



# Casebook of Approved Rulings

## Revised March 1, 2024

Based upon **2023-2025** Indoor Rules Book as  
Presented by USA Volleyball, Revised September 1, 2023

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The United States Volleyball Indoor Rules are the International Volleyball Federation (“FIVB”) rules as adopted and clarified by USA Volleyball, the National Governing Body for volleyball in the United States. FIVB rules are used worldwide.

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Questions regarding interpretation of the present rules and current practices may be addressed to the USA Volleyball Rules Interpreter:

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All inquiries will receive replies. Some queries may require further consultation, but answers will be forwarded as promptly as possible.

If you have a situation or play you would like included in the Casebook, please send it to the following individuals: Rachael Rodriguez ([rstringer12@gmail.com](mailto:rstringer12@gmail.com)) and Pati Rolf ([pati.rolf@usav.org](mailto:pati.rolf@usav.org)).

All suggestions will be considered. Video and photographs are greatly appreciated.

## FOREWORD

This USA Volleyball Casebook is a collection of plays with official rulings approved by USA Volleyball and is intended as a guide for the application and interpretation of the **2023-2025** Indoor Rules Book as presented by USA Volleyball (the rules book), based upon the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) Rules, **2021-2024**. The rulings are intended to clarify these regulations and are the official interpretations to be followed during all sanctioned USA Volleyball competition. The rules book contains the FIVB rules with modifications that promote the sport and encourage continuity of play in the United States. Some modifications are made to encourage participation and development or to ensure player safety during local, regional, and national competitions.

The sport of volleyball is played by tens of thousands of people across the United States and by millions of people world-wide. In order to ensure the success and enjoyment of our sport and to aid in its continued development, the referees will play an integral role. The correct and consistent application of the playing rules and the proper use of signals, mechanics, and techniques by game officials will provide the best possible circumstances under which volleyball competitions will prosper.

It rests upon the shoulders of game officials to become students of the game, masters of the rules, and ambassadors for the sport. The art of officiating is a subtle combination of applying the correct rule at the appropriate time, in the proper manner, and with a sound awareness of the stakes of the competition.

A thorough study of the rules book and Casebook in conjunction with the training materials and resources available on the USA Volleyball website, <https://usavolleyball.org/resources-for-officials/>, will provide game officials, from the novice to the experienced veteran, with the necessary knowledge to excel as match facilitators and managers.

## NOTATIONS USED IN THE CASEBOOK

As a means of properly understanding each situation outlined in the plays, “Team S” and the letter “S” have been used to designate the serving team and members of that team. “Team R” and the letter “R” have been used to designate the receiving team and its players. For both teams, positions 2, 3, and 4 are front-row players and positions 1, 5, and 6 are back-row players and are represented by “S” or “R” and the player position number; e.g., “S1,” “R3,” etc. “S1” is the correct server on the serving (Team S) team, and “R2” will be the next server for the receiving (Team R) team.

In situations where the play does not pertain to the players’ positions on the court, players are referred to using the “S” or “R,” the number character (#) and a uniform number, e.g., “S#7” or “R#9.” When the team is obvious, the “S” or “R” may be omitted. In cases related to Libero service, notation such as L#11 may be used to simplify the text. Unless otherwise noted, all cases presume use of at least one Libero and twelve team substitution rules.

In some situations where both teams serve, or where the play does not pertain to the serving (Team S) or receiving (Team R) teams, “Team A,” “Team B,” “A1,” and “B#7” are used for reference.

The titles of specific team members and officials—captain, Libero, coach, and assistant coach, first and 2nd referee, scorer, assistant scorer, and line judge—should always be spelled out.

All references are to the 2023-2025 rules book with the annotation of the rule number (e.g., 1.1.1); USAV clarification (e.g., USAV 1.1.1); Referee Techniques, Mechanics, and Procedures; Instructions for Use of Official Indoor Volleyball Score Sheets; and other sections where appropriate.

There are instances where case numbers are not sequential. This allows us to add, delete, and modify cases without having to renumber others and provide continuity of case numbers.

If editorial errors such as misspellings, inconsistent team references, or incorrect player positions or numbers are encountered, please contact the editor so corrections can be made.

## CHANGE LOG

This Change Log includes changes incorporated after March 1, 2020.

### March 1, 2020

- New Cases: 4.50, 4.51, 5.49, 12.45, 27.10
- Edited Cases: 4.21, 4.22, 4.23, 4.24, 4.25, 4.49, 7.25, 7.26, 7.28, 7.29, 7.30, 15.08, 15.23, 15.24, 15.27, 17.09
- Deleted Cases: 4.28, 4.32, 4.45, 15.54

### February 1, 2021

- New Cases: 4.52, 7.31, 7.32, 7.33, 7.34, 7.35, 7.36, 7.37, 11.30, 11.31, 24.12, 24.13, 24.14
- Edited Cases: 4.18, 4.19, 7.09, 7.10, 7.29
- Deleted Cases: 7.27, 7.30

### February 1, 2022

- New Cases: 4.53
- Edited Cases: 4.43, 15.05, 15.06, 15.31, 21.08

### March 1, 2023

- New Cases: 2.08, 3.03
- Edited Cases: 19.04, 19.27, 21.16, 27.06, 27.09

### December 1, 2023

- New Cases: 12.46
- Edited Cases: 4.12, 5.04, 5.20, 5.21, 5.22, 5.24, 5.27, 5.28, 12.02, 12.05, 12.07, 12.14, 12.41, 12.42, 24.13

### March 1, 2024

- New Cases: 4.54
- Edited Cases: 4.42, 7.37, 11.01, 12.05, 12.06, 12.07, 12.16, 12.30, 13.14, 19.11, 19.34, 19.56, 27.04





# SECTION I – THE GAME

## Chapter One: Facilities and Equipment

### Rule 1: Playing Area

Dimensions; Playing Surface; Lines on the Court;  
Zones and Areas; Temperature; Lighting; Scoreboard

<p><b>1.01</b> The free zone surrounding the court is less than the required 2 m (6'6 ¾").</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The match shall be played. It is recommended that the free zone be a minimum of 2 m (6'6 ¾"). When conditions do not allow for the minimum free zone, for instance if floor or wall obstacles less than 2 m from the court interfere during play, a replay may be directed at the 1st referee's discretion.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 1.1a USAV 8.4.2a</p>
<p><b>1.03</b> Parts of the center line are solid lines, but in the center of the court the line is "shadow-bordered" through the facility's logo.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The center line must be a solid line. A 9 m (29'6") length of tape 5 cm (2") wide must be placed the length of the center line between the sidelines.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 1.3</p>
<p><b>1.04</b> The attack line is only 2.3 m (7'6") from the center line.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> A 9 m (29'6") length of tape 5 cm (2") wide must be placed 3 m (9'10") from the axis of the center line between the sidelines for use as the attack line.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 1.3.4</p>
<p><b>1.05</b> The attack line extensions are not marked on the court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The attack line extensions are required only at nationally sanctioned tournaments. The attack line extensions are recommended at any other competitions and will assist referees when defining the coaches' location in the free zone while the ball is in play. When used, the attack line is extended by addition of five 15 cm (6") pieces of tape 5 cm (2") wide placed 20 cm (8") apart to a total of 1.75 m (70").</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 1.3.4 USAV 1.3.4 USAV 5.2.3.4 USAV 5.3.1</p>

<p><b>1.06</b> There are no service zone markings at the left or right edges of the service area.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Pieces of tape, 5 cm (2”) wide and 15 cm (6”) long, should be placed 20 cm (8”) behind and perpendicular to the end lines as extensions of the side lines.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 1.4.2</p>
<p><b>1.07</b> Bleachers are located 1.5 m (5’) from the end line at one end of the court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> A piece of tape must be placed on the court 2 m (6’6 ¾”) from the bleachers to provide the required service area depth. After service, the line will be ignored until play ends. A replay may result if the bleachers interfere with the play of the ball after the serve.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 1.4.2 USAV 8.4.2a</p>

## Rule 2: Nets and Posts

Height of the Net; Structure; Side Bands; Antennae; Posts; Additional Equipment

<p><b>2.01</b> The net is 9 m (30’) in length.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> If another net, 9.5 to 10 m (31’6” to 33”) in length is available, the net should be changed. If no other net is available, the match should be played.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 2.2</p>
<p><b>2.02</b> A 4” wide sleeve is secured along the top of the net and contains sponsor advertising.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Net sleeves are permitted if net height and net integrity are not affected.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> Not addressed</p>
<p><b>2.03</b> The net does not have side bands.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Side bands are an optional part of the net equipment. If used, the side bands are fastened vertically to the net inside the antennas and directly above each sideline.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 2.3</p>
<p><b>2.04</b> The antennas are secured to the net with exposed metal fasteners.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Tape must be placed over the metal fasteners to minimize chance of injury to the players.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 2.6a</p>

<p><b>2.05</b> The support posts are held in place by small metal cables running from the top of the post to the floor.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The cables must be covered with a soft, shock-absorbing, clearly visible material.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 2.6b</p>
<p><b>2.06</b> The referee's platform consists of a large stand designed for this purpose that extends beyond the net supports approximately 61 cm (2') on each side of the center line.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The use of such equipment is legal provided it is padded and offers a safe, stable platform for the referee. A ground rule should be established prior to the start of the match to allow for a replay if such a stand interferes with the playing of the ball.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 2.6.d USAV 2.6.e USAV 8.4.2a</p>
<p><b>2.07</b> The referee platforms provided on various courts at a tournament consist of stacked jump boxes or step ladders not designed for this purpose.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The use of such equipment is not legal. If legal referee platforms are not available, the 1st referees should officiate from the floor.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 2.6.d</p>
<p><b>2.08</b> In between Sets 1 and 2 of a 12-and-under match, the 1st referee realizes net height is incorrect. Team A lost the first set and requests to replay the first set since the net was not set to the correct height</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The net height is adjusted as soon as the issue is discovered. Team A's request to replay the first set is denied because there is nothing in the rules that allows a match to be restarted for an incorrect net height. The match will resume after the net height is corrected, and Team B leads the match, 1 set to 0.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 2.1.1</p>



### Rule 3: Balls

#### Standards; Uniformity of Balls; Three-Ball System

<p><b>3.01</b> The 1st referee examines the ball provided at the tournament and determines that it is not suitable for use. The two team captains have agreed to play with the ball.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Approval of the game ball is the sole responsibility of the 1st referee. If the referee deems the ball unsuitable for play, another ball must be obtained.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 23.3.1.1</p>
<p><b>3.02</b> The referee examines the ball provided for a 13-and-under competition and determines that it is the lighter volleyball weighing 198 to 227 g (7 to 8 oz) used in the 12-and-under age groups.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Competition for 13-and-under and all older age groups uses a ball weighing 260 to 280 g (9 to 10 oz). The use of the lighter ball weighing 198 to 227 g (7 to 8 oz) is optional for 12-and under age group competition only.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 3.1 USAV 3.1</p>
<p><b>3.03</b> When the score is 7-2 in Set 1 with Team B leading, the coach of Team A notifies the 1st referee that the teams have been playing with a standard weight volleyball. The 1st referee confirms that they should have been using the VolleyLite. Team A requests to restart the match since the wrong volleyball was used.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The 1st referee switches to the correct volleyball as soon as the issue is discovered. Team A's request to restart the match is denied because there is nothing in the rules that allows a match to be restarted for incorrect equipment. The match will resume with the score of 7-2.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 3.1</p>

## Chapter Two: Participants

### Rule 4: Teams

Team Composition; Location of the Team;  
Equipment; Change of Equipment; Forbidden Objects

<p><b>4.01</b> The scorer is recording a team’s starting line-up and recognizes that the team captain is not in the starting line-up. The scorer notifies the 2nd referee that a game captain has not been designated.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> One player on the court must be designated on the score sheet as the team captain. A referee must ask the coach for the captain’s number.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 4.1.2 5.1.2</p>
<p><b>4.02</b> During a time-out, some players “pepper” behind the end-line of their team’s court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> During time-outs, players may warm-up in the free zone beyond their court but may not use volleyballs.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 4.2.3 4.2.3.2</p>
<p><b>4.03</b> During play, a team’s assistant coach is instructing a substitute as the two of them stand in the spectator area.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The referees must instruct the assistant coach to return to the bench area and the player to return to the bench or warm-up area.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 4.2.1 5.3.1 USAV 5.3.1</p>
<p><b>4.04</b> During the interval between the first and second sets, some team members use practice balls to warm up on their court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> During set intervals, players may use balls to warm up on their court or in the free zone. Players may not warm up at the net by spiking or serving over the net.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 4.2.4</p>

<p><b>4.05</b> A team has printed the players' last names on the back of their jerseys.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> In the spirit of promoting fan interest, the player's name may be placed on the jersey, provided the printed names do not displace the numbers from their required location on the jersey. Different names, like numbers and manufacturer's logos, are not considered when determining whether uniforms are identical.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 4.3</p>
<p><b>4.06</b> A team is wearing short-sleeved uniforms. One player is wearing a red, long-sleeved t-shirt under the jersey, and another is wearing a blue neoprene sleeve on one elbow.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> If two or more players are wearing exposed undergarments under their jerseys, the undergarments must be similar and of the same color. The neoprene elbow sleeve is a brace, not an undergarment. The team's uniforms and equipment are legal.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 4.3 USAV 4.5.1</p>
<p><b>4.07</b> All players are wearing white socks except for one, and that player is wearing red socks.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The shoes and socks of a team's players do not have to be of matching style or color.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 4.3.1</p>
<p><b>4.08</b> A team's uniform numbers 1 through 9 are printed on the jerseys as "01", "02", "03", etc.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Zero may not be the first digit of a uniform number. Uniform numbers 1 through 9 must be formed as a single-digit number. Likewise, "0" and "00" are not legal uniform numbers.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 4.3.3</p>



<p><b>4.09</b> The referees notice that the number “1” on player #19’s jersey is made from tape. The numbers on all other players’ jerseys are silk-screened. The referees inform the coach and captain that creating a number from tape is not legal. The coach states that the team roster already has a player wearing number “9”, so they had to “create” a number “19” so that there were no duplicate numbers on the team roster.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The players’ jerseys must be numbered in a permanent manner. A taped number is not consistent with this rule. Duplicate numbers are not permitted. In this situation, the player must have a legally numbered jersey in order to play in the match.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 4.3.3</p>
<p><b>4.10</b> A team’s uniform numbers are drawn on the jerseys with permanent marker and clearly contrast with the color of the jersey. The lines forming the numbers are the same color and approximately 2 cm (¾”) wide, and approximately 15 cm (6”) in height on both the front and back of the uniform.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Provided the jersey are numbered in a permanent manner, that the color of the numbers contrasts to the color(s) of the jersey, and that the numbers are the same height and width and meet the minimum size requirements, the jerseys are legal.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 4.3.3 USAV 4.3.3.1 USAV 4.3.3.2</p>
<p><b>4.11</b> A team’s jerseys are white with 8” black numbers on the back, except for #5 who has a 10” navy blue number.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Illegal uniform. Uniform numbers must be the same color and height, except for the Libero. Player #5 would not be allowed to play in USAV Championship events while wearing that jersey.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 4.3.3.1b</p>

<p><b>4.12</b> A team's jersey numbers are placed in the upper right chest area on the front of the jersey. The numbers are centered on the back of the jersey.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The jerseys are not legal since numbers must be centered side to side on the front and back of the jersey. For Nationally-sanctioned events, the team will not be permitted to play in illegal uniforms. However, for regional competition, a Regional Volleyball Association (RVA) may choose to permit such uniforms.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 4.3.3.1 USAV 4.3.3.1a</p>
<p><b>4.13</b> A team's jerseys are black with white numbers. The numbers also have a dark red 1.25 cm (1/2") shadow border. During the warm-ups, the referees notice that the jerseys of two players do not have the red border around the white number.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The jersey numbers must be the same height and color for all team members except the Libero. In this situation, the two jerseys without the red border are not considered the same color and are not legal. Therefore, those two players will not be permitted to play while wearing an illegal uniform.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 4.3.3.1a</p>
<p><b>4.14</b> A team's jerseys are solid black. The numbers are outlined on the jersey with white trim but the solid color of the numbers is also black. The white outlines of each number are clearly visible.</p>	<p>The color of the number must clearly contrast with the color of the jersey. The team should be informed that the jerseys are illegal. At National events, the 1st referee will seek assistance from the head referee and tournament director in how to handle the situation.</p> <p>At Regional events, the tournament director will make the final ruling on how this situation is handled. It is recommended that the team be permitted to play, and the Region office should work with the team regarding a solution for future Regional events.</p>	<p>USAV 4.3.3.1c</p>



