



2021-2023 USA Volleyball Rules Modifications & Clarifications

| New 2022-2024 FIVB Rules Text or Original 2019-2021 USAV Modification | 2021-2023 USAV Modification/Clarification (changes/additions highlighted) | Explanation |
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| <p>USAV 1.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The playing court is a rectangle measuring 18 x 9 m (59' x 29'6") surrounded by a free zone, which may be a minimum of 2 m (6'6 ¾"). It is not required that the free zone be symmetrical. b. The free playing space is the space above the playing area which is free from any obstructions. For nationally sanctioned competition and recommended for all other competitions, 7 m (23') is the minimum free playing space (ceiling height). | <p>USAV 1.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The playing court is a rectangle measuring 18 x 9 m (59' x 29'6") surrounded by a free zone, which may be a minimum of 2 m (6'6 ¾"). It is not required that the free zone be symmetrical. b. For developmental purposes, the size of the playing court for 10 years & Under competition may be reduced to 16 X 9m (52'6" X 29'6"). c. For developmental purposes, the size of the playing court for 8/9 years & Under may be reduced to 14 X 9m (46' X 29'6"). d. The free playing space is the space above the playing area which is free from any obstructions. For nationally sanctioned competition and recommended for all other competitions, 7 m (23') is the minimum free playing space (ceiling height). | <p>The court dimensions for the youngest age groups of junior competition may be reduced to promote skill development at that level of play. For consistency around the country, the dimensions are now included in the rules.</p> |

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| <p>1.4.6 Penalty Area DELETED FROM THE RULES A penalty area, sized approximately 1 x 1 m and equipped with two chairs, is located in the control area, outside the prolongation of each end line. They may be limited by a 5-cm wide red line.</p> | <p>DELETED FROM USAV RULES</p> | <p>FIVB has deleted this rule and provided an alternate protocol for expelled or disqualified team members. USA Volleyball's current protocol (USAV 21.3.2.1) has been edited to remove reference to the penalty area.</p> |
| <p>4.5 FORBIDDEN OBJECTS 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.</p> | <p>4.5 PERSONAL EQUIPMENT and PROHIBITED ITEMS USAV 4.5.1: It is prohibited to wear a cast, even if padded. A head covering made from cloth or soft, non-abrasive fabric may be worn; no waiver is required. Hats of any style are not permitted. A brace, prosthetic limb, 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.</p> | <p>The title of this section has been changed to better reflect its content.</p> <p>A waiver for a head covering worn for medical, religious, or cultural purposes is not required and need not be requested by tournament staff or referees.</p> <p>Hats of any style are not permitted. This is a clarification to the previous rule verbiage.</p> |
| <p>4.5.3 Compression pads (padded injury protection devices) may be worn for protection or support. For FIVB, World and Official competitions for Seniors, these devices must be of the same colour as the corresponding part of the uniform. Black, white, or neutral colours may be also used provided that all using players wear the same colour.</p> | <p>USAV 4.5.3 Compression pads (padded injury protection devices) may be worn for protection or support. The color of the compression pads does not need to be the same for team members wearing this equipment, nor does the color need to match the predominant color(s) of the team uniform.</p> | <p>Compression pads or sleeves are personal equipment and are not considered part of the uniform. The color of the pads or sleeves may vary from player to player and does not need to match the team uniform color(s).</p> |

