at fault, are not cancelled. If the points scored while the player was out of position cannot be determined or the opponents have served, then a loss of rally is the only penalty charged. The opponents retain any points scored.

**USAV TEST Rule 7.5.4:** If the positional fault is discovered before the opponent serves, all points scored subsequent to the fault must be cancelled. In addition, all time-outs taken by the team not at fault, as well as substitutions and team sanctions charged to either team subsequent to the commission of the positional fault, must be cancelled. Individual misconduct sanctions assessed to either team, and time-outs taken by the team at fault, are not cancelled. If the points scored while the player was out of position cannot be determined or the opponents have served, then a loss of rally is the only penalty charged. The opponents retain any points scored.

**USAV TEST Rule 7.7.2:** If the rotational fault is discovered before the opponents serve, all points scored subsequent to the fault must be cancelled. In addition, all time-outs taken by the team not at fault, as well as substitutions and team sanctions charged to either team subsequent to the commission of the rotational fault, must be cancelled. Individual misconduct sanctions assessed to either team, and time-outs taken by the team at fault, are not cancelled. If the points scored while the player was out of rotation cannot be determined or the opponents have served, then a point and service to the opponents is the only penalty charged. The opponents retain any points scored.

**New USAV 15.1:** Each team may request a maximum of two time-outs per set. The number of substitutions allowed per set is defined in USAV 15.6.

**New USAV 15.3.1:** Regular game interruptions may be requested by either the coach or the game captain.

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**USAV TEST Rule 15.9.2.3 a:** If the team at fault is receiving and discovery is after the opponents have served, all points previously scored by the offending team shall be retained. The serving team will be awarded a point unless the error is discovered after the serving team has scored a point. In this case, no additional point will be awarded.

**USAV TEST Rule 15.9.2.3 b:** If it is not possible to determine when the error first occurred and the offending team is serving, only the last point in that term of service will be removed.

**USAV 17.1.1:** Should a serious accident occur while the ball is in play, the referee must stop the game 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, 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.

- 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.
- b. No substitution requests may be made by the injured player's team until the injury situation is resolved.

**New USAV 17.3:** For tournament play where a court change is necessitated, the match will be continued from the point of the interruption.

### **USAV 19.2:**

- a. The Libero must wear a jersey that clearly contrasts with the jersey of their teammates.
- b. A jacket or bib can only be worn by the redesignated Libero. If a jacket or bib is worn by the redesignated Libero, the uniform number must still be visible.
- c. Numbers shall be a contrasting color to the uniform top and meet all other specifications in USAV 4.3.3.1. Color combinations such as purple/black, dark green/black, navy/maroon, and white/light yellow are not distinctive enough to comply with the rules.

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**USAV 21.3.2.1:** When facility space does not allow for a penalty area, a player or substitute who is sanctioned by expulsion shall not play for the rest of the set and must remain seated on his/her bench for the remainder of the set. Any other team member sanctioned by expulsion must leave the playing area, bench and warm-up area for the remainder of the set, and loses his/her right to intervene in the set.

**USAV 21.3.3.1:** For the purposes of a disqualification, the Competition Control Area described above includes, at a minimum, the playing area, bench, warm-up area and spectator area.

**USAV 22.2.1:** In addition to the referees, the scorer may use an audible device, including a whistle, to notify the referees of a rotational fault.

**USAV 24.2.7:** 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.

**New USAV 25.2.3.3:** The only individuals required to sign the score sheet at the conclusion of the match are the scorer and the 1st referee.



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