<p><b>4.15</b> Some players are wearing long-sleeved, collared shirts, some are wearing short-sleeved, collared shirts, and some are wearing tank tops without any sleeves or collars.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The players wearing long- or short-sleeved shirts are in legal uniforms as long as the uniforms are otherwise identical. Players wearing tank tops are not wearing uniforms similar to the rest of the team and, unless a Libero, will not be permitted to participate wearing the tank tops.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 4.3.5</p>
<p><b>4.16</b> Player #5 is listed on the roster as the team captain and also has the captain's stripe underlining the number on the front of the jersey. Player #5 is a starting player, but the coach indicates on the line-up sheet that player #7 will be the game captain on the court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Any time a roster is used, the player designated on the roster as the team captain will serve in that role while on the court. The team may only designate another player as game captain if the team captain is not on the court during play.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 4.3.4 5.1.2</p>
<p><b>4.17</b> A player from Team B has one uniform number as a "regular" player and then has a different number when designated as Libero. Neither number is a duplicate of teammate's number.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Each player must have a single unique number recorded on the team's roster for each match. If a player will be participating as a "regular" player and as the Libero during the same match, the player's uniform number must be the same on each jersey. For National Competition, each player must have a single unique number for the entire event.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 4.1.3a 4.4.2</p>

<p><b>4.18</b> Some of a team's players are wearing shorts with white piping down the side and other players are wearing shorts without the piping.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> For nationally sanctioned USA Volleyball junior competition, all uniform bottoms must be the same color. If some uniform bottoms have piping, all must have piping. At the USA Volleyball Open Championships, teams must wear jerseys that meet all the requirements of Rule 4, but may wear uniform shorts that are similar in color, regardless of style, cut, and trim. For regional competition, the RVA may choose to permit such uniforms.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b>        USAV 4.3.1        USAV 4.3.5        2014 USA Volleyball Open National Championships Pre-Tournament Manual, Chapter 3, page 3</p>
<p><b>4.19</b> All players from Team R are wearing the same color uniform shorts, but some of the shorts have small manufacturer's logos on the leg. Some of the logos are different. Other than the logos, all shorts are identical.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The uniform shorts are legal. A single manufacturer's logo not to exceed 14.6 cm<sup>2</sup> (2¼ square inches) is permitted on the outside of the jerseys or uniform bottoms.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b>        USAV 4.3.5</p>
<p><b>4.21</b> A player is wearing several small earrings in the ears, a stud in the nose, a short chain around the neck, and a ring with a large stone.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> 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. The ring with the large stone must be removed.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b>        USAV 4.5.1</p>
<p><b>4.22</b> A player is wearing a religious medal on a chain hanging outside the player's shirt.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Jewelry may be worn provided its nature does not present a concern for safety. If the chain is long, it must be removed or secured inside the shirt.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b>        USAV 4.5.1</p>

<p><b>4.23</b> A player is wearing a bracelet made of string. The player stated that the bracelet must be worn because it was woven onto the wrist and could not be removed.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> A player may wear a string bracelet as long as it is fairly tight and will not cause injury to the player or other participants.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 4.5.1</p>
<p><b>4.24</b> Prior to a match during junior competition, a referee notices that a player has tape covering part of each ear.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> 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><b>Reference:</b> USAV 4.5.1</p>
<p><b>4.25</b> A player is wearing disc-like earrings inserted into the lobe of the ear. These earrings do not have any protruding edges or sharp points.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The player may wear this type of earrings.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 4.5.1</p>
<p><b>4.27</b> A player has removed a nose piercing and replaced it with a small plastic “spacer” so that the jewelry may be quickly replaced after the match.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> For all competition, a plastic “spacer” may be used to replace jewelry while the player participates in the match.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 4.5.1</p>
<p><b>4.29</b> A player is wearing a hard plastic headband.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> For all competition, smooth plastic headbands may be used to control hair. Likewise, barrettes and bobby pins are permitted. Such items do not need to be covered or padded.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 4.5.1</p>

<p><b>4.30</b> A player is wearing a hairstyle that contains beads fastened at the ends of the hair.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> For all competition, the referee must determine whether the beads have the potential to cause injury. If so, the player will not be permitted to play while wearing the beads or without taking other actions to remove the potential for injury.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 4.5.1</p>
<p><b>4.31</b> A team's jerseys have smooth metal buttons on them.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> For all competition, metal buttons or fasteners are not prohibited by rule. However, if the buttons or fasteners are unusually large or are deemed otherwise to be dangerous to the participants, they are not allowed on the uniform.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 4.5.1 USAV 4.5.1</p>
<p><b>4.33</b> A player is wearing an ankle brace that is seen by the referees during warm-ups. The referees do not feel the brace is unsafe. However, a trainer is available for the event and the referees ask for an inspection of the brace. The trainer indicates the brace is no more dangerous to the player and the other participants than the natural ankle would be. The player is allowed to participate in the match.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Correct procedure by the referee. No player may be allowed to wear a brace, prosthetic limb, or headgear that might cause injury or give the player an artificial advantage. If available, a physician or trainer should make this determination.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 4.5.1 USAV 4.5.1</p>

<p><b>4.34</b> Prior to the match, a coach requests that a player be permitted to wear a foam helmet, similar to boxing headgear, as head protection.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> A foam helmet or soft material headgear is legal provided there is no risk for injury to the player or another participant. However, USA Volleyball in no way warrants or guarantees the effectiveness of any of these helmets/headgear for the prevention of or protection from any injury, including concussions. The devices effectiveness or appropriate use should be determined in conjunction with the player’s doctor or other qualified medical personnel. This ruling simply seeks to clarify the parameters by which a determination will be made on what devices would be legal for use in USAV competition.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 4.5.1 USAV 4.5.1</p>
<p><b>4.35</b> Prior to the match, a coach requests that a player be permitted to wear a fiberglass helmet as head protection.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> A fiberglass or plastic helmet is considered a type of hat or headgear that may cause injury to the player or another participant. Consequently, such equipment is not permitted.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 4.5.1 USAV 4.5.1</p>
<p><b>4.36</b> A player is wearing a hard plaster cast on the wrist. The cast is padded with shock-absorbing foam.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Any cast, such as a plaster cast on the hand or forearm, is not legal, no matter how it is padded.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 4.5.1 USAV 4.5.1</p>
<p><b>4.37</b> A player is wearing an insulin pump fastened to the waistband of the uniform shorts.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Medical devices such as insulin pumps, heart monitors, and cochlear ear implants are legal. It may be necessary for the device to be covered or padded.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 4.5.1</p>

<p><b>4.39</b> A player’s glasses fall to the floor near the center line during play.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> When a player’s glasses, footwear, towel, or other personal equipment falls to the floor and creates a safety hazard, play is stopped, a delay sanction is assessed, and the rally is then replayed. Stopping play is not automatic. Rather, in the spirit of fair play and for the safety of the participants, referees must exercise reasonable judgment. If the item is near the center line or on the other team’s court, play must be stopped.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 4.5.2 USAV 4.5.2</p>
<p><b>4.40</b> A player loses a towel during play and it is lying in the back court near the side line. The ball is eventually played over the net to the opponent. As play continues, a player picks up the towel and tosses it to the bench.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> When a player’s towel, glasses, footwear, or other personal equipment falls to the floor, but player safety is not a concern, play should continue. Stopping play is not automatic. Rather, in the spirit of fair play and for the safety of the participants, referees must exercise reasonable judgment. If the item falls on the team’s own side of the court, the team should be allowed to attempt to mitigate the problem.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 4.5.2 USAV 4.5.2</p>
<p><b>4.41</b> At a tournament that utilizes rosters that are available to the referees, a team has listed a coach, an assistant coach, a trainer, a chaperone, and a team representative. While the assistant coach is seated on the bench, the team representative stands in front of the bench during play.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Only the coach and one assistant coach may stand to give instructions to their team while standing or walking in front of their team bench. If a player requires medical attention, either on the court, in the warm-up area or elsewhere, the team may choose whomever they desire to attend to the player. Team staff members, other than the coach and assistant coach, must otherwise remain seated on the team bench.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 4.21 5.2 5.3</p>

<p><b>4.42</b> Prior to the match, the coach presents a doctor's note stating a player is permitted to wear a soft head covering for medical purposes. The coach requests that the player be permitted to wear the soft head covering during play.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Soft material headgear is legal provided there is no risk for injury to the player or other participants and does not give the player an artificial advantage.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 4.5.1 USAV 4.5.1</p>
<p><b>4.43</b> Team A's players are wearing red jerseys. Some players are wearing black compression sleeves and some are wearing blue compression sleeves.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal. Compression sleeves are considered equipment, not undergarments. Players may legally wear compression sleeves in different colors.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 4.5.3</p>
<p><b>4.44</b> Team A's jerseys are white, and the numbers are a camouflage of light and dark blue that are outlined in dark blue. The 1st referee states the jerseys are illegal because the numbers must be a solid color.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The rules do not state that the number must be a solid color. Provided the number, taken in its entirety, is clearly contrasting in color and brightness from the jersey irrespective of the border, and the number is clearly legible at all times and from all angles on the court, such numbers are legal. If the camouflage number is not clearly legible, the uniform is illegal.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 4.3.3.1a</p>
<p><b>4.46</b> The numbers on the front of the teams' jerseys are not centered.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> At USAV national competitions, the jerseys must conform to USAV 4.3.3.1a. The team would not be allowed to play with these jerseys.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 4.3.3.1a</p>

**4.47** A player's nose bleeds during the match, and the front of the jersey becomes saturated with blood. The jersey cannot be cleaned immediately, and the coach asks the referees to allow the player to change into a jersey with a different number.

**Ruling:** The player may change into another identical jersey with a different number, exclusive of the numbers already in use. Appropriate comments must be included with the information regarding the changed number in the Remarks section of the score sheet. This number change is in effect for the current match only. If a number change is needed for future matches, the team must consult the tournament staff to determine the correct procedure.

**Reference:**  
Guidelines for Dealing with Blood



<p><b>4.48</b> A player’s jersey becomes damaged and the number falls off. The coach asks the referees to allow the player to change into a jersey with a different number.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The player may change into another identical jersey with a different number, exclusive of the numbers already in use. Appropriate comments must be included with the information regarding the changed number in the Remarks section of the score sheet. This number change is in effect for the current match only. If a number change is needed for future matches, the team must consult the tournament staff to determine the correct procedure.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 4.4.2</p>
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<p><b>4.49</b> A junior player is wearing a medical piercing in one ear and tells the referees that she must wear the piercing to help with migraines.</p>	<p>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><b>Reference:</b> USAV 4.5.1</p>
<p><b>4.50</b> A player from Team B recently broke his nose and is wearing a clear facemask for protection.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The rules do not specifically address facemasks. If the referees feel it is safe to wear, they should allow it. It is protective gear for the safety of the player, and no waiver is needed. In rare situations, the mask may need to be padded.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 4.5.1</p>
<p><b>4.51</b> During warm-ups, a player is wearing wireless headphones on the court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Wireless headphones are not considered jewelry under USAV rules. The referees should ask players to remove headphones, including during official warm-ups</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 4.5.1</p>
<p><b>4.52</b> A team's uniform consists of a jersey and spandex shorts. Two players on the team have longer pants that go down below their knee.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Teams may wear a combination of shorts and pants, but all must be the same color.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 4.3a</p>

<p><b>4.53</b> A player is wearing a head covering for religious purposes. The referees inform the player that head coverings are not permitted unless the player has a waiver.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Incorrect procedure. A head covering made from cloth or soft, non-abrasive fabric may be worn; no waiver is required.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 4.5.1</p>
<p><b>4.54</b> A player is wearing a microphone and headset to communicate with the coach.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Illegal equipment. Players may not wear headsets, microphones, body cameras, or other electronic devices while playing. The 1st referee should ask the coach to have the player remove the illegal equipment.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 4.5.1</p>

### Rule 5: Team Leaders

#### Captain; Coach; Assistant Coach

<p><b>5.01</b> R#1 is listed as the team captain on Team R's roster. #7 substitutes into the game for #1, and #3 is designated game captain. Later in the set, #8 substitutes into the game for #3, and #2 is designated game captain. #3 later substitutes for #8.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> R#2 remains game captain. The game captain maintains the captain's responsibilities until substituted, the team captain returns to the court, or the set ends.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5.1.2</p>
<p><b>5.02</b> During an adult competition, S#3 is designated as game captain on the line-up sheet. During the game, the coach of Team S substitutes for #5. Captain S#3 requests that the head coach be designated as the game captain.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Request denied. Whenever the game captain is on the court, no person other than the team captain may assume that duty.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5.1.2</p>



<p><b>5.04</b> The game captain, requests that the 1st referee check with a line judge to see if an opponent had touched the ball before it landed “out.” The referee refuses the request. The game captain wishes to lodge a protest.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The protest will not be accepted since it involves the judgment of an official. If the coach insists on protesting, the 1st referee should remind the coach that if the protest is accepted, the coach may be issued a red card if the protest committee determines the protest was related to judgment.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5.1.2.1 USAV 5.1.2.1</p>
<p><b>5.05</b> During a match, a player is found to be wearing a necklace. The 1st referee asks the player to remove the jewelry and charges a time-out to the team. After the next service, the game captain approaches the 1st referee and wants to protest because the referee imposed the wrong penalty.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The protest will not be accepted. The captain had a legitimate disagreement with the 1st referee’s application of the rule, but waited too long to protest. Protests must be filed prior to the next service. The time-out will stand.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5.1.2.1 USAV 5.1.2.1</p>
<p><b>5.06</b> The 1st referee sanctions a player with a misconduct penalty for profane language. The game captain feels that the sanction is too severe and wants to protest the decision.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Protest is not accepted. The level of individual sanction assessed by the 1st referee is not subject to protest as it is based upon the referee’s judgment.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 5.1.2.1</p>

<p><b>5.07</b> S#7 enters the game in the wrong position. After S#11 has served two points, the wrong entry is discovered. The 1st referee has the correct player return to the court for S#7, but allows S#11 to continue serving. Team R's game captain protests the ruling by the 1st referee.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The protest must be accepted as it involved the application of the rules pertaining to the wrong entry of a player.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5.1.2.1 USAV 5.1.2.1</p>
<p><b>5.08</b> The game captain is dissatisfied with the manner in which the 1st referee is making ball handling calls and requests to state his disagreement about the officiating by making a remark on the back of the score sheet at the conclusion of the match.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Request denied. Only protests may be written on the back of the score sheet.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5.1.2.1</p>
<p><b>5.09</b> In 14-and-under competition, a coach, acting as the game captain, asks permission to walk across the court to speak with the 1st referee.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Even though acting as the game captain, the coach may not enter the court to have discussions with the 1st referee. In this case, the 2nd referee should be the primary point of contact for the coach. In the absence of a certified professional 2nd referee, the 1st referee should communicate with the coach through the playing captain. If necessary, the 1st referee may leave the stand to address the coach near the bench.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 5.1.2.2 5.2.1</p>

<p><b>5.10</b> A game captain requests verification of the service order prior to the first service of each server.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Captains have the right to request verification of their team’s service order. If the 1st referee determines that the requests are excessive, the captain may be warned or the team sanctioned for delay.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5.1.2.2b 16.1.5</p>
<p><b>5.11</b> Team S’s captain is having trouble determining which of Team R’s players are in the front row. The Team S captain asks the 2nd referee for a line-up check of Team R.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The Team S captain may only request the 2nd referee to verify that Team R’s players are in the correct positions. The actual Team R player positions shall not be disclosed to the Team S captain. A captain may ask for line-up checks on an infrequent basis.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5.1.2.2b 16.1.5</p>
<p><b>5.12</b> During an adult competition, R#4 is designated as team captain on the roster. The coach, R#8, enters the game and after a few rallies, requests a time-out.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Although this is an improper request, current practice is to ignore the request and remind the team that the only player on the court that may request game interruptions is the game captain. A coach who enters the court as a player and does not assume the role of game captain may not make any requests. In this case, the coach may not be designated the game captain because the team captain is on the court.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5.1.2 USAV 5.1.2.3 15.11.1.2</p>
<p><b>5.13</b> The game captain requests a time-out while the coach is talking to other team members.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Request accepted. The game captain is authorized to request a time-out.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 5.1.2.3</p>
<p><b>5.14</b> After the match, the coach of the losing team refuses to sign the score sheet.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The coaches are no longer required to sign the score sheet at the end of the match.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 5.1.3</p>