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| <p>USAV 6.3:</p> <p>a. 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.</p> <p>b. A playoff set is considered a match and only one set will be played. The match is won by the team that scores either 15 or 25 (as specified in the tournament guidelines) with a two-point advantage. Teams change courts when one team has scored 8 or 13 points, respectively.</p> | <p>USAV 6.3:</p> <p>a. 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. If teams will change courts in the deciding set, the court change occurs when the leading team has scored 8 points.</p> <p>b. A playoff set is considered a match and only one set will be played. The match is won by the team that scores either 15 or 25 (as specified in the tournament guidelines) with a two-point advantage. If teams will change courts, the court change occurs when the leading team has scored 8 or 13 points, respectively.</p> | <p>The change of courts protocol has been clarified. (See USAV 18.2)</p> |
| <p>7.3.5 Discrepancies between players' position on court and on the line-up sheet are dealt with as follows:</p> <p>7.3.5.1 When such a discrepancy is discovered before the start of the set, players' positions must be rectified according to those on the line-up sheet—there will be no sanction;</p> <p>7.3.5.2 when, before the start of the set,</p> <p>any player on court is found not to be registered on the line-up sheet of that set, this player must be changed to conform to the line-up sheet—there will be no sanction;</p> | <p>7.3.5 Discrepancies between players' position on court and on the line-up sheet are dealt with as follows:</p> <p>7.3.5.1 When such a discrepancy is discovered before the start of the set, players' positions must be rectified according to those on the line-up sheet—there will be no sanction;</p> <p>USAV 7.3.5.1 When a discrepancy involves a non-existent uniform number, the line-up sheet is corrected for that position only; there will be no sanction or substitution.</p> <p>7.3.5.2 when, before the start of the set, any player on court is found not to be registered on the line-up sheet of that set, this player must be changed to conform to the line-up sheet—there will be no sanction;</p> | <p>No sanction is assessed, and no substitution is charged, when a line-up has been submitted with a non-existent number or a number that is not listed on the team's roster (if used).</p> |

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| <p>9 PLAYING THE BALL Each team must play within its own playing area and space (except Rule 10.1.2). The ball may, however, be retrieved from beyond its own free zone and over the scoring table in its complete extension.</p> | <p>2022-2024 FIVB rules verbiage implemented by USAV</p> | <p>Playing the ball above any portion of the score table is legal. This is not a change in rule or interpretation; the additional verbiage is a clarification.</p> |
| <p>USAV 12.4.5 After the whistle for the service, requests for game interruption, i.e., time-out or 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.</p> | <p>USAV 12.4.5 After the whistle for the service, requests for game interruption, i.e., time-out or substitution, or a request for a line-up check, 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.</p> | <p>See USAV 15</p> |
| <p>15 INTERRUPTIONS</p> <p>An interruption is the time between one completed rally and the 1st referee's whistle for the next service.</p> <p>The only regular game interruptions are TIME-OUTS and SUBSTITUTIONS.</p> | <p>15 INTERRUPTIONS</p> <p>An interruption is the time between one completed rally and the 1st referee's whistle for the next service.</p> <p>The only regular game interruptions are TIME-OUTS and SUBSTITUTIONS.</p> <p>USAV 15: After the 1st referee whistles to authorize the service, a request for a regular game interruption or a request for a line-up check will not be honored; see Rules 6.1.3, USAV 12.4.5, and 15.11.1.1.</p> | <p>A line-up check, in addition to a request for regular game interruption, is not permitted after the whistle for service, even if the serve is interrupted prior to the service hit. A re-authorization for the serve is not considered a replay.</p> |
| <p>15.4.2 During time-outs, players must go to the free zone near their bench.</p> <p>DELETED FROM THE RULES: 15.4.2 For FIVB, World and Official Competitions, in sets 1-4, two additional 60-second "Technical Time-Outs" are applied automatically when the leading team reaches the 8th and 16th points.</p> | <p>USAV 15.4.2:</p> <p>The players may remain on the court or go to the free zone near their team bench. Any member of the team listed on the roster may participate in the time-out. Coaches and non-playing team members may not enter the court. Referees may direct teams to move to the free zone near their team bench for administrative purposes. Teams may return to the court when permitted by the referees.</p> | <p>This rule was previously numbered USAV 15.4.4.</p> |

