



# USA Volleyball

## 2016-17 Rules Interpretation Bulletin #1

### May 2017

We hope everyone has had a great season of officiating. For those who do not know, I was appointed as the USAV Rules Interpreter in September, taking over duties from Paul Albright. One of the many jobs of this position is to send out periodic rule interpretation newsletters. I plan on releasing these newsletters more often in the future to keep us all up to date.

As we approach the end of the season and prepare for our Adult and Junior National Championships, these are the interpretations to be used for the championships in Summer 2017. If anyone has questions, please contact me at [vbinterp@usav.org](mailto:vbinterp@usav.org).

#### Head Covering

- Concussion helmets: If you feel the helmet does not create a safety issue for the player or their teammates, allow the helmet. Most helmets that I have seen have been padded. Athletes do not need to have a medical waiver or a waiver from the Rules Interpreter. If you want a second opinion, call a head referee.
- Religious head covering: A head covering for religious purposes MUST have an official waiver signed by the Rules Interpreter. If you have an athlete on your court that needs to wear one and they do NOT have a waiver, they must contact the USAV Rules Interpreter to get a waiver.

#### Piercings

- Medical piercings: We are starting to see some cases of piercings for medical purposes. If they say it is for medical purposes, they MUST have a signed waiver from the USAV Rules Interpreter and a signed waiver from their doctor. If they have this documentation, they MUST then cover the piercing with tape before they are allowed to play. If they do not have the proper waivers, they are not allowed to play with the piercing. Any other jewelry during a Junior competition MUST be removed.

#### Uniforms

- Solid color jersey no longer required.
- Libero jersey must be contrasting to the regular uniform.
- Ask the coach if they have another jersey if you think the uniform is not contrasting. Be prepared to tell the coach that the Libero can't play without a legal uniform. Call a head referee if you want another opinion. Identify potential Libero uniform issues during warm-ups and use your best judgement before the match is ready to begin.
- Number centered on PLAYERS CHEST and UPPER BACK.
  - Is the number visible? Let them play. Inform a head referee of questionable number placement and they will check it out.

#### Numbers must be contrasting to uniform

- Current interpretation allows an outline of a number to be the number provided it is still contrasting. This will be changing in the future.
  - Is it readable? Let them play. Inform a head referee of questionable contrasting numbers and they will check it out. If you want another opinion before the match, contact a head referee.

#### Coach in the first chair

- NOT required to sit in the first chair.
- No one else can sit in the first chair. No one can sit between the head coach and the scorer table if the head coach is not in the first chair.

## **Coach in warm-up area**

- By rule, a head coach or assistant coach cannot be standing in the warm-up area. Let's not make a big deal out of this. If you have a coach that is making requests while in the warm-up area, work with them. If you hear the request, accept the request. Remind them they should not be standing in the warm-up area. Ask them to be in front of their bench if they want to make a request. Control your benches but don't let it distract you from the match.

## **Techniques Corner – Reprint from *Official Word* (March/April, 2017 edition)**

### **Procedure for Issuing Individual Or Delay Penalties**

- Whistle
- Call player (if on court) or captain (if team member not on court or delay) to referee stand
- Explain fault to player/captain
- Show individual red card or delay penalty
- Signal team to serve next

### **Improper Request**

- Second referee signal is a wave off
- First referee whistles at next dead ball period
- Call captain to referee stand
- Explain fault to captain
- First referee signal is a hand on the opposite wrist

### **Served Ball Hits Net Outside Antenna Without Crossing Net**

- Signal ball out

### **Served Ball Hits Second Referee's Antenna**

- Served ball outside the second referee's antenna or hits the antenna and goes over the net
  - First referee whistles
  - If first referee does not whistle; second referee MAY whistle
- Served ball hits antenna in body of net on second referee side
  - First referee whistles

### **Time-Outs**

- Second referee MUST whistle to end time-out even if teams are ready to play

### **Time Between Sets**

- Second referee MUST whistle to end time interval between sets
- If players are not on the court at 2 min 30 secs, second referee whistles
  - Second referee must also whistle at 3 mins to end timed interval
- If players are on the court at 2 min 30 secs, second referee checks line-ups and whistles at 3 mins

### **Deciding Set**

- 3 minutes starts at end of previous set (after first referee's end of game signal)
- Second referee conducts coin toss near score table
- Notify first referee of result of coin toss
- If teams need to switch sides, second referee helps administer this process
- **There is no whistle from the first or second referee**

## **Change of Court Signal Between Sets**

- Start with arms at side and raise forearms in counter clockwise direction (left arm behind back, right arm in front of body)

## **Whistles to End Set/Match**

- To end 2nd set and before deciding set
  - Whistle to end rally
  - Signal team to serve and signal fault
  - Whistle to signal end of set; motion teams to bench by making sub authorization signal with both hands at the same time toward benches
  - Second referee whistles and holds up coin for captains to report for coin toss
- To end match
  - Whistle to end rally
  - Signal team to serve and signal fault
  - Whistle to signal end of set and signal teams to end lines
  - Whistle to signal players to shake hands at net