<p><b>5.16</b> During play, the 2nd referee hears a team member on the bench using profane remarks toward the 1st referee but is unable to identify who is guilty of the misconduct.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Both the coach and captain are responsible for the conduct and discipline of their team members. If it is not possible to identify the person on the bench guilty of misconduct, the sanction may be assessed to the coach or captain.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5</p>
<p><b>5.18</b> The coach is standing near the warm-up area at the end of the team bench. From this location, the coach requests a time-out.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> If the referees see this request, it must be accepted. The coach should be reminded that there is less chance that the referees will miss the request if the coach is closer to the substitution zone.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5.2.3.3 5.2.3.4 USAV 5.2.3.4</p>
<p><b>5.19</b> The coach and assistant coaches are assisting their own players by calling the ball “in” or “out” when it is falling near the sideline.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Permitted. Such action directed toward the coaches’ own players is considered to be a part of coaching technique.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5.2.3.4</p>
<p><b>5.20</b> During play, the coach continuously walks up and down in front of the team bench while giving instructions to players on the court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Permitted. During play, the coach may give instructions while standing or walking within the free zone in front of the team’s bench from the extension of the attack line up to and including the warm-up area, without disturbing or delaying the match. The coach must not obstruct the view of the line judges.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5.2.3.4 USAV 5.2.3.4</p>

<p><b>5.21</b> During play, an assistant coach is giving instruction to players on the court while walking in the free zone in front of the team bench.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Permitted. During play, one assistant coach at a time may give instructions while standing or walking in the free zone in front of the team’s bench from the extension of the attack line up to and including the warm-up area, without disturbing or delaying the match. The coach must not obstruct the view of the line judges. It is not necessary for the team to designate which of several assistant coaches will have the privilege of standing</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 5.3.1</p>
<p><b>5.22</b> While the ball is out of play, the coach and one assistant coach approach the sideline to instruct players.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Permitted. The head coach and one assistant coach may approach the court to instruct players between rallies as long as they are not disruptive.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5.2.3.4 USAV 5.2.3.4 5.3.1 USAV 5.3.1</p>
<p><b>5.23</b> Between rallies, a coach enters the substitution zone to instruct a player.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Not permitted. Coaches are not allowed to enter the substitution zone.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5.2.3.4 USAV 5.2.3.4 5.3.1 USAV 5.3.1</p>
<p><b>5.24</b> A coach is standing near the warm-up area beyond the extension of the end line and approximately 1 m (3’) from the extension of the sideline.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Permitted. Coaches may be in the free zone in front of the team’s bench from the extension of the attack line up to and including the warm-up area, without disturbing or delaying the match. Coaches must not obstruct the view of the line judges.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5.2.3.4 USAV 5.2.3.4 5.3.1 USAV 5.3.1</p>
<p><b>5.25</b> An assistant coach has been standing in the warm-up area talking to substitutes for several rallies.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal. Coaches may stand or walk in the free zone in front of the team bench from the attack line up to and including the warm-up area.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 5.2.3.4 USAV 5.3.1</p>



<p><b>5.26</b> The head coach is seated on the bench, and two assistant coaches are standing in front of the bench during play.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The 2nd referee should remind the coach that only one assistant coach at a time is permitted to stand during play. It is unlikely that two assistant coaches who are standing immediately constitute a team delay. But, just like any other behavior, if it persists, a delay sanction may be assessed against the offending team.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 5.3.1</p>
<p><b>5.27</b> The free zone in front of the benches is approximately 2 m (6'). It will be difficult for coaches who are standing to remain 1.75 m (5'10") from the sideline during play.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Coaches are no longer required to remain 1.75 m from the sideline during play. Coaches must not disturb or delay the match, and they must not obstruct the view of the line judges.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5.2.3.4 USAV 5.2.3.4 5.3.1 USAV 5.3.1</p>
<p><b>5.28</b> The attack line extensions are not marked on the court. It will not be clear whether coaches who are standing are 1.75 m (5'10") from the court sideline during play.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Coaches are no longer required to remain 1.75 m from the sideline during play. Coaches must not disturb or delay the match, and they must not obstruct the view of the line judges.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5.2.3.4 USAV 5.2.3.4 5.3.1 USAV 5.3.1</p>
<p><b>5.29</b> A court has no team benches provided.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> If there is no physical bench, the referees will declare the bench area in the location that the physical bench would otherwise be located. Substitutes, other team members, and coaches will remain in this area. Only the coach and one assistant coach at a time may leave this area to instruct players on the court.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 4.2.1 5.2.3.4 USAV 5.2.3.4 5.3.1 USAV 5.3.1</p>

<p><b>5.31</b> Team S sends a ball across the net. As R#8 prepares to play the ball, which is falling just beyond the sideline in front of Team R's bench, Team R's coach approaches the court and pulls #8 away, preventing a play on the ball. The ball lands out of bounds without contacting the player or coach.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Team R's coach disturbed the match. The 1st referee awards a point and service to Team S and indicates a center line penetration fault.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5.2.3.4 USAV 5.2.3.4</p>
<p><b>5.32</b> A coach yells that the referee should have called a net fault on the opponents.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> It is the 1st referee's responsibility to prevent the behavior of participants from approaching the sanctioning level; however, if the action were deemed to be disruptive, the coach would be sanctioned for rude conduct.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 5.2.3.4 21.2.1</p>
<p><b>5.33</b> While the coach is giving instructions to substitutes in the warm-up area, an assistant coach requests a time-out.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Request denied; improper request. Assistant coaches may not intervene in the match and have no right to request regular game interruptions. Their actions are limited to instructing the team's players in a non-disruptive manner while seated on the bench or while standing or walking in the free zone in front of the team's bench.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5.3.1 USAV 5.3.1 15.11.1.2 15.11.2</p>
<p><b>5.42</b> Between plays, the coach and two assistant coaches approach the court to instruct players.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Only one assistant at a time may stand to give instructions to players.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 5.3.1</p>
<p><b>5.43</b> Near the end of an exciting rally, two assistant coaches stand to cheer the play of their team.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Only one assistant at a time may stand to give instructions to players. However, a brief spontaneous reaction to play should be permitted as long as it does not interfere with play.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 5.3.1 4.2.1</p>

<p><b>5.46</b> Team A's coach is expelled and leaves the playing and spectator areas. Later in the same set, the assistant coach requests a time-out. The 2nd referee reminds the game captain of the need to request that the assistant coach be allowed to assume the expelled coach's functions.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> At the time of the request, it is technically improper since only the coach and game captain may request interruptions. But when the captain asks the 1st referee if the assistant coach may assume the coach's functions, the referee should honor the team's request and allow the time-out.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5.3.2</p>
<p><b>5.47</b> Team A's coach is sitting near the end of the team bench, and several players and coaches are seated closer to the scorer's table.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal. The coach may sit anywhere on the team bench.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 5.2.3.2</p>
<p><b>5.48</b> The assistant coach for Team A disagrees with the 1st referee and attempts to argue with the referee. The referee reminds the captain that the assistant coach may not intervene in the match. The assistant coach then sends the captain to the 1st referee to express disagreement with the previous call. The 1st referee informs the captain that the assistant coach may not communicate with the referees, even by going through the captain.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The 1st referee's decision is correct. The assistant coach may give instructions to players but may not intervene in the match. If the head coach wants an explanation of the call, he/she should be the one who directs the captain to speak with the 1st referee. Officials should facilitate this situation the first time it occurs by reminding the captain that the head coach is the only coach that is permitted to communicate with the referees, and the assistant coach may not intervene in the match.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5.3.1</p>

<p><b>5.49</b> The coach of an 18s team sends the captain to the 1st referee and says that th asks to protest an application of the rule. The 1st referee accepts the protest, and the protest committee assembles. The coach starts to speak instead of the captain, and the protest committee tells the coach that the captain may only speak.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The referees’ decision is incorrect. The head coach may act as the captain at all levels and may speak in protest or potential protest situations at any age level. The coach may be sanctioned if they are being unsportsmanlike. This applies to all members on the bench. Anyone may be carded at the conclusion of a protest procedure if warranted. The coach may not walk across the court. They <b>MUST</b> send a captain first. If the captain is not clear, the 1st referee may get off the stand and go talk to the coach at their bench.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 5.1.2.2</p>
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### Team Rosters, Coaches, and Team Captains at the USAV Open National Championships (ONC)

<p><b>5.51</b> At the USAV ONC, Team A’s line-up indicates that #7 is the game captain. The scorer informs the 2nd referee that Team A’s roster indicates #9 is the team captain and that #9 is also listed on the line-up sheet.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The 2nd referee must inform Team A’s team captain, #9, or the coach that #9 must serve as the game captain while on the court.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5.1.2 4.1.2</p>
<p><b>5.52</b> At the USAV ONC, Team B’s roster indicates that #7 is the team captain and #8 is the coach. During the match, #7 is on the court when #8 substitutes into the match for #4. Later in the set, #8 requests Team B’s first time-out.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Although this is an improper request, current practice is to ignore the request and remind the team that the only player on the court that may request game interruptions is the game captain. A coach who enters the court as a player and does not assume the role of game captain may not make any requests. In this case, the coach may not be designated the game captain because the team captain is on the court.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5.2.1 5.2.2.3 5.1.2 USAV 5.1.2.3 15.11.1.2</p>

<p><b>5.92</b> At the USAV ONC, Team A's roster indicates that the team has a coach and assistant coach. Prior to the start of the match, the team captain informs the referees that the coach is absent and asks if the assistant coach may take over for the coach. Then during the match, the assistant coach requests a time-out.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The time-out request is accepted. In the absence of the coach, and after informing the referees, the assistant coach may assume the functions of the coach during play.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5.3.2</p>
<p><b>5.93</b> At the USAV ONC, Team A's roster indicates that #15 is the coach and there is a non-playing assistant coach. During the match, #15 substitutes for #9. Later, the assistant coach requests a time-out.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Although this is an improper request, current practice is to ignore the request and remind the team that only the game captain, not the assistant coach, may request game interruptions. The assistant coach may not assume the duties of the coach who has entered the court as a player.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 5.3.2 15.11.1.2</p>

## Chapter Three: Playing Format

### Rule 6: To Score a Point, To Win a Set and the Match

To Score a Point; To Win a Set; To Win the Match;  
Default and Incomplete Team

<p><b>6.04</b> S3 attacks the ball and R2 and R4 attempt to block. The 1st referee whistles when S3 contacts the top band of the net during the attack. At the same time, the 2nd referee whistles when R4 contacts the antenna above the top of the net while attempting to block.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> When both referees whistle a fault at approximately the same time, the 1st referee must determine which fault occurred first and award a point and service to the correct team. Referees should blow their whistles loudly and immediately when calling a fault. This helps the 1st referee determine which fault occurred first. The 1st referee can quickly communicate with the 2nd referee, if required, to determine which fault occurred first, but the sound of the whistle should be sufficient. If absolutely necessary, the 1st referee may call the 2nd referee to the stand for a short discussion. If the 1st referee determines that the faults were simultaneous, a replay will be directed.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 6.1.2.2</p>
<p><b>6.05</b> In a playoff set being played to 25 points, Team S trails 8-12. S1 serves the ball out of bounds. Team R is awarded next service and now leads 13-8. Team R rotates and prepares to serve.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> A playoff set is a deciding set. Teams will switch courts when one team has scored 13 points. Prior to Team R's next service, the 1st referee whistles and signals the change of courts.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 6.3.3</p>

<p><b>6.06</b> A team has six players present for the start of the first set but wants to wait until their seventh teammate arrives.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The team has six players present and must be ready to play when directed to do so by the 1st referee. If the team refuses to take the court, the team will be declared in default and will forfeit the match 0-2 (for a best-of-three match) or 0-3 (for a best-of-five match) and 0-25 for each set.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 6.4.1 USAV 6.4</p>
<p><b>6.07</b> Team S leads 24-22 in the first set. A team S player is injured. Team S has only six players and the referees allow the player three minutes recovery time. At the conclusion of the injury time-out, the player is unable to continue. The Team S captain requests and is granted the team's first, then second time-out. The player is still not ready to play. Team S captain asks the 1st referee to allow the team to play with five players.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The 1st referee denies the request and declares the team incomplete, resulting in a default of the first set. The team will retain any points scored, and the opponent will be given sufficient points (25 points or a two-point advantage beyond 25 points) to win the set. The opponents win the set 26-24. The teams will change courts and the set interval will begin. If the Team S player is still unable to play at the end of the set interval, the team will default the match.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 6.4.3 17.1 6.2</p>

### Rule 7: Structure of Play

The Toss; Warm-Up Session; Team Starting Line-Up; Positions; Positional Fault; Rotation; Rotational Fault

<p><b>7.01</b> The referee conducting a coin toss may decide which captain will call the toss.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Incorrect procedure. Since the rules do not designate teams as “home” or “visitor,” the 1st referee designates one team as “heads” and the other team as “tails,” or shows the captain from each team a different side of the coin, and then conducts the toss. The coin should not be flipped over once it has been caught. If the coin is dropped, it should be re-tossed.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> Techniques, Mechanics, &amp; Procedures #2</p>
<p><b>7.03</b> At the coin toss, the referee offers the winning captain the option of serving or receiving the serve. The captain would rather choose to start on a particular side of the court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The captain can make this choice. The winner of the coin toss may choose to serve or receive the serve, or choose the side of the court the team will occupy. The remaining choice is given to the captain of the other team.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 7.1.2</p>
<p><b>7.04</b> During a pre-match captains meeting at a junior competition, the team captains agree to share the 10-minute warm-up.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> For junior competition, shared hitting or serving is not allowed.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 7.2.2b</p>



<p><b>7.05</b> USA Volleyball's prescribed junior warm-ups of 2-4-4 are being used. Team A wins the coin toss and chooses to serve first. The team does not enter the court to warm-up during its four minutes of exclusive court time at the net. Team B would like to occupy the court during this time period since Team A will not be on the court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> When a team chooses to not use its exclusive time at the net, the court shall remain unoccupied. The opponent must be at its team bench or out of the playing area. Warming up with balls at the bench, in the free zone around the court, or in the spectator walkways is not permitted.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 7.2.2</p>
<p><b>7.07</b> Team S has six players on its roster. During warm-ups, S#7 is injured and will not be able to play in the match. The Team S captain requests that the 1st referee allow the team to play with five players.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The referee denies the request and defaults the match to Team R. A team may not play with fewer than six players.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 7.3.1</p>
<p><b>7.08</b> The 2nd referee checks the team line-ups prior to the start of the set and realizes that Team R has listed #9 in position 4, but #24 occupies that position on the court. The 2nd referee informs the coach and captain that R#9 should be on the court. The coach requests a substitution, R#24 for #9.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> A substitution request prior to the start of a set is permitted. R#9 takes the correct position on the court; then #24 enters the substitution zone. The 2nd referee whistles the substitution request, R#24 for #9. The substitution shall be recorded by the scorer. No penalty will be assessed to Team R.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 7.3.5.3 15.10.3a</p>

<p><b>7.09</b> The 2nd referee checks the team line-ups prior to the start of the set and realizes that Team S has listed #16 on the line-up, but #12 occupies that position on the court. The 2nd referee informs the coach that #16 should be on the court, and the coach replies that the line-up was entered incorrectly and there is no #16 on the team.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> If a line-up is submitted that includes a player not on the roster or a number that no team member is wearing, the line-up must be corrected. The line-up, score sheet, and Libero control sheet will be changed to show #12 instead of #16. The team is not charged with a substitution to correct the line-up. The team may not change any numbers on the line-up other than to correct the non-rostered player or number that no team member is wearing.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 7.3.4</p>
<p><b>7.10</b> Prior to the start of a set, the 2nd referee notes that #17 is listed as the first server, but player R#15 is on the court in place of #17. A check reveals that #17 is not on the roster.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The line-up must be corrected, and the team is not charged with a substitution. The team may not change any numbers on the line-up other than to correct the non-rostered player. The line-up, score sheet, and Libero control sheet will be changed to show #15 instead of #17.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 7.3.5.3 USAV 4.1.3a</p>
<p><b>7.11</b> As the ball is contacted for service, the 2nd referee notices that R#5 is positioned with part of his foot on the sideline, but not outside of the sideline.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal position. All boundary lines (sidelines and end lines) are considered part of the court, and it is legal for a player to have a foot in contact with a boundary line. If contact is made with the floor beyond one of the boundary lines at the moment of service contact, the player should be called for a positional fault. The referees must be certain that the player was actually contacting the floor outside the boundary lines when the service is made.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 7.4 1.3.2</p>