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| <p>15.4.3 In the deciding (5th) set, there are no “Technical Time-Outs”; only two time-outs of 30 seconds duration may be requested by each team.</p> | <p>USAV 15.4.3: The use of media (technical) time-outs, and their duration, is at the discretion of the event organizer.</p> | <p>FIVB has eliminated “Technical Time-Outs”. USAV rules will allow media (technical) time-outs at the discretion of the event organizer.</p> |
| <p>15.8 SUBSTITUTION FOR EXPULSION OR DISQUALIFICATION</p> <p>An EXPELLED or DISQUALIFIED player must be substituted immediately through a legal substitution. If this is not possible, the team has the right to do an exceptional substitution. If this is not possible, the team is declared INCOMPLETE.</p> | <p>2022-2024 FIVB rule adopted by USAV</p> | <p>The previous rule did not allow an exceptional substitution for an expelled or disqualified player, which could result in a team being declared incomplete and forfeiting the set or match. To encourage the continuation of competition, an exceptional substitution is now permitted for an expelled or disqualified player when a legal substitution cannot be made.</p> |
| <p>18.1 INTERVALS</p> <p>An interval is the time between sets. All intervals last 3 minutes. During this period of time, the change of courts and line-up registrations of the teams on the score sheet are made.</p> <p>The interval between the second and the third set can be extended up to 10 minutes by the competent body at the request of the organizer.</p> | <p>USAV 18.1 INTERVALS</p> <p>An interval is the time between sets. All intervals last 3 minutes. During this time, team line-ups are submitted and recorded on the score sheet. If teams will change courts between sets during the match (see 18.2), the change of courts takes place during the interval.</p> <p>The interval between the second and the third set can be extended up to 10 minutes by the organizer.</p> | <p>If a change of courts will take place, it will occur during the interval between sets. (See USAV 18.2 and USAV 6.3)</p> |
| <p>19.4.2.1 When only one Libero is available for a team according to Rule 19.4.1, or the team has only one registered, and this Libero becomes or is declared unable to play, the coach (or game captain if no coach is present) may re-designate as Libero for the remainder of the match any other player (replacement player excepted) not on the court at the moment of the re-designation.</p> | <p>USAV 19.4.2.1: When only one Libero is available for a team according to Rule 19.4.1, or the team has only one registered, and this Libero becomes or is declared unable to play, the coach (or game captain if no coach is present) may re-designate as Libero for the remainder of the set any other player (replacement player excepted) not on the court at the moment of the re-designation.</p> | <p>USAV rules allow a Libero to be designated for a set instead of the match.</p> |

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| <p>18.2 CHANGE OF COURTS</p> <p>18.2.1 After each set, the teams change courts, with the exception of the deciding set.</p> <p>18.2.2 In the deciding set, once the leading team reaches 8 points, the teams change courts without delay and the player positions remain the same. If the change is not made once the leading team reaches 8 points, it will take place as soon as the error is noticed. The score at the time that the change is made remains the same.</p> | <p>USAV 18.2 CHANGE OF COURTS</p> <p>USAV 18.2.1: The default protocol is for each team to remain on their respective side of the court throughout the match, including the deciding set.</p> <p>EXCEPTIONS:</p> <p>18.2.1.1 The event organizer determines there is a clear disadvantage on only one side of the court.</p> <p>18.2.1.1.1 In the case of a clear disadvantage, the decision to change courts will remain in effect for the duration of the match but may change for a subsequent match.</p> <p>18.2.1.2 The event organizer may determine that a change of courts will take place between sets and during a deciding set for all matches.</p> <p>USAV 18.2.2: If the teams will change courts during the deciding set in accordance with USAV 18.2.1.1 or USAV 18.2.1.2, the change of courts takes place when the leading team reaches 8 points. If the change is not made once the leading team reaches 8 points, it will take place as soon as the error is noticed. The score at the time that the change is made remains the same.</p> | <p>The default protocol is for teams to remain on the same side of the court for the duration of the match. The previous protocol of changing courts between sets and at the 8th point in a deciding set is still an option, at the discretion of the event organizer.</p> |
| <p>USAV 21.3.2.1:</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>USAV 21.3.2.1:</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>Removes reference to the penalty area, which has been deleted from the rules.</p> |