

**2019 USAV Rules Commission
Rules Changes & Clarifications and Referee Points of Emphasis
February 27-28, 2019 at Denver, CO**

Editorial Corrections & Clarifications

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

USAV 4.3a: 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 an undergarment. Socks and sport shoes are not part of the uniform.

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).

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 ¼ square inches). Sponsor logos are permitted provided they are identical on each uniform and do not obstruct the view of the uniform number.

USAV 5.1.2.1: Protests to be considered by the 1st referee (or Protest or Tournament Committee) include: 1) misinterpretation of a playing rule, 2) failure of the 1st referee to apply the correct rule to a given situation, 3) failure to charge the correct penalty-sanction for a given fault, or 4) a scoring discrepancy.

USAV 5.1.2.2: For nationally sanctioned 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. The coach is not permitted to cross the court to speak with the 1st referee. The 1st referee may leave the stand to address a coach near the team bench, if necessary, when a certified, professional 2nd referee is not assigned to the match.

USAV 6.4: Matches that are two sets out of three will have a match result of 0-2 or 1-2 depending when the default occurs.

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.

USAV 12.4.3: In addition to the above, the service hit must take place on the playing area.

USAV 12.4.5: After the whistle for the service, requests for game interruption, i.e., time-out, substitution, may not be considered until after the ball has been served and the rally completed, including a re-serve. A re-serve is part of a single effort to serve, and no requests will be honored during a re-serve. A request for line-up check is permitted when the result of a rally is a replay.

USAV 17.1.1: Should a serious accident occur while the ball is in play, the referees must stop the rally immediately and permit medical assistance to enter the court. The rally is then replayed. If the injured player cannot continue playing 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.

USAV 17.1.1 a: If the referees are informed 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.

USAV 24.3.1a: The 2nd 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 2nd referee has completed this line-up check.

Approved Indoor Rules Changes

***Underlined words, phrases, or sentences indicate a rule change or a new rule.**

New 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.

New USAV 4.1.1c: A complete junior team consists of a minimum of six players and a USAV certified juniors' coach.

New USAV 4.1.2: The Libero can be team or game captain.

New USAV 4.3b: 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.

NEW USAV 4.5.1: It is forbidden to wear hats or casts (even if padded). Braces, 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. Jewelry may be worn provided its nature does not present a concern for safety, such as extremely long necklaces and/or necklaces with large medallions, or large hoop earrings.

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 forfeits the first set at match time. After a team 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, the second set shall be declared a forfeit. If the match consists of the best three out of five sets, an additional 10-minute interval shall be allowed before the match is declared a forfeit. (USAV 6.4.2 was originally USAV 7.3.1a.)

New USAV 7.1.1: Multiple team representatives may attend the captains' meeting with the team captain. The 1st referee will confirm which player will represent the team for the toss.

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.

New USAV 8.4.2b iv: The ball contacts the ceiling or any obstruction after the team's third hit.

New USAV 12.3: In addition to the above, when playing on a portable playing surface, the server shall have at least part of both feet in contact with the playing surface before the 1st referee authorizes the service. After the 1st referee authorizes the service, if the server steps entirely off the playing surface with one or both feet, it is a service fault (Signal 22). See USAV 12.4.3.

New USAV 15.7a: An exceptional substitution is not counted as an individual entry or as part of the total team substitutions.

New USAV 15.10.3a: A verbal request for substitution is not acknowledged by the referees. The substitute must enter the substitution zone for the request to be acknowledged, except for a substitution related to an injury.

New USAV 24.2.7b: The second referee reports each team's second time-out to the appropriate coach or game captain and to the 1st referee.

New USAV 24.2.7c: Failure to report team substitutions or time-outs to the coach or captain is not grounds for a protest.

New USAV 24.2.7d: 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 2nd referee and the team acts directly 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 or sanction assessed to the team.

New USAV 24.2.7e: When a referee incorrectly informs a coach or captain that the team has used all time-outs or team substitutions, but later discovers the information is inaccurate and corrects it, the team has no basis for a protest since teams also have a responsibility to maintain records of their team substitutions and time-outs.

New USAV 24.2.7f: When a team acts upon misinformation but the action does not result in an excessive substitution or time-out, the request is considered legal and is not grounds for the team to change or withdraw the request. A delay sanction is assessed if the team withdraws a legal request that has been acknowledged (whistled) by a referee.

New USAV 24.3.1b: 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 2nd referee, and the team acts directly 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, 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.

New USAV 27.2.1.6: 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

*POEs, techniques & procedural changes are included in the USAV rulebook in the Officiating Techniques, Points of Emphasis and Match Procedures section. Underlined words, phrases, or sentences indicate a change or a new technique.

POE – Player Equipment: *USAV 4.5.1:* Jewelry may be worn provided its nature does not present a concern for safety, such as extremely long necklaces and/or necklaces with large medallions, or large hoop earrings. This applies to both adult and junior competitions.

POE: *USAV 5.1.2.1:* The coach may handle protest situations for any level of junior competition. Also, a scoring discrepancy has been added as a protestable situation. Protest procedures are included in the Basic Match Procedures section.

Rule 7.1.1 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.*

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

Disruptive Coaching: 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.

POE: Add commentary:

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.

POE: The serve: Both of the server's feet must be in contact with the playing surface before the serve is authorized. If this is not the case, the 1st referee will direct the player onto the playing surface before authorizing the serve. Part of the server's foot/feet may be in contact with the secondary surface/non-playing area. It is a fault when a server steps completely off the playing surface after the authorization to serve.

POE: Libero jersey: "Contrast" means "strikingly different." As such, two dark colors (or two light colors) often do not provide sufficient contrast from one another.

POE: *USAV 27.2.1.6:* *A line judge may signal player contact with an antenna.* Particularly when working with experienced line judges, referees may request the line judges to assist with determining whether a player touches the portion of the antenna that extends above the top of the net (top 80cm/32").

NEW TECHNIQUE: It is not necessary for the 1st referee to repeat the 2nd referee's signal for substitution or time-out; however, if the 1st referee whistles either of these interruptions, the corresponding signal is shown. The 1st referee may repeat either of these signals for clarification or communication purposes, when necessary.

NEW TECHNIQUE: At nationally sanctioned competitions after displaying the end of match signal, the 1st referee steps down and stands to the right (Team A side) of the stand. The second referee crosses the court and stands to the left of the stand (Team B side). The first referee will then whistle and direct teams to shake hands at the net. The teams may shake the referees' hands as well.

NEW LINE JUDGE TECHNIQUE: **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.

CLARIFICATION: 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 2nd referee acknowledges each team's request with a separate whistle. Multiple substitutions by the same team require only one whistle.

Suggestions from the USAV Rules Commission

Ball handling Guidelines. The following is included at beginning of rulebook with Philosophy of Rules and Refereeing:

In accordance with the spirit of 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.

(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 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.