<p><b>7.13</b> Upon the contact of service, S1 is standing at the left side of the service area and S6 is standing near the right sideline.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal positions. The location of the server is not considered when determining a position fault at service.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 7.4</p>
<p><b>7.14</b> Upon the contact of service, R6 is standing with both feet slightly behind the feet of R3 but has a hand on the floor clearly in front of the feet of R3 at the service contact.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal position. Only the feet are considered when determining a position fault.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 7.4.3 USAV 7.4.3</p>
<p><b>7.15</b> R4 is standing with one foot clearly behind the other foot, and R5 is standing with both feet clearly between the feet of R4 at the contact of service.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal position. The front-row player must have at least part of a foot closer to the net than the feet of the back-row player.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 7.4.3</p>
<p><b>7.16</b> R6 is standing alongside R3 in legal position. As S1 starts the service action, R6 moves forward and upon contact of service, has one foot in the air clearly in front of R3's foot and one foot in contact with the court behind R3's foot.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal position. The forward foot of R6 was not in contact with the court at the contact of service so the player is judged according to the position of the foot that is in contact with the floor.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 7.4.3 USAV 7.4.3</p>
<p><b>7.17</b> R6 is standing clearly in front of R3. Just before service contact, R6 jumps into the air and is not in contact with the court when the ball is contacted for service.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Positional fault. When players jump from the floor, they retain the status of the point of last contact with the floor. Although R6 was in the air, the point of last contact with the floor was retained, and the player is considered to be in front of R3. At the moment of service contact, the player should be whistled for a positional fault.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 7.4.3 USAV 7.4.3</p>

<p><b>7.18</b> After a rally is completed but before the next service, the 1st referee realizes that S2 was out of position at the beginning of that rally.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Positional fault on Team S. The 1st referee must be absolutely certain that a fault occurred before whistling this at the end of the rally.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 7.5.4 7.7</p>
<p><b>7.19</b> S#5 is in the service zone. After the 1st referee whistles to authorize service, S#5 realizes that #8 is actually the correct server. S#5 tosses the ball to #8 who serves the ball within the allowable time. All Team S players were in correct position at the time of service contact.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal action. After authorizing the service, Team S corrected the potential rotational fault and S#8 legally served the ball within the allowable time. All Team S players were in correct position at the time of the service contact, therefore no fault has occurred.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 7.5.1 7.7.1</p>
<p><b>7.21</b> S#3 serves four points, and Team R’s captain calls a time-out. When the teams return to the court, S#21 serves and scores two points. The scorer then notifies the 2nd referee that S#21 is the wrong server.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The 2nd referee whistles and indicates the rotational fault. A point and service is awarded to Team R, the 2nd referee corrects the Team S rotation, and the two points scored by S#21 are cancelled. Team R’s time-out stands.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 7.7.2</p>
<p><b>7.24</b> During pre-match warm-ups for junior competition, while one team has exclusive use of the court, the other team assists by shagging balls in the free zone around their playing area.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> This should be permitted and encouraged, but is not required. However, if the team warming up is using the entire court or the “assisting” team is interfering with the warm-up, the players should move back to the bench area or out of the playing area. In addition, the “assisting” team should remain in the free zone around the court as much as possible.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 7.2.2b</p>

<p><b>7.25</b> At the start of a set, the 2nd referee and scorers inadvertently allow Team A #4 to line up on the court instead of #14 as listed on the line-up sheet. The scorer notices the error two rotations later when #4 rotates into the service position and contacts the ball for service. The 2nd referee is informed immediately upon contact of the serve. Team A is leading the set 7-5.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Although there was a procedural error on the part of the scorer and 2nd referee, the line-up check is a courtesy. Teams are responsible for assuring the players on the court are in their correct positions and in their proper service order. Since the team at fault was allowed to serve, Team B will receive a point and will rotate and serve next. Team A #14 must take the court, and #4 must go to the bench. The score when Team B serves will be 7-6 with Team A leading.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 7.3.1 7.3.5.3 USAV 24.3.1</p>
<p><b>7.26</b> Team A has listed player #9 on the line-up sheet in position VI, but when the team takes the court, player #8 is on the court in that position. Neither the 2nd referee nor the scorer notice the wrong player (#8) and allow play to start. After five rotations, the score is 9-11 in favor of Team B, and Team A #8 rotates into the serving position. The scorer notifies the 2nd referee that #9 should be on the court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Team A #8 is on the court illegally. Since the prior rally was won by the team at fault, and the team at fault was NOT allowed to serve, the results of previous rally are reversed. Team B will receive the point, and they will continue to serve in the same service position as the previous rally. The score will be 8-12 with Team B leading. In addition, the players' positions on the court must be rectified to match the line-up sheet. #9 will enter the court, and #8 will go to the bench. #9 will be the next server for team A.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 7.3.5.3 USAV 24.3.1</p>

<p><b>7.28</b> Team A has listed player #15 on the line-up sheet to start set 2. With the score Team A 14, Team B 12, the scorer realizes that the player wearing #15 is not listed on Team A's roster. After reviewing the first set score sheet, the scorer and 2nd referee determine that Team A's #15 first entered the match during the first set with the score Team A 21, Team B 19. Team A won the first set.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> As soon as the scorer notices that an illegal player is on the court, s/he will immediately notify the 2nd referee. Since this situation is one of a non-registered player (<i>i.e.</i>, player not on the roster) on the court, Team A loses all points scored from the moment #15 entered the <b>match</b>. Since we know this happened at 21-19 of the first set, Team B will be awarded enough points to be credited with a win in set 1, with a final score of 25-21. In addition, since A #15 was on the court to begin the second set, all points scored by Team A in set 2 will be canceled. At the same time, Team A will be required to submit a new line-up sheet for set 2 to correct the non-registered player.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Attention must be paid to the difference between a player whose name is not listed on the roster and a player who is listed on the roster but with the wrong number. This case specifically deals with a player whose name is not listed on the roster, and is the only time the referees may go back to previous sets to remove points. In addition, tournament eligibility rules, such as region guidelines or the USAV Qualifier Manual, may supersede the roster (eligibility) rules.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 7.3.5.4</p>
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<p><b>7.29</b> A#9, the wrong server for Team A, serves two points before losing the next rally. B#6 then serves a point. The scorer then notifies the 2nd referee that previous Team A server, #9, was a wrong server. The score is Team A 17, Team B 10.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Because Team B has already served, no points are cancelled for Team A. Since Team B just scored a point, they do not receive an additional point. The score remains Team A 17, Team B 10, and B#6 will continue to serve. If necessary, Team A is placed in the correct order.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 7.7</p>
<p><b>7.31</b> The Libero for Team A serves in a wrong position and scores two points. The team realizes this was wrong and has the original player replace the Libero. The replacement player serves two points, and the scorer then realizes the Libero served illegally.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The referees remove four points from Team A, and Team B is awarded a point and service. Because this is still the same term of service, the referees must determine when the illegal serve(s) took place. Once the referees determine that, any points scored illegally, and any points scored after the illegal serve(s) are removed provided the opponent has not yet served.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 7.3.5.3</p>
<p><b>7.32</b> A team forgets to record the Libero's number on the line-up sheet, and this is discovered while the 2nd referee is checking the line-ups.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The team may immediately designate a Libero, and this number is recorded on the line-up sheet, score sheet, and libero tracking sheet. Once the set begins, the team cannot add a Libero if no Libero was listed on the line-up sheet.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 7.3.4</p>
<p><b>7.33</b> The coach submits a line-up with a duplicate number listed as the Libero and a starting player. The 2nd referee discovers the duplicate number while checking the line-up prior to the set.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The coach or captain decides whether that player will be a Libero or a starting player. If the duplicate number will be the Libero, the team must correct the line-up with another starting player. The team is NOT charged a substitution. If the duplicate number will be a starting player, a new Libero may be designated.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 7.3.4</p>



<p><b>7.34</b> The coach submits a line-up with the same number listed in two starting positions on the line-up sheet. The 2nd referee discovers the duplicate number while checking the line-up prior to the set.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> At least one of the numbers must be corrected, but the team is NOT charged a substitution. In rare situations when the duplicate number is not legal (<i>i.e.</i>, no player wears that number), both numbers will need to be fixed. Again, no substitutions will be charged to the team. No other changes may be made to the starting line-up (without a legal substitution), and the line-up cannot be rearranged.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 7.3.4</p>
<p><b>7.35</b> The coach for Team A submits a line-up with #3 as one of the starting players and as the Libero. The Libero is #5. This error is not discovered until later in the set after Team A loses a rally.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> If a clerical error on the line-up is discovered after the set begins, the duplicate or incorrect number must be corrected. Team A must redesignate #5 as the Libero to correct the duplicate number. Because Team A was not serving when the discrepancy was found, there is no penalty. If Team A were serving when the duplicate number was discovered, and Libero #5 was on the court, USAV 7.5.4 is in effect due to an illegal player on the court.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 7.3.4; Rule 19.4; USAV 7.5.4</p>
<p><b>7.36</b> The coach for Team A submits a line-up with #10 as one of the starting players and as the Libero. The Libero is #10, and #12 is playing in the position where #10 was listed as a starting player. This error is not discovered until later in the set after Team A loses a rally.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> If a clerical error on the line-up is discovered after the set begins, the duplicate or incorrect number must be corrected. The team must substitute #12 for #10 to correct the duplicate number. If Team A were serving when the duplicate number was discovered, USAV 7.5.4 is in effect due to an illegal player on the court.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 7.3.4; USAV 7.5.4</p>



<p><b>7.37</b> The coach for Team A submits a line-up with #7 as one of the starting players, but #17 is on the court. This error is not discovered until #17 prepares to serve, and the scorer alerts the 2nd referee that #7 should be serving. The coach states there is no #7 on the team.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> If a clerical error on the line-up is discovered after the set begins, the duplicate or incorrect number must be corrected. The team is charged with a substitution, #17 for #7. Because #17 was illegally on the court during the previous rally, the results of that rally are reversed and Team B will continue to serve.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 7.3.4; USAV 7.5.4</p>
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## Chapter Four: Playing Actions

### Rule 8: States of Play

Ball In Play; Ball Out of Play; Ball “In”; Ball “Out”

<p><b>8.01</b> As S2 is preparing to attack the ball, an errant ball rolls across the court of Team S behind S2. A referee blows a whistle because of the loose ball. S2 then spikes the ball to the floor on Team R’s side of the net.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Replay. The whistle stopped the rally. In the judgment of the 1st referee, the loose ball interrupted play.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 8.2 USAV 8.2</p>
<p><b>8.02</b> After a team’s third hit, the ball strikes the top of the net, and the 1st referee immediately blows a whistle. After the whistle, the ball rolls along the net and falls across the net into the opponent’s court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Inadvertent whistle. Play could have continued had the referee not blown the whistle. A replay shall be called.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 8.2</p>

<p><b>8.03</b> R4 passes the ball into the net on the team’s third hit. As the ball falls from the net toward the floor, the 1st referee blows the whistle.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Inadvertent whistle. The referee should not have ended play until the ball was contacted a fourth time or until it touched the floor. However, a point and service will be awarded to Team S since the whistle did not affect the outcome of the play.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 8.2 USAV 8.2</p>
<p><b>8.04</b> R2 tips the ball over a block by S3 and S4. As the ball is falling behind the blockers, the 1st referee anticipates the ball contacting the floor and blows the whistle. S6 dives toward the ball before it contacts the floor as the whistle sounds.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Inadvertent whistle. The whistle stops the rally. If the referee felt that the whistle did not affect the outcome, the call stands. If the 1st referee now believes the whistle had an effect on the play, the 1st referee should call for a replay.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 8.2</p>
<p><b>8.05</b> During a rally, S3 successfully attacks a ball to the floor of Team R’s court. The 1st referee whistles and indicates an attack-hit fault, thinking S3 was a back row player. The Team S captain immediately protests the call stating that S3 is a front row player. After verifying the player positions, the 1st referee realizes S3 was in the front row and signals for a replay due to the inadvertent whistle.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The 1st referee’s decision is incorrect. The referee’s error did not change the fact that S3 attacked the ball to the floor of Team R’s court. The 1st referee’s original decision (attack-hit fault) should be reversed and next service awarded to Team S because of the successful attack-hit.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 8.2 22.2.1.2</p>

<p><b>8.07</b> R3 passes a served ball toward a non-playing area. The ball contacts a ceiling beam 6 m (19'8") above the playing area and rebounds back toward Team R's court. Had the ball not contacted the ceiling, it would have landed out of bounds.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Play continues. When a ball strikes an overhead obstruction above a playing area, the ball shall remain in play until a fault occurs. The referee may not rule that the ball would not have been playable had the overhead obstruction not been there. If the ceiling beam had been above a non-playing area, the ball would have been ruled "out."</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 8.4.2a USAV 8.4.2d</p>
<p><b>8.08</b> R5 receives a serve and the ball strikes the vertical portion of an observation room built over Team R's playing area. The lowest horizontal portion of the room is 5.5 m (18') above the playing surface. The ball then falls toward Team R's playing court, where R3 sets the ball to R4, who attacks the ball to the floor of Team S's court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. The ball remains in play after contacting any obstruction 4.6 m (15') or more above the playing area. The vertical surface of the obstruction is still part of an overhead obstruction. It is not a wall or divider.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 8.4.2 USAV 8.4.2b</p>
<p><b>8.10</b> A ceiling-mounted basketball backboard and its vertical supports are hanging less than 4.6 m (15') above the playing surface 3 m (9'10") behind the end line.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Regardless of location over playing area, if, in the judgment of the 1st referee, the backboard or any supports below 4.6 m (15') interfere with normal playing of the ball, a replay must be directed.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 8.4.2c</p>



<p><b>8.12</b> A player runs into a line judge and is prevented from playing the ball over the playing area.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The referees may grant a replay if an official, media equipment or personnel, or a spectator interferes with a player’s attempt to legally play the ball.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 8.4.2f</p>
<p><b>8.13</b> Rule 10.1.2, the “pursuit” rule, is in effect. A Team B player legally enters Team A’s free zone and sends the ball back toward Team B’s court. On the return path, the ball contacts the first (or second) referee, but would have otherwise remained in play.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The ball is “out.” A replay is not granted if the ball touches a person out of play. This includes officials. The referees may only grant a replay if there is interference with a player attempting to legally play the ball, not the ball itself.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 8.4.2 USAV 8.4.2f 10.1.2</p>
<p><b>8.14</b> A match is being played on a net system that is suspended from the ceiling and the “pursuit” rule is in effect. A Team R player passes the service poorly and the ball is traveling toward Team S’s free zone and will cross the net outside the antenna. The ball contacts the net supports approximately 4 m (13’) above the playing area.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The ball is “out” when it touches the antennae, ropes, posts, or the net itself outside the side bands. Any poles, straps, cables, etc. extending toward the ceiling and supporting the net system should be considered “posts”, and are therefore ruled “out.” Any horizontal supports or structures near the ceiling can be considered overhead obstructions.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 8.4.3 USAV 2.5.2 10.1.2</p>

<p><b>8.15</b> During play, the ball hits an official (referee or line judge), and the team requests a replay.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> When the ball hits an official, it is ruled as “out.” If a player makes contact, or there is anticipation of contact, with an official in the playing area, and the contact or anticipation of contact prevents the player from making a play on the ball, the rally may be replayed at the discretion of the 1st referee.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 8.4.2f, 23.2.3</p>
<p><b>8.16</b> Team A’s third contact rebounds off the net tape without contacting the block, and another of Team A’s player passes the ball. The 2nd referee whistles and signals “four hits.”</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Four hits, point and service to Team B. The 2nd referee should not whistle the four hits fault. However, if the 1st referee believes four hits occurred, a point and service is awarded to Team B since the whistle did not affect the outcome of the play.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 8.2 USAV 8.2 24.2.2</p>
<p><b>8.17</b> Team A’s third contact rebounds off the net tape, and the 1st referee saw one of Team B’s blockers touch the ball. A player from Team A passes the ball, but the 2nd referee whistles and signals “four hits.”</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Inadvertent whistle, replay. The 2nd referee should not whistle a four hits fault. Play could have continued had the 2nd referee not blown the whistle, so a replay will be granted.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 8.2 USAV 8.2 24.2.2</p>

<p><b>8.18</b> Team A’s third contact rebounds off the net tape, and another of Team A’s player passes the ball. The 2nd referee whistles and signals “four hits.” The 1st referee then whistles and indicates that Team B wins the rally and signals a “four hits” violation. The Team B coach protests that the 2nd referee cannot whistle the “four hits” violation.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The 1st referee should deny the protest. The 2nd referee’s whistle was an inadvertent whistle that did not affect the outcome of the play. The decision of whether or not an inadvertent whistle affects the play is a judgment call by the 1st referee and is not protestable.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 8.2 USAV 8.2 24.2.2</p>
<p><b>8.19</b> Team A’s first pass sends the ball into the spectator area outside the playing area. As A #12 attempts to retrieve the ball from the non-playing area, a spectator contacts the ball to prevent being hit. Team A’s coach wants the referee to replay the point.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> No replay is granted; Team B wins the rally. Because the ball was over a non-playing area when the spectator contacted it, the ball is ruled “out.” A replay is only granted if an official, media equipment or personnel, spectator interferes with a player’s legal attempt to play the ball <i>over the playing area</i>.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 8.4.2f</p>
<p><b>8.20</b> Team A’s second contact hits an overhead obstruction over Team A’s side of the court, and the ball then enters the plane of the net where it is simultaneously contacted by a player from Team A and a player from Team B.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The ball is “out.” After the ball contacts the ceiling, Team A must play the ball before Team B legally contacts the ball.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 8.4.2b</p>

## Rule 9: Playing the Ball

### Team Hits; Characteristics of the Hit; Faults in Playing the Ball

<p><b>9.01</b> R6 reaches beyond the vertical plane of the net to “save” a teammate’s overpassed ball before the ball passes entirely beyond the vertical plane of the net.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Reaching beyond the net by R6. Each team must play within its own playing area and space.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 9</p>
<p><b>9.02</b> R3, who is near the net, reaches higher than the top of the net to “save” an overpass by a teammate. The ball penetrates the vertical plane of the net where S4 simultaneously contacts the ball with R3. Both players are contacting the ball completely on their own sides of the net. The ball returns to Team R’s playing area where R5 passes it to R3, who then sets it to R2 for a successful attack-hit.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. Either team has a right to play a ball that has penetrated the vertical plane of the net. When two opponents touch the ball simultaneously over the net and the ball remains in play, the team receiving the ball is entitled to another three hits.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 9 9.1.2.2</p>

<p><b>9.03</b> A match is being played on a portable surface which is placed over a tiled floor. A player makes the team's second contact while standing completely on the tiled floor.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. The ball may be legally retrieved from beyond the free zone when the change in height between the two surfaces is not greater than 1.25 cm (1/2"), the secondary surface is lower than the free zone, the area beyond the free zone is free from obstructions, and there are no other safety concerns. <b>NOTE:</b> This is only legal in a situation where retrieval from beyond the free zone of the surface is permitted. At most events, players are not permitted to retrieve a ball from beyond the edge of the playing surface. See cases 9.04, 9.06, 9.07.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 9</p>
<p><b>9.04</b> Matches at most USAV National Championships are played on a portable surface which is placed over a concrete surface.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> While the change in height between the two surfaces is not greater than 1.25 cm (1/2"), the ball may not be retrieved from beyond the free zone. The concrete surface itself may be slick; spectator seating surrounds the courts; spectators, players, and tournament officials are standing or walking between courts; and there are dividing nets, supports, and other obstructions around and between the various courts.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 9  National Tournament Guidelines</p>
<p><b>9.05</b> R5 contacts a ball while standing in the area between Team R's bench and the scorer's table.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The ball is "out." The area between a team's bench and the scorer's table is a non-playing area.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 9</p>



<p><b>9.06</b> A match is being played on a portable surface where retrieval of the ball from beyond the free zone of the surface is not permitted. S5 passes a ball toward the edge of the portable surface. The ball hits the ceiling, which is 20' above the playing area. S6 is attempting to play the ball and runs off the portable surface. While still off the surface, he hits the ball while the ball is still over the playing area.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The ball is “out.” A player may not legally play the ball if they are outside the playing area—even if the ball is still over the playing area.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 9 8.4.2</p>
<p><b>9.07</b> R4 contacts the ball while it is completely above the team bench. One of R4's feet is contacting the playing surface, and the other foot is contacting the floor in the bench area.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. A player may retrieve a ball that has entered a non-playing area provided some part of the player's body is touching the playing surface when contact is made with the ball. After playing the ball, the player may enter any non-playing area except for an adjacent court where competition is scheduled or occurring.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 9 USAV 9b</p>
<p><b>9.08</b> S6 runs to a dividing net and moves it out of the way so that S1 is able to play the ball.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The ball is “out.” Only a player attempting to play the ball may move the divider net.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 9a</p>

<p><b>9.09</b> R6 and R5 both run toward a dividing net and dive in an attempt to play the ball. R6 slides into the net first but R5 contacts the ball, sending it toward the court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. Both players were attempting to play the ball and therefore permitted to move the divider net.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 9a</p>
<p><b>9.10</b> S2 hits the ball, and then steps onto the sideline of an adjacent court where competition is occurring</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The ball is “out.” When competition is occurring or scheduled on an adjacent court, it is a fault for a player to enter the adjacent court before, while, or after playing the ball.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 9b</p>
<p><b>9.11</b> R5 hits the ball, and then collides with the server in the serving zone of an adjacent court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. It is not a fault to enter the free zone, including the serving zone, of an adjacent court to play a ball.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 9b</p>
<p><b>9.12</b> R5 dives and makes a “pancake” save of a ball on Team R’s first contact. As the play continues, R5 does a shoulder roll and accidentally kicks the ball over the net to Team S’s court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Double contact fault by R5. Although it is Team R’s first contact, and the consecutive contacts were the result of a single attempt to play the ball, R5’s two contacts of the ball did not occur during one action thus resulting in an illegal double contact.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 9.1.1 9.2.3.2 9.3.4</p>
<p><b>9.13</b> R3 and R6 simultaneously pass an attack from S2. R3 then sets the ball to R4 who attacks the ball to Team S’s court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. Simultaneous contact of the ball by teammates is legal and counts as one team hit. Any player may play the next ball provided the simultaneous contact was not the third team hit.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 9.1.2.1</p>

<p><b>9.14</b> S2 and R4 legally and simultaneously contact a ball in the plane above the net, and the ball returns to Team S. S2 then passes the ball to S6, who sets the ball to S3. S3 attacks the ball to the floor of Team R's court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. Simultaneous contact by opponents (a “joust”) is legal, and the team receiving the ball is entitled to another three hits.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 9.1.2.2</p>
<p><b>9.15</b> R2 and S2 legally and simultaneously contact the ball in the vertical plane above the net. The ball returns to Team R's side of the net and lands out of bounds.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The ball is “out” from Team S. The team on the opposite side of the net from where the ball landed (Team S, in this case) is considered to have provided the impetus that caused the ball to land out of bounds.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 9.1.2.2</p>
<p><b>9.16</b> S3 and R3 legally and simultaneously contact the ball in the vertical plane above the net. The ball rolls along the top of the net and touches the antenna.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Double fault. Both teams have caused the ball to touch the antenna. A replay shall be directed by the 1st referee.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 9.1.2.2 6.1.2.2</p>
<p><b>9.17</b> A match is being played on a court next to a wall that is 3 m (10') from the sideline. R4 jumps and pushes off the wall with a hand and foot prior to contacting the ball.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Assisted hit fault by R4. R4 is not permitted to take support from the wall in order to hit the ball.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 9.1.3 9.3.2</p>
<p><b>9.19</b> S2 grabs S3's jersey to prevent a penetration fault by S3.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. A player who is about to commit a fault may be held back by a teammate provided this action is not during an attempt to play the ball.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 9.1.3</p>

<p><b>9.23</b> R4 plays a ball below the waist with an open palm. The contact makes a somewhat unusual sound.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal hit, unless the ball is caught or thrown during the upward movement. The sound of a contact must not be considered when judging the legality of a play.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 9.2.2</p>
<p><b>9.24</b> S4 attempts to hit the ball but contacts it awkwardly with an open hand in such a manner that the ball rolls off the fingers.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal hit, unless the ball was caught or thrown or hit twice in succession. A poorly hit ball should not automatically be penalized.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 9.2.2 9.3.</p>
<p><b>9.25</b> S2 attempts to spike the ball, but hits the lower portion of the ball, causing it to spin off the hitting hand.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal hit, unless the ball was caught or thrown or hit twice in succession during the hitting action.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 9.2.2</p>
<p><b>9.26</b> R6 makes the team's first contact. The ball rebounds from one arm to the other, and then off of a shoulder.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal hit. During any first team hit, the ball may touch various parts of a player's body provided the contacts are made during one playing action.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 9.2.3.2</p>
<p><b>9.27</b> After Team R's third contact, the ball enters the plane of the net where it is contacted simultaneously by R2 and S4. The ball then rolls along the top of the net and into the antenna.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Four hits by Team R when R2 contacts the ball. Team R players may not legally contact the ball again until <b>after</b> a Team S player has done so.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 9.1</p>

<p><b>9.28</b> R#12 makes a spectacular play and then lands in a non-playing area. The ball returns to Team S's side of the net, where a player immediately attacks the ball back to Team R. The ball, which is over the non-playing area, hits R#12, who is still standing in the non-playing area.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The ball is “out,” last touched by R#12. Next serve to Team S. R#12 was standing in a non-playing area when contacted by the ball, and R#12 is one of the required six players per team in play. The “person” in Rule 8.4.2 refers to an official, media personnel, or spectator.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 9 7.3.1 8.4.2</p>
<p><b>9.29</b> Rule 10.1.2 (the “pursuit rule”) is not in effect. Team A's first contact is passed poorly and is travelling outside the pole. A2 reaches beyond the centerline to play the ball before it completely crosses the centerline outside the pole.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal, play continues. The ball may legally be retrieved from the free zone and is not considered “out” until it completely crosses the vertical plane of the net outside the crossing space.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 9 8.4.4</p>
<p><b>9.30</b> Rule 10.1.2 (the “pursuit rule”) is not in effect. Team A's first contact partially crosses the plane of the net outside the antenna. The setter, A5, reaches beyond the plane outside the antenna and brings the ball back to her side.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal, play continues. The area outside the antenna is considered part of the free zone, and the ball may legally be retrieved from the free zone. The ball is not considered “out” until it completely crosses the vertical plane of the net outside the crossing space.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 9 8.4.4</p>

<p><b>9.31</b> Team A’s first contact is passed poorly and is travelling underneath the net. A3 reaches beyond the centerline to play the ball before it completely crosses the lower space under the net.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal, play continues. The ball remains in play until it completely crosses into the opponent’s playing area in the lower space under the net.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 8.4.5</p>
<p><b>9.32</b> During tournament play, the match on an adjacent court ends early. The coaches of the match in progress on the next court ask the referees if the players can enter the adjacent court for the remainder of the match.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Request denied. Because competition was scheduled on the adjacent court during the time the match is being played, players may not enter the adjacent court.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 9b</p>
<p><b>9.33</b> Team A #10 is near the end line of her court and ducks to avoid touching a hit from Team B. The ball contacts #10’s loose ponytail before going out of bounds.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The ball is “out” off of Team B. A touch by loose hair is not considered a touch on the ball.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 9.2.1</p>

## Rule 10: Ball at the Net

### Ball Crossing the Net; Ball Touching the Net; Ball in the Net

<p><b>10.02</b> R#14 poorly passes a served ball into the free zone behind the 1st referee. While the ball is in the net plane, R#3 passes the ball directly over the antenna down the length of the net. The ball lands on Team S's court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The ball is "out." Team R's attack was completed as soon as the ball completely crossed the net plane, and the ball did not pass within the crossing space.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 10.1.1</p>
<p><b>10.03</b> R#14 poorly passes a served ball into the free zone behind the 1st referee. While the ball is in the net plane, R#3 passes the ball directly over the antenna down the length of the net. S#8 contacts the ball while it is in the plane of the net.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The ball is "out." Team R's attack was completed as soon as the ball was contacted by S#8, and the ball did not pass within the crossing space.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 10.1.1</p>
<p><b>10.04</b> R#14 poorly passes a served ball into the free zone behind the 1st referee. While the ball is in the net plane, R#3 passes the ball directly over the antenna down the length of the net. R#6 contacts the ball while it is in the plane of the net.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Play continues. The ball has not yet been sent to the opponent's playing area, so Team R can still make its third team contact without being at fault.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 10.1.1</p>

<p><b>10.05</b> Team R's first team hit crosses the net outside the antenna toward Team S's free zone. A Team R player enters Team S's free zone and legally contacts the ball near Team S's bench. The ball crosses the net outside the antenna to Team R's playing area. Team R sends the ball toward Team S's court through the crossing space.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. A first team hit that has crossed the net totally or partly through the external space may be legally played back within the team's three hits provided: a) at least 2 m (6'6") of clearance exist between the court equipment (<i>e.g.</i>, post or referee stand) and the nearest obstruction on both sides of the net; b) the pursuing player does not touch the opponent's court; and c) the ball, when returned, crosses totally or partly through the external space. The opponents may not prevent such action. This is commonly known as the "pursuit" rule.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 10.1.2 USAV 10.1.2</p>
<p><b>10.06</b> Rule 10.1.2, the "pursuit" rule, is being used during the match. S4 blocks a ball which rebounds over the antenna into Team R's free zone. S5 enters Team R's free zone and contacts the ball, sending it across the net outside the antenna to S6, who sets the ball to S2. S2 attacks the ball to the floor of Team R's court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Next service to Team S. Both the blocked ball and the ball played by S5 crossed the net totally or partly through external space, and the ball was returned to Team R within the three allowable team hits after the block.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 10.1.2</p>



<p><b>10.08</b> Rule 10.1.2, the “pursuit” rule, is being used during the match. Team S’s first team hit crosses the net outside the antenna. S2 runs under the net between the post and sideline and into Team R’s free zone without touching Team R’s court. S2 contacts the ball, sending it back across the net outside the antenna.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. A player may pursue a ball into the opponent’s free zone provided the opponent’s court is not touched by the player. The ball crossed the net totally or partly through the external space each time.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 10.1.2.1 11.2.4</p>
<p><b>10.10</b> Rule 10.1.2, the “pursuit” rule, is being used during the match. Team R’s first team hit, the ball crosses the net inside the antenna and travels toward Team S’s free zone. R4 enters Team S’s free zone and contacts the ball, returning to Team R’s court outside the antenna.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The ball is “out” when R4 contacts the ball. Only balls crossing the net plane totally or partly through the external space may be legally pursued.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 10.1.2</p>
<p><b>10.11</b> Rule 10.1.2, the “pursuit” rule, is being used during the match. R4 legally enters Team S’s free zone to play a ball that has crossed the net outside the antenna. R4 directs the ball back across the net plane entirely between the antennas. R2 attacks the ball to the floor of Team S’s court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The ball is “out.” When the ball is returned to Team R’s court, it must cross the net plane totally or partly through the external space on the same side of the court.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 10.1.2.2</p>

<p><b>10.12</b> Rule 10.1.2, the “pursuit” rule, is being used during the match. S3 legally enters Team R’s free zone in order to make a play on the ball. S3 collides with R4 as S3 attempts to play the ball.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Interference by R4. S3 was in Team R’s free zone and had a legal right to make a play on the ball. R4 may not prevent this action.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 10.1.2.2</p>
<p><b>10.13</b> A match is being played in a small facility with only 1 m (3’3”) clearance from the back edge of the referee stand to the spectator seating. There is 3 m (10’) clearance from the net post to the scorer’s table on the 2nd referee’s side of the court. A captain asks whether the “pursuit” rule will be used in the match.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Rule 10.1.2, the “pursuit” rule, may only be utilized in facilities where a minimum of 2 m (6’6”) of clearance exists between the court equipment and the nearest obstruction on both sides of the court.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 10.1.2</p>
<p><b>10.14</b> R2 is standing close to the net when S2 contacts the ball so that it hits R2 below the net before it completely crosses the vertical plane of the net.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The ball is “out.” Next service to Team R. If, in the judgment of the 1st referee, no player from Team S could have made a play on the ball before it passed under the net, there was no interference.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 10.1.3 11.4.2</p>
<p><b>10.17</b> A served ball hits and tears the net.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> If, in the judgment of the 1st referee, the served ball had no chance of crossing the net, it is a service fault. If a served ball hits and tears the net, but crosses the net to the opponent’s playing area, the rally shall be cancelled and replayed.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 10.3.2</p>

## Rule 11: Player at the Net

Reaching Beyond the Net; Penetration under the Net; Contact with the Net;  
Players' Faults at the Net

<p><b>11.01</b> As R4 attacks the ball, blocker S3 reaches beyond the net and touches the ball simultaneously with R4's attack-hit.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. A blocker may not contact the ball before the opponent's attack-hit but may contact the ball simultaneously with the opponent's attack-hit.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 11.1.1 11.4.1</p>
<p><b>11.02</b> S4 attacks the ball as it penetrates the net plane. R2 contacts the ball simultaneously in a blocking action.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. Since the ball had penetrated the net plane, both players may contact the ball provided the contact is within their own team's playing space.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 11.1.1 11.4.1</p>
<p><b>11.03</b> R5's second team hit is falling near the net in an area where, in the 1st referee's judgment, no Team R player could reach the ball. S2 reaches beyond the net and blocks the ball.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. Even though it was only the second team hit, the 1st referee has judged that no Team R player could have reached the ball; therefore, Team R's attack was completed and S2 was permitted to reach beyond the net and complete the block.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 11.1.1 USAV 14.3b</p>
<p><b>11.04</b> A third hit by R2 strikes the net, and the ball falls toward Team R's court. As the ball is falling, S2 reaches beyond the vertical plane of the net below the net and catches the ball before it contacts the court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> No fault by S2. S2's contact of the ball before it contacted the floor did not interfere with the opponents' play. Point and service to Team S.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 11.2.1</p>

<p><b>11.05</b> S2 jumps to block and kicks R4 in the leg, knocking R4 off balance. The ball falls to the court near R4. In the judgment of the 1st referee, R4 could have made a play on the ball if the contact with S2 had not occurred.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Penetration fault on S2. Even though accidental, S2’s penetration into the opponent’s space below the net interfered with an opponent’s play.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 11.2.1 11.4.2</p>
<p><b>11.06</b> S4 jumps to block and kicks R3’s leg, knocking R3 off balance. R3 then contacts the bottom of the net. The ball continues to Team S’s playing area.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Play continues. R3 has not committed a net fault since R3 was not in the act of playing the ball. In addition, since the contact by S4 was not intentional and does not prevent R3 from playing the ball, there is no interference.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 11.2.1</p>
<p><b>11.07</b> After Team A’s first or second contact, the ball travels toward the middle of the net. A player from Team B places his hands near the net (on his side of the net) in the path of the ball. The ball contacts the net, which causes the net to contact the stationary hands of the Team B player. This action deflects the ball and affects the natural rebound of the ball from the net.</p>	<p><b>Ruling</b> Since the player on Team B moved to place his hands in the path of the ball, the net touch in this action meets the USAV/FIVB interpretation of “interferes with play” and should be called a net fault by the Team B player</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 11.4.4</p>

<p><b>11.09</b> After diving to set the ball, R3 slides across the center line and into Team S's court. Both feet remain on Team R's side of the net. S2 attempts to move into position to block the ensuing attack, but must take an indirect path to avoid contacting R3.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Penetration fault on R3. Although R3 is in an otherwise legal position, R3 interfered with S2's play. In addition, R3's proximity to S2 created a safety hazard.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 11.2.1 11.2.2.2 USAV 11.2.2</p>
<p><b>11.10</b> R3 jumps to block, then lands on the floor with both heels on the center line and the remainder of the feet on the opponent's court. The blocked ball then falls on the Team S's side of the net and contacts the foot of R3.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. Point and service to team R. The foot position was legal. Treat the ball contacting the foot the same as if it had contacted the floor.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 11.2.2.1</p>
<p><b>11.13</b> After jumping to set the ball, S5 lands and begins to transition to a defensive position. During this action, S5 brushes the body of net with an elbow.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Play continues. Contact with the net by a player is only a fault if the player is in the act of playing the ball or it interferes with play. Since the player had completed their playing action and was in transition to their next play, they are no longer considered in the act of playing the ball.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 11.3.1 11.4.4</p>
<p><b>11.14</b> S1 sets a ball to S4 from a position near the center of the net. S3 runs behind S1 for a fake attack near the antenna. S3 makes contact with the net while the ball is being attacked by S4 at the opposite end of the net.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Play continues. Since S3's net contact occurred away from the playing action of the ball and did not interfere with play, it does not constitute a fault.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 11.3.1 11.4.4</p>



<p><b>11.15</b> S1 sets a ball to S3 from a position near the center of the net. S4 runs in front of S3 for a fake attack (tandem play). S4 makes contact with the net during the fake attack but does not touch the ball, and S3 then spikes the ball to the Team R's court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Possible net fault on S4. If the referee judges that the player and the ball are close to each other and the player touches the net, S4's net contact would be during the action of playing the ball, thus resulting in a net fault.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 11.3.1 11.4.4</p>
<p><b>11.16</b> S3 backsets the ball toward S2 in the right front position. S4 runs a fake attack in the left front position. The blocker, R2, tries to block the fake attack by S4 and contacts the net while S2 attacks the ball at the opposite end of the net.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Play continues. R2's net contact was away from the playing action of the ball and did not interfere with play, therefore this net contact does not constitute a fault.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 11.3.1 11.4.4</p>
<p><b>11.17</b> R6 passes the first team hit directly into the body of the net. S3 is standing near the net and places both hands in a position near the net in order to deflect the natural rebound of the ball. The ball contacts the net and S3's hands and then falls immediately to Team R's court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Net fault on S3. S3's actions interfered with play by hindering the opponent's legitimate attempt to play the ball.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 11.3.1 11.4.4</p>

<p><b>11.18</b> R2 makes contact with the body of net and antenna below the top of the net while blocking the ball.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Net fault on R2. Contact with any part of the net or with the antenna is a fault while in the act of playing the ball.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 11.3.1 11.4.4</p>
<p><b>11.20</b> S4 is off-balance after attacking a ball and makes contact with the top band of the net outside the antenna.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Play continues. Contact with any part of the net or net supports outside the antennae is permitted unless the contact interferes with play.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 11.3.2</p>
<p><b>11.21</b> R2 is standing close to the net when S2 passes the ball into the net. The ball hits R2 through the net and lands on Team S's court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> No fault by R2. The ball contacted the net, which contacted the player. Next serve to Team R.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 11.3.3</p>
<p><b>11.22</b> S#9 sets the ball to S#4 who attacks the ball. As S#4 attacks the ball, R#6 pulls down on the bottom of the net to make the referees believe S#4 is contacting the net during the attack. S#4 hits the ball to the floor of Team R's court. The 2nd referee observes the net contact.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Net fault by R#6. The 2nd referee will whistle and signal the fault. The 1st referee will then award a point and service to Team S.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 11.4.4</p>
<p><b>11.23</b> After blocking, R3 turns to see the next play by a teammate. In doing so, R3's foot completely crosses the center line and touches the opponent's court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> No fault by R3, providing there was no interference with the opponent's play and the encroachment did not present a safety hazard.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 11.2.2</p>

<p><b>11.24</b> S6 drops to a knee to save a ball near the net. S6's knee and one hand touch Team R's court. Both of S6's feet remain on Team S's court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. Touching the opponent's court with the knee is permitted since part of S6's body is on or above the center line, there is no interference, and the encroachment does not present a safety hazard.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 11.2.2</p>
<p><b>11.25</b> S2 falls to the floor and rolls under the net across the center line. Both of the player's feet are in the air above and completely over the Team R's court, but both hands are contacting Team S's court. R4 quickly moves away from S2 to avoid being kicked. R6, who is far from S2, plays the ball.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Penetration fault by S2. Although in a legal position and there was no interference with the R4's play, the encroachment presented a safety hazard.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 11.2.1 USAV 11.2.2</p>
<p><b>11.26</b> After playing the ball, R4 runs into the net post, shaking the net violently.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. Contact with any part of the net and net supports outside the antennae is permitted unless the contact interferes with play.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 11.3.2</p>
<p><b>11.27</b> S4 is standing close to the net when Team R's second contact sends the ball into the net. S4 extends an arm toward the ball and contacts the ball through the net.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Net fault by S4. By extending their arm, the player hindered the opponent's legitimate attempt to play the ball. Point and service to Team R.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 11.4.4</p>



<p><b>11.28</b> Player R#44 moves toward the net to set a tight pass. As she completes her setting action, her entire foot completely crosses the center line and touches the opponent's court. No opponent is in the vicinity of the encroaching foot, so there is no interference and no safety hazard. The referees allow play to continue.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The referees are correct. Since there was no interference and no safety hazard, encroaching into the opponent's court, even with the entire foot, is legal. However, if the setter had interfered with the opponent's play or the encroaching foot had created a safety hazard, play would be stopped and a penetration fault would be whistled on player R#44.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 11.2.2</p>
<p><b>11.29</b> Player #12 hits the net with her loose ponytail while playing the ball. The referees allow play to continue.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The decision of the referees is correct. Touching the net with loose hair is not a fault. It would only be a fault if it affected the opponent's ability to play the ball or interrupted the rally (e.g., a ponytail gets tangled in the net).</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 11.3</p>
<p><b>11.30</b> Team A player jumps to block the ball. As she is landing, her jersey touches the net.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The uniform is considered part of the body. If the uniform touches the net during the action of playing the ball, it is a net fault. The art of officiating may allow us to ignore a very small touch of the net by a uniform, but the team may not argue if a net fault is called.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 11.4.4</p>

<p><b>11.31</b> Team R's setter jumps and sets a tight pass near the net. After the setter has released the ball, a Team S blocker reaches beyond the net in an attempt to block, and makes inadvertent contact with the Team R setter's hands.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> No fault, play continues. Because the contact with the setter's hands occurred after the setter released the ball, the blocker did not interfere with the setter's ability to play the ball.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 11.1.1</p>
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### Rule 12: Service

First Service in a Set; Service Order; Authorization of the Service; Execution of the Service; Screening; Faults Made During the Service; Serving Faults and Positional Faults

<p><b>12.01</b> S1 is in the service zone, without the ball when the 1st referee authorizes the service. S6, who was holding the ball, tosses the ball into the air over the court. S1 moves forward to jump in the air and hits the ball into the opponent's court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Serving fault. Only the server can initiate the toss for service.</p> <p>The 1st referee should never authorize the service until the server is in possession of the ball; however, the authorization for service had no effect on the service action.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 12 12.3 12.4.1 12.6.1.2</p>
<p><b>12.02</b> After the 1st referee authorizes the service, S1 inadvertently drops the ball, and it rolls into the court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> No fault. The ball was not tossed or released for service. However, the service must still be completed within 8 seconds to avoid a serving fault by not executing the service properly.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 12.4.1 12.4.2 12.4.4 USAV 12.4.4 12.6.1.2</p>
<p><b>12.03</b> S1 tosses the ball for service and just prior to the ball falling to the floor, sends the ball over the net with both hands.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Serving fault. The service was not executed properly. The ball must be hit with one hand or any part of the arm.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 12.4.1 12.6.1.2</p>

<p><b>12.04</b> S1 tosses the ball into the air for service with the right hand, and then strikes the ball with the same hand to send it over the net.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> No fault. The only restriction on the toss is that the ball is to be tossed or released from the hand(s).</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 12.4.1</p>
<p><b>12.05</b> S1 tosses the ball into the air for service, but then catches the ball.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> For age groups over 14, this is a serving fault. The service was not executed properly. Once the ball has been tossed or released for service, any contact with the server shall complete the service attempt.</p> <p>For 14-and-under age groups, this is a service tossing error. The 1st referee whistles after the tossing error and then authorizes the service again (re-serve).</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 12.4.1 12.4.2 12.6.1.2 USAV 12.4.4a</p>
<p><b>12.06</b> S1 tosses the ball into the air, allows the ball to bounce on the floor, and then contacts the ball for service.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Serving fault. The service was not executed properly. As soon as the tossed ball contacted the floor, the service attempt was complete.</p> <p>For 14-and-under age groups, this is a service tossing error. The 1st referee whistles after the tossing error and then authorizes the service again (re-serve).</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 12.4.1 USAV 12.4.4</p>

<p><b>12.07</b> S1 tosses the ball for service and allows the ball to fall to the floor, but as the ball falls, it inadvertently touches S1.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> For age groups over 14, this is a serving fault. The service was not executed properly. Once the ball has been tossed or released for service, any contact with the server shall complete the service attempt.</p> <p>For 14-and-under age groups, this is a service tossing error. The 1st referee whistles after the tossing error and then authorizes the service again (re-serve).</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 12.4.1 12.6.1.2 USAV 12.4.4a</p>
<p><b>12.08</b> Prior to the moment of the service hit, S1 is standing with the left foot near the right service zone line and the right foot on the floor clearly outside the service zone line. At the moment of the service hit, S1 raises the right foot off the floor.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> No fault. At the moment of the service hit or take-off for a jump service, the server must not touch the court (the end line included) or the floor outside the service zone.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 12.4.3 1.4.2</p>
<p><b>12.09</b> At the moment of the service hit, S1 is touching the left service zone line.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> No fault. Both short lines are included in the width of the service zone.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 12.4.3 1.4.2</p>
<p><b>12.10</b> When the 1st referee authorizes the service, S1 is standing inside Team S's court. S1 runs across the end line and jump serves from within the service zone.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> No fault. The 1st referee authorizes the service after having checked that the two teams are ready to play and that the server is in possession of the ball. At the moment of the service hit or take-off for a jump service, the server must not touch the court (the end line included) or the ground outside the service zone.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 12.3 12.4.3 1.4.2</p>

<p><b>12.11</b> S1 is standing outside the extension of the right service zone line, and behind the end line when the 1st referee authorizes service. The server's approach begins from outside the service zone, but the service hit occurs while the server is standing within the service zone.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> No fault. At the moment of the service hit or take-off for a jump service, the server must not touch the court (the end line included) or the floor outside the service zone. Servers are permitted to start their approach outside the service zone, behind the end line, provided contact with the ball takes place from within the service zone.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 12.4.3 1.4.2</p>
<p><b>12.12</b> A match is being played on a portable surface laid on a wood floor. The change in height between the two surfaces is 1.25 cm (<math>\frac{1}{2}</math>" ) and the wood floor surrounding the portable surface is free of obstructions. S1 initiates the serve while standing on the wood floor.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The 1st referee should never authorize the service until the server is in possession of the ball on the playing surface. The playing surface includes only the free zone of the portable court. The area beyond the free zone of the portable surface is not included as part of the service zone. The 1st referee should motion to the server to move onto the playing area. After doing so, if the server moves off the playing area and serves the ball, it is a serving fault.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 12.3 USA V 12.3 USA V 12.4.3 1.2.1</p>
<p><b>12.13</b> S#5 has the ball and is in the service zone. After the 1st referee whistles to authorize service, S#5 realizes that #8 is actually the correct server. S#5 tosses the ball to #8 who serves the ball within the allowable time. All Team S players were in their correct positions at the time of service contact.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal action. The tossing of the ball to the correct server is not considered a toss for service. Team S corrected the potential rotational fault and S#8 legally served the ball within the allowable time. All Team S players were in their correct positions at the time of the service contact, therefore no fault has occurred.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 12.4.1 12.4.4 7.7.1 7.5.1</p>

<p><b>12.14</b> During a 13-and-under competition, the referees allow the servers 8 seconds to contact their first service toss, and an additional 5 seconds for the second service attempt.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Incorrect Age-Modified Ruling. The server must contact the ball within 8 seconds after the 1st referee whistles for service. After a service tossing error, the referee must authorize the service again (re-serve), and the server must execute it within the next 8 seconds.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 12.4.4</p>
<p><b>12.15</b> During a 14-and-under competition, the referees allow the servers one re-serve during each term of service.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Incorrect Age-Modified Ruling. One service tossing error is permitted for each service (attempt).</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 12.4.4d</p>
<p><b>12.16</b> During a 14-and-under competition, S1 tosses the ball for service, but allows the ball to fall to the floor untouched. Team S’s coach requests a line-up check.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Request denied. The 1st referee whistles after the tossing error and then authorizes the service again (re-serve). A re-serve following a service tossing error is considered part of a single effort to serve and must be completed before any requests may be considered. After the rally, Team S will be assessed an improper request.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 12.4.5 USAV 12.4.4 USAV 5.2.3 6.1.3</p>
<p><b>12.19</b> Team S’s front row players form a group in front of R2 and R3. Team R’s captain asks the 1st referee to have the players move apart so that they do not create a screen.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> 1st referee’s judgment. It is not mandatory to do anything, as in many cases the request itself will take care of the issue. The 1st referee may warn Team S players by motioning them to move apart or by verbally advising them that their position may put them at risk for a screen.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 12.5.1 12.5.2 23.3.2.1</p>

<p><b>12.20</b> Team S's front row players are grouped near the net in the center of the court. S1 serves the ball from near the right side of the service zone directly down the sideline, and not passing over any Team S player. The Team R captain informs the 1st referee that Team S is screening R1 who is passing on the other side of the court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> 1st referee's judgment. The captain is showing a lack of understanding of the rule or attempting to delay. The 1st referee needs to, without further delay, recite the rule clearly, explaining that no screen was committed because the serve was judged not to pass over the group of Team S players toward R1. The 1st referee may assess a delay sanction if the captain attempts to continue the discussion.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 12.5.1 12.5.2 USAV 12.5.2 16.1.5</p>
<p><b>12.21</b> Team S's front row players are grouped near the net in the center of the court. S1 serves the ball from near the right side of the service zone. The ball's flight is slow, with a high trajectory, across the court, passing over the group of Team S players. The Team R captain informs the 1st referee that Team S is screening the passer, R1, from passing.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> 1st referee's judgment. The captain is showing a lack of understanding of the rule or attempting to delay. The 1st referee needs to, without further delay, recite the rule clearly, explaining that no screen was committed because the serve was judged to be slow and very high, and the group of Team S players was not hiding the flight path of the ball from R1. The 1st referee may assess a delay sanction if the captain attempts to continue the discussion.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 12.5.1 12.5.2 16.1.5 USAV 12.5.2</p>

<p><b>12.22</b> S1 prepares to serve from under a basketball backboard, hanging approximately 3 m (10') above the playing area. After being tossed by the server, the ball contacts the basketball goal supports.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Serving fault. The service was not executed properly. Once the ball has been tossed or released for service, any contact with any obstruction shall complete the service attempt. A replay is not an option.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 12.6.1.2 USAV 12.6.1.3</p>
<p><b>12.23</b> A served ball hits the net below the top band of the net and falls on Team S's side of the net. R3 reaches under the net and catches the ball before it contacts the floor.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Serving fault. The service was not executed properly. The whistle for the service fault should occur as soon as it is judged that the ball will not cross the net (not waiting until the ball contacts the floor or a player on the serving team). In this case, no interference occurred because the rally was complete prior to R3 catching the ball.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 12.6.2.1 10.2 11.4.2 22.2.1.2</p>
<p><b>12.24</b> At the contact of the service, the server is touching the end line, but the receiving team is out of position.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Serving fault. If the server makes a fault at the moment of the service hit (improper execution, wrong rotational order, etc.) and the opponent is out of position, it is the serving fault which is sanctioned.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 12.7.1 12.6.2.1</p>
<p><b>12.25</b> At the contact of the service, the serving team is guilty of screening, but the receiving team players are out of position.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Positional fault. If the execution of the service has been correct, but the service subsequently becomes faulty (goes out, goes over a screen, etc.), the positional fault has taken place first and is sanctioned.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 12.7.2 12.6.2.3</p>



<p><b>12.26</b> S1 serves the ball from under a basketball backboard hanging approximately 3 m (10') above the playing area. Immediately after contact by the server, the ball contacts the basketball goal netting. The ball lands in Team S's court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Serving fault. After the ball has been correctly hit, the service becomes a fault if the ball touches any overhead obstruction. A replay is not allowed.</p>	<p><b>Rules:</b> USAV 12.6.2.4</p>
<p><b>12.27</b> S1 legally serves the ball, but into Team R's bench area. At the moment of service contact, the 2nd referee calls a positional fault on Team R. After verifying Team R's player positions at the captain's request, it is discovered that Team R was in correct position.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Serving fault. The 1st referee is authorized to overrule the decisions of other members of the refereeing corps, if it is noticed that they are mistaken. The 2nd referee's whistle did not affect the flight of the served ball, which clearly would have been "out," completing the rally. This was the only fault that occurred.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 12.7.2 23.2.1 USAV 8.2</p>
<p><b>12.28</b> S1 legally serves the ball, which crosses the net to Team R's court. At the moment of service contact, the 2nd referee calls a positional fault on Team R. The ball lands near the sideline just out of bounds near R5. After verifying Team R's player positions at the captain's request, it is discovered that Team R was in correct position.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Replay. The 1st referee is authorized to overrule the decisions of other members of the refereeing corps, if it is noticed that they are mistaken. In this case, the rally was not clearly complete, as it is not clear whether R5 would have played the ball had the 2nd referee not blown the whistle. The 1st referee decides to replay the service, in fairness to both teams.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 12.7.2 23.2.1 USAV 8.2</p>



<p><b>12.29</b> During 14-and-under competition, S#3, the incorrect server, tosses the ball and lets it fall to the floor untouched. The 1st referee authorizes a re-serve, all Team S players immediately move to their legal positions on the court, and S#7, the correct server, legally serves.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal. Although a line-up check or other request is not allowed, the correct server is allowed to serve after the incorrect server’s tossing error provided the ball is contacted within the allowed time. No rotational fault has been committed since S#3 did not contact the ball for service.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 12.4.4 12.6.1</p>
<p><b>12.30</b> During 14-and-under competition, the 1st referee whistles and authorizes service. Before tossing the ball for service, the server loses control of the ball while dribbling, and the ball rolls into the court. The server runs onto the court and immediately tosses the ball for service before the 1st referee whistles a delay of service. The server then returns to the service zone with the ball and waits for the 1st referee to authorize the re-serve.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal. Since the ball was tossed for service within the allowed eight seconds, this is simply a service tossing error. There is no “foot fault” because the ball was not contacted for service. The 1st referee shall authorize the second service attempt.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 12.4.4a 12.4.3</p>

<p><b>12.41</b> Just prior to the service action by S1, S3 takes a position close to the net directly in front of R3. R3 complains that S3 is causing a screen.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> 1st referee's judgment. The players of the serving team must not prevent their opponent, through individual or collective screening, from seeing the service hit and the flight path of the ball. First, R3 must move to see. Then, S3 can be penalized for rude conduct if judged to be intentionally screening by moving to impede the opponents' view.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 12.5.1 21.2.1</p>
<p><b>12.42</b> In order to quickly change positions after the serve, S2 and S3 are approximately 30 cm (1') apart at the time of service.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> 1st referee's judgment. A player or group of players of the serving team make a screen by waving arms, jumping or moving sideways during the execution of the service, or by standing grouped to hide the service hit and the flight path of the ball. Speed and trajectory of the ball, along with positions and stance of the players, are key criteria to judge correctly.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 12.5.1 12.5.2 USAV 12.5.2</p>
<p><b>12.43</b> In 14-and-under competition, with Team S leading 24-22 in Set 1, S#3 tosses the ball for service and catches it. The 1st referee authorizes a re-serve, and Team S wins the point. The 1st referee signals the end of the set. Team R's head coach wants to protest that the 1st referee allowed S#3 to catch the ball before re-serving. The 1st referee denies the protest because the coach did not protest before S#3 served the ball.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The referee's decision is incorrect. A re-serve is considered part of a single effort to serve, and the team may protest within the first 60 seconds of the timed interval between sets.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 12.4.5a USAV 5.1.2.1</p>

<p><b>12.44</b> The 1st referee whistles and beckons for serve when Team S has only 5 players on the court. The referee then notices that there are only 5 players.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The 1st referee should not whistle for service until he/she is sure that the teams are ready to play and that the server is in possession of the ball. The 1st referee must stop the rally immediately and issue a replay. Team S will be assessed a delay sanction.</p> <p>If the 1st referee noticed that there were only 5 players before the whistle for service, he/she should award a delay sanction if the late return of a player causes a significant delay or if the referees must intervene.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 12.3</p>
<p><b>12.45</b> As Team S #12 prepares to serve, part of his left foot is on the sport court, and part is touching the concrete beyond the playing surface.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Part of the server’s foot or feet may be in contact with the non-playing area as long as part of both feet are in contact with the playing surface. The 1st referee must ensure the player is on the playing surface before beckoning for the serve. It is a service fault if a player steps completely off the playing surface with either foot during the service action.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 12.3 USAV 12.4.3</p>
<p><b>12.46</b> After the beckon for serve, Team S #10 steps completely off the surface with one foot, and the 1st referee whistles and to stop the serve and instructs the player to return to the playing surface.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The 1st referee is incorrect. It is a service fault if a player steps completely off the playing surface with either foot during the service action. The 1st referee should whistle and award the point to Team R and signal a line fault (Signal 22).</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 12.3</p>

## Rule 13: Attack Hit

### Attack Hit; Restrictions of the Attack Hit; Faults of the Attack Hit

<p><b>13.01</b> R6 is in the front zone and jumps to make the second team hit. The ball is entirely higher than the top of the net. Instead of passing the ball to a teammate, R6 tips the ball across the net. Before the ball reaches the vertical plane of the net, S2 reaches fully beyond the plane of the net and blocks the ball.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Attack-hit fault. The completed attack was made from the front zone by a back row player who contacted the ball entirely higher than the top of the net and directed it toward the opponents. As soon as the ball was touched by the blocker, the attack-hit was completed. The blocker is allowed to block an attack over the opponent's court.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 13.1.1 13.1.3 13.2.2 13.3.3 14.3</p>
<p><b>13.02</b> R5 is in the front zone and contacts a ball that is entirely higher than the top of the net, sending it toward the opponent's court. The 1st referee does not immediately whistle to stop the rally.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Correct action by the 1st referee. Although an attack-hit fault may be imminent, the contact itself is not a fault. An attack-hit fault by a back-row player shall not be whistled until the attack-hit is completed, i.e. the ball is touched by an opponent or completely crosses the vertical plane of the net.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 13.1.3 13.2.2 13.3.3</p>
<p><b>13.03</b> R6 is in the front zone and attacks the ball on the team's second hit while it is entirely higher than the height of the net. The ball hits the top of the net and rebounds back into Team R's court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Since the ball did not completely cross the vertical plane of the net and was not contacted by an opponent, the attack-hit by R6 was not a fault. Team R has a third hit remaining to direct the ball into the opponent's court.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 13.1.3 13.2.2 13.3.3</p>

<p><b>13.04</b> R6 is in the front zone and jumps to make the second team hit. The ball is entirely higher than the height of the net when R6 directs it toward a teammate. The action of R6 causes the ball to penetrate the vertical plane of the net where it is blocked by S2.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Attack-hit fault. On the first or second team hit, a back-row player in the front zone may contact the ball when it is entirely higher than the top of the net and direct the ball toward a teammate. If the ball penetrates the vertical plane of the net, an attack-hit fault will occur if the ball is touched by an opponent or completely crosses the vertical plane of the net.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 13.1.3 13.2.2 13.2.3 13.3.3</p>
<p><b>13.05</b> S6 passes a ball into the vertical plane of the net and S1, who is near the net, reaches higher than the top of the net in an attempt to save the ball. R4 legally contacts the ball simultaneously with S1 in the vertical plane of the net. The ball returns to Team S's side of the net.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Blocking fault by S1. Either team has a right to play a ball that has penetrated the vertical plane of the net. S1, who was a back row player and was reaching higher than the top of the net, completed an illegal block by contacting the ball simultaneously with R4.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 14.1.1 14.6.2</p>
<p><b>13.06</b> R5, who is in the front zone, contacts the ball while it is entirely higher than the top of the net and passes it, using a setting action, toward R2. Before the ball can be contacted by R2, it penetrates the vertical plane of the net and is touched by the block of S3 and S6.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Double fault. The attack by back-row player R5 became an attack-hit fault when the Team S block touched the ball, and a blocking fault was committed simultaneously by the collective block of S3 and back-row player S6. The rally ended when the ball was contacted by Team S's block.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 13.1.3 13.2.2 13.3.3 USAV 13.3.7 14.1.1 14.1.4 6.1.2.2</p>

<p><b>13.07</b> S2 sets a ball toward S3 and Team R's court. Before S3 can contact the ball, it crosses completely beyond the plane of the net. S3 then spikes the ball to the floor of Team R's court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Attack-hit fault. S3 is not permitted to reach beyond the net to contact a ball that is completely above Team R's court.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 13.2.1 13.3.1</p>
<p><b>13.08</b> Team R's third team hit is falling near the net but will not penetrate the vertical plane of the net. S2 jumps, reaches beyond the net, and spikes it to Team R's court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Attack-hit fault. A player may not contact the ball within the opponent's playing space, except for certain blocking actions.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 13.2.1 13.3.1 14.3 USAV 14.3 9</p>
<p><b>13.09</b> S6 jumps from the back zone to attack a ball that is entirely higher than the top of the net. S6 then lands in the front zone. The ball crosses the net and lands on Team R's court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. A back-row player may attack a ball at any height from the back zone and may consequently land in the front zone after the attack-hit.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 13.2.2.1 13.2.2.2</p>
<p><b>13.10</b> S1 serves the ball very high and deep into Team R's court. R5, who is positioned near the end line, jumps and attacks the served ball while it is entirely higher than the height of the net.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. A served ball may be attacked at any height when the ball is not in the front zone.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 13.2.2.1 13.2.4</p>

<p><b>13.11</b> A Libero in the front zone makes the team's third hit, playing the ball over the net with an overhand finger pass. The ball is below the top of the net when contacted.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. The Libero is restricted from attacking a ball from anywhere on the court, but only if at the moment of contact the ball is entirely higher than the top of the net.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 13.3.5 19.3.1.2</p>
<p><b>13.12</b> A Libero, positioned in the back zone, attacks a ball that is entirely higher than the top of the net. The ball lands on the opponent's court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Attack-hit fault. A Libero may not attack a ball from anywhere on the court when, at the moment of contact, the ball is entirely higher than the top of the net.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 13.3.5 19.3.1.2</p>
<p><b>13.13</b> Team R's Libero jumps and uses a spiking action on a ball that is partly below the top of the net. The ball crosses the net and lands on Team S's court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. A Libero may use any playing action to send the ball across the net provided the ball is not entirely higher than the top of the net.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 13.3.5 19.3.1.2</p>
<p><b>13.14</b> While in the front zone, R5 jumps and attacks the ball, which is entirely higher than the top of the net and completely above Team R's court. Simultaneous with the contact of the ball by R5, S2 reaches beyond the plane of the net and blocks the ball.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Point Team S; attack-hit fault on R5. The attack by R5 became an attack-hit fault when S2 legally blocked the ball.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 13.2.2.1 14.3</p>



### Rule 14: Block

Blocking; Block Contact; Blocking Within the Opponent's Space;  
Block and Team Hits; Blocking the Service; Blocking Faults

<p><b>14.01</b> S2 attacks the ball. R4, who is 1.5 m (5') from the net, and reaching higher than the top of the net, makes consecutive contacts with the ball with a blocking action.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal first team contact. Due to the distance from the net, R4 is not considered to be a blocker. Thus, the contact would be considered the first team hit, and multiple contacts of the ball are legal.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 14.1.1 9.2.3.2</p>
<p><b>14.02</b> S2 and S5 are close together at the net. They both jump to block an attack by R2. S2 is reaching higher than the top of the net, but S5 is not. Only S2 contacts the ball.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal block. Only a player reaching higher than the top of the net at the time the block is completed is considered to be a blocker. Although a back-row player, S5 is not considered a blocker since S5 is not reaching higher than the top of the net. And, since S5 is not a blocker, S2 and S5 do not form a collective block.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 14.1.1 14.1.4</p>
<p><b>14.03</b> S2 and S4 are close together and jump to block an attack from R2. S2 is reaching higher than the top of the net but S4 is not. R2's attack is contacted only by S4. S4 then turns and passes the ball to S1, who sets the ball to S3. S3 attacks the ball to the floor of Team R's court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Double contact on S4. Only a player who is reaching higher than the top of the net at the time the block is completed is considered to be a blocker. Since S4 is not a blocker, S4 and S2 do not form a collective block. S4 has made Team S's first and second contacts.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 14.1.1 14.1.4</p>

<p><b>14.04</b> R3 attacks a ball into a collective block formed by S4 and S3. While the blockers are still reaching higher than the top of the net, and during the single attempt to block, the ball strikes the hands of S3, and then the foot of S4. The ball rebounds off S4's foot over the net and falls to the floor of Team R's court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. Next service to Team S. Contact with the ball during a block may be with any part of the body. Players are considered blockers until they are no longer reaching higher than the top of the net. Consecutive contacts by one or more blockers during one blocking action are legal.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 14.1.1 14.2</p>
<p><b>14.05</b> S3 is reaching higher than the top of the net in an attempt to block an attack from R2. The ball contacts S3 in the chest, which is lower than the top of the net. S3 then turns and passes the ball to a teammate.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. To be considered a blocker, a player must be reaching higher than the top net. The height of the contact with the ball is not considered. Any player, including the blocker, may make the first hit after the block.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 14.1.1 14.4.2</p>
<p><b>14.06</b> Setter S2 jumps and contacts a ball that is higher than the top of the net. The ball penetrates the vertical plane of the net. R3 blocks the ball so that it contacts S2 who is still reaching higher than the top of the net.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The contact by S2 after the block by R3 would constitute a block. Team S will have three hits remaining to return the ball to the opponent's court.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 14.1.1 14.4.1</p>

<p><b>14.07</b> The Libero, who is standing next to R3, has hands extended above head height but not higher than the top of the net. S2 attacks the ball into the block of R3, who is reaching higher than the top of the net.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. The Libero is not attempting to block nor part of a collective block because the Libero is not reaching higher than the top of the net.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 14.1.1 14.6.2 19.3.1.3</p>
<p><b>14.08</b> The Libero, who is near the net, jumps and reaches higher than the net to attempt to block an attack-hit by S4 but does not touch the ball.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Blocking fault. A Libero may not block or attempt to block. Reaching higher than the top of the net while near the net constitutes an attempt to block.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 14.1.2 14.6.6 19.3.1.3</p>
<p><b>14.09</b> S2 attacks a ball into a collective block by R3 and R4, The ball then contacts R2, who is in a blocking position with hands above the height of the net approximately 1.2 m (4') from R3. R3 passes the ball to R1, who sets the ball for an attack by R4.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Four hits fault. R2 was not close to the block, so R2's contact of the ball was the first team hit. The attack by R4 was the fourth team hit.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 14.1.4</p>
<p><b>14.10</b> R2 and R3 jump together to block, and make several consecutive contacts with the ball. The ball is then played by setter R4.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. Multiple contacts by blockers constitute a single blocking contact. R4's contact is the first of three team hits.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 14.2 14.4.1</p>

<p><b>14.11</b> S2 passes the second team hit near the net. S4 jumps and uses a blocking motion to send the ball to Team R. During the action, the ball rebounds quickly between S4's hands.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Double contact fault on S4. While double contacts are allowed while blocking, blocking is defined as an attempt to intercept the ball coming from the opponents. S4's contact is the team's third contact, not a block.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 14.6.8 9.1.1</p>
<p><b>14.12</b> R5 passes the serve to R3 near the net. As R3 jumps to set the ball, S3 reaches across the plane of the net in a blocking attempt but does not touch R3 or the ball.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. The block attempt by S3 is not a blocking fault since it did not interfere with R3's play.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 14.3</p>
<p><b>14.13</b> S5 sets a ball toward S3. The ball will cross the net into Team R's court if no Team S player touches it. S3 attempts to attack the ball, but R4 reaches beyond the plane of the net and blocks the ball before it is contacted by S3 and before it reaches the plane of the net.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Blocking fault by R4. Although the ball would have crossed the net into Team R's court, R4 is not permitted to reach beyond the net and interfere with S3's play on the ball.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 14.3 USAV 14.3 14.6.1 13.1.1</p>
<p><b>14.14</b> R2's third team hit is directed toward the opponent and the ball is falling near the net. R4 is in position to make a play on the ball, but S2 reaches across the plane of the net and blocks the ball before R4 can contact it.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal block. R2 made the third team hit and no further legal play could be made by Team R. S2 is permitted to reach beyond the net and block the ball because there is no interference with R4's play.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 14.3</p>

<p><b>14.15</b> S6 directs the ball toward Team R's court, and no player from Team S is close to the ball. Before the ball penetrates the vertical plane of the net, R3 reaches across the plane of the net and blocks the ball.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal block. S6's contact toward the opponent is an attack-hit. R3 is permitted to reach beyond the net and block the ball because there is no interference with a play by Team S.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 14.3 13.1.1</p>
<p><b>14.16</b> R5 passes a hard served ball in such a manner that the ball would have crossed the net if untouched by another player. R4, who is near the net, jumps and fakes a hit on the ball. Immediately after the fake hit, S2 reaches beyond the plane of the net and blocks the ball.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal block. R5's contact is an attack-hit. S2 is permitted to reach beyond the net to block after R4 completed the attempt to play the ball.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 14.3 13.1.1</p>
<p><b>14.17</b> S3 blocks an attack by R4. S3 then passes the ball to S1, who sets the ball for an attack by S4.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> No fault. Any player has the right to make the next play on a blocked ball.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 14.4.2</p>
<p><b>14.18</b> S1 serves a fast ball very low across the net. R3, who is very tall and is near the net, reaches higher than the top of the net to deflect the low trajectory of the ball. R6 makes the next contact of the ball.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Blocking fault by R3. It is forbidden to block an opponent's serve.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 14.5 14.6.3</p>

<p><b>14.19</b> R2 was blocking at the sideline and had both arms across the plane of the net with an arm on each side of, but not in contact with, the antenna. R2 contacted the ball over the opponent's court with the hand on the inside of the antenna.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Blocking fault by R2, who blocked the ball in the opponent's space from outside the antenna.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 14.6.5</p>
<p><b>14.20</b> In a collective block, S3 reaches beyond the plane of the net outside the antenna. S4 is inside the antenna and reaches beyond the net, contacting the ball.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Blocking fault. Part of the collective block was outside the antenna.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 14.6.5 14.1.4</p>
<p><b>14.61</b> S6 passes a ball into the vertical plane of the net and S1, who is near the net, reaches higher than the top of the net in an attempt to save the ball. R4 legally contacts the ball simultaneously with S1 in the vertical plane of the net. The ball returns to Team S's side of the net.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Blocking fault by S1. Simultaneous contact of a ball in the vertical plane of the net between a back row player and a front row player results in an illegal block by the back row player. Since either team has a right to play a ball that has penetrated the vertical plane of the net, S1, who was a back row player and reaching higher than the top of the net, completed a block when the ball was contacted simultaneously with R4.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b>  14.1.1</p>

## Chapter Five: Interruptions and Delays

### Rule 15: Regular Game Interruptions

Number of Regular Interruptions; Request for Regular Game Interruptions; Sequence of Interruptions; Time-Outs and Technical Time-Outs; Substitution of Players; Limitation of Substitutions; Exceptional Substitution; Substitution for Expulsion or Disqualification; Illegal Substitution; Substitution Procedures; Improper Requests

<p><b>15.01</b> During a rally, an errant ball rolls onto the court and interferes with play. The 1st referee whistles and signals a replay. Before the 1st referee authorizes the re-serve, a captain requests a line-up check.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Proper request. There has not been a completed rally. However, line-up checks are a courtesy and not considered regular game interruptions. The 2nd referee and scorer should verify that the team's players are in the correct positions.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 15</p>
<p><b>15.02</b> The referees stop a rally when a player is injured. After 25 seconds, the coach says that the player can continue to play. As the 1st referee prepares to authorize the next service, the coach of the injured player requests a time-out.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Improper request. Since there has not been a completed rally in this situation, and the coach has already indicated the player is ready to play, there can be no regular game interruption requests. If the 2nd referee blows a whistle to acknowledge the time-out request, the team would be assessed a delay sanction.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 15 6.1.3 15.11.1.1 USAV 16.1 17.1.1</p>

<p><b>15.03</b> The referees stop a rally when a Team S player is injured and signal a replay. While the injury is being resolved, S#4 is assessed an unsporting conduct penalty. After the injury is resolved, Team R requests a substitution for its defensive specialist who is rotating to the front row.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Proper request. The completed rally rule includes the awarding of a penalty point, so even though the preceding rally was stopped for injury, it is considered to be a completed rally.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 15 19.3.2.1</p>
<p><b>15.04</b> A rally-in-progress is stopped due to rude conduct by S#7, who is immediately sanctioned with a red card. Team R is forced to rotate and requests a substitution.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Proper request. The awarding of a penalty is considered a completed rally, so Team R may legally request regular game interruptions.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 6.1.3 15 19.3.2.1</p>
<p><b>15.05</b> A rally-in-progress is stopped due to offensive conduct by R#9, who is immediately sanctioned with expulsion. Team R requests a substitution for #9.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Proper request. In order for Team R to remain complete, a legal or exceptional substitution for R#9 must be allowed. If R#9 is replaced using an exceptional substitution, R#9 may not return to the match. No other requests for game interruption may be made, and no other players may be substituted.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 6.1.3 15 15.8 19.3.2.1</p>



<p><b>15.06</b> A rally-in-progress is stopped due to offensive conduct by R#9, who is immediately sanctioned with expulsion. After substituting for the expelled player, the coach of Team R requests a time-out.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Improper request. An expulsion is not a point. The team must legally or exceptionally substitute for the expelled player and complete a rally before any other game interruptions may be accepted. If the expelled player is replaced using an exceptional substitution, the expelled player may not return to the match since they were exceptionally subbed.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 6.1.3 15 15.8 19.3.2.1</p>
<p><b>15.08</b> The referees stop a rally when a player is injured. After a reasonable amount of time has passed, the coach requests a time-out to allow more time to evaluate the player's injury. After the time-out, the coach requests a substitution for the injured player.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Proper request. There has not been a completed rally. Requesting a time-out is one of the options available after the initial evaluation period. Since the player is not ready to continue, the substitution is allowed without sanction. It is not the referees' role to determine the extent of the player's injury. When referees stop play for what they deem to be an injured player, and subsequently the coach of that player wants to call time-out, this is allowed.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 15 17.1.1</p>
<p><b>15.09</b> While the coach is giving instructions to players in the warm-up area, the assistant coach requests a time-out.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Improper request. Only the head coach or captain may request regular game interruptions. If any other team member makes such a request, it shall be rejected as an improper request. If the 2nd referee whistles to acknowledge the request, Team A should be assessed a delay sanction.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 15.2.1 15.11.1.2</p>

<p><b>15.10</b> S#11 is injured during the pre-match warm-up. S#11 was listed on the line-up as the first server. At match time, S#11 is not able to play.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> There is no requirement for a player to participate before being substituted out of the game. If a substitute is available, a legal substitution will be made for S#11. If there are no substitutes, but Team S is using a Libero, an exceptional substitution will be used to substitute the Libero for S#11. If no legal or exceptional substitution can be made, the 1st referee grants a special injury time-out of up to three-minutes at match time. Team S may also use its two time-outs at the conclusion of this special time-out.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 15.2.2 USAV 15.7 USAV 17.1.1</p>
<p><b>15.11</b> Prior to the start of the match, the coach from Team S requests a time-out to allow players time to drink water before beginning the match.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Proper request; time-out for Team S. A request for time-out prior to the start of a match or a set is legal.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 15.3.2</p>
<p><b>15.12</b> Team A requests a substitution at the same time that Team B requests a time-out. The 2nd referee acknowledges (whistles) the time-out and indicates that the time-out will be granted first, and the substitution will be administered at the conclusion of the time-out.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Correct procedure. At the conclusion of the timeout, if Team A still wants a substitution, the request must be made at the conclusion of the time-out. This may be a request for single OR multiple substitutions. Team A may also choose not to request a substitution, and play resumes without sanction.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 15.2 15.10</p>

<p><b>15.13</b> Team S makes a substitution. Team R takes a time-out during the same dead-ball period. After the time-out, Team S requests another substitution.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Improper request. Only one request for substitution per team per game interruption is permitted. Team S will be assessed an improper request if the request is not acknowledged by a referee's whistle and Team S has not been assessed an improper request earlier in the match. If the request is acknowledged, a delay sanction will be assessed.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 15.2.3 USAV 15.2.4</p>
<p><b>15.14</b> A team is granted a substitution, and then requests a time-out.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Proper request. After completing the substitution, the 2nd referee should whistle and signal a time-out.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 15.2.1</p>
<p><b>15.15</b> During a time-out, a team's trainer brings water to the free zone near the court for the players.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> No fault or sanction provided there is no delay to clean up water on the court or in the free zone at the expiration of the time-out.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 15.4.2 16.1.2</p>
<p><b>15.16</b> During a team time-out, players move to the team bench. One player goes behind the team bench to get a drink of water.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> No fault or sanction is assessed as long as play is not delayed. A player is allowed to go behind the bench for water.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 15.4.2 16.1.2</p>
<p><b>15.18</b> A team returns to the court prior to the expiration of the 30 seconds designated for the time-out.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Teams may return to the court if permitted by the referees.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 15.4.2</p>

<p><b>15.20</b> Player #7 enters the substitution zone, and the 2nd referee whistles to recognize the request. Player #7 then immediately runs onto the court, replacing #4 without making eye-contact with the 2nd referee.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Incorrect procedure. Substitutes may enter the match only after being authorized by the 2nd referee. The 2nd referee shall use the “authorization to enter” signal to permit the exchange to take place. Substitutes not following this procedure shall return to the substitution zone and await authorization. Repeating an incorrect substitution procedure may result in a team delay sanction, and the substitution(s) being denied.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 15.5 16.1.1</p>
<p><b>15.21</b> Player #6’s shorts are torn during play and will have to be replaced. The coach requests a substitute who reports to the substitution zone wearing warm-up pants.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Referees must use discretion in cases where substitutions are not pre-planned. The substitute should be permitted to enter, after removing the warm-up pants, without penalty.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 15.5 16.1.1</p>
<p><b>15.22</b> A team requests two substitutions which will result in the 12th and 13th team substitutions.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The 2nd referee allows one substitution, denies the other, and charges the team with an improper request. When a substitution request includes a legal and an improper substitution, the legal substitute may enter the set. In this case, the coach or captain may decide which substitution is preferred, provided this is done without delay.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 15.6a USAV 15.9.1c USAV 15.10.4</p>

<p><b>15.23</b> A#9 substitutes for #5. Later, when Team B is leading 13-11, A#5 substitutes for #7, re-entering the set in a different position in the line-up. The error is discovered two rotations later after A#11 has served for two points, but before Team A loses a rally. The score is 18-14 in favor of Team A.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Positional fault. The illegal substitution (wrong position entry) must be corrected. A#7 must return to the court, and no substitution will be charged. The substitution charged when A#5 entered in the wrong position will be cancelled. The two points scored by Team A during A#11's term of service will be cancelled. Team B is awarded a point and service. The score is now 16-15 in favor of Team A. Team B rotates before the next serve.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 15.6b 15.9.2.3 USAV 15.9.2.4 USAV 15.9.2.3a</p>
<p><b>15.24</b> A#9 substitutes for #5. Later, when Team B is leading 14-11 A#5 substitutes for #7, re-entering the set in a different position. A#11 then serves three points. Team B calls time-out. Team A loses the next rally. B#9 then serves and scores a point. It is then discovered that A#5 entered in a wrong position in the service order. The score is 16-14 in favor of Team B.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Positional fault. Upon the discovery of the wrong position entry, the illegal substitution must be corrected. A#7 must replace #5 on the court. The substitution charged when A#5 re-entered the set is cancelled. Because Team B has already served, no points are cancelled. Team B is not awarded another point since they won the previous rally and were awarded a point and service. The score remains 16-14 in favor of Team B, and B#9 continues serving.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 15.6b 15.9.2.3 USAV 15.9.2.3a</p>

<p><b>15.25</b> During a time-out, #17 suddenly becomes ill, leaves the court, and is unable to continue play at the end of the time-out period. The coach requests a substitution, #10 for #17, but #17 has not returned to court to complete the substitution procedure.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The player’s illness shall be interpreted as an injury, and the 1st referee shall permit the substitution to occur, even though #17 is not present. #10 shall enter the court for #17, and the scorer will record the substitution.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 15.7</p>
<p><b>15.26</b> Team R has used twelve substitutions. R#4 is injured and cannot continue to play.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Even though it would technically result in an excess team substitution, R#4 may be substituted for without penalty under the exceptional substitution provisions.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 15.7</p>
<p><b>15.27</b> S#3 twists an ankle but wishes to continue playing. The captain for Team S requests a special three-minute injury time-out in order for S#3 to recover sufficiently to continue playing.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> If Team S has only six legal players (players that have not been expelled, disqualified, or substituted for by exceptional substitution or Libero re-designation), the special three-minute injury time-out will be granted. Otherwise, the team is permitted a reasonable amount of time to evaluate the injury. If S#3 is to remain in the game and needs more time, the team must take a time-out. If S#3 will not remain in the game or no time-out is available, a legal or exceptional substitution for S#3 must be made.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 17.1.1 17.1.2 15.7</p>

<p><b>15.28</b> The Libero must be used as an exceptional substitution. The Libero does not have a jersey with the same uniform number that matches the rest of the team's players.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The Libero must change to a matching jersey. However, if the Libero used as an exceptional substitute does not have a jersey with the same roster number, then another jersey with a different number, exclusive of the numbers already in use, may be used. Appropriate comments must be included with the information regarding the exceptional substitution in the score sheet Remarks section.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 15.7a 4.3.1</p>
<p><b>15.30</b> A team has six regular players and a Libero. The Libero has replaced #12 when #8 is injured during play. Player #12 enters the substitution zone to substitute for the injured #8.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Incorrect procedure. If player #8 is unable to continue playing, an exceptional substitution must be used. Player #12 must first return to the court for the Libero. After changing to a jersey matching the team's other players, the Libero will re-enter the set as an exceptional substitution for #8.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 15.7 USAV 15.7a</p>
<p><b>15.31</b> A team has six regular players and a Libero. The Libero has replaced #12 when #8 is expelled from the set. Player #12 replaces the Libero. After changing to a matching jersey, the Libero, #17, enters the substitution zone to substitute for the expelled #8.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Correct procedure. When a player is expelled or disqualified, a substitution must occur at the time the penalty is assessed. If no legal substitute exists, the team may use an exceptional substitution for the expelled or disqualified player, or the team may choose to forfeit that set. Because the team does not have any legal substitutes, the Libero may be used as an exceptional substitution to replace the expelled player. If any additional sets remain, the team must play without a Libero. The expelled player, #8 may not return to the match if the team chooses to use an exceptional substitution.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 15.8 6.4.3</p>

<p><b>15.33</b> Team R has only seven players and is not using a Libero. Team R wins the rally, but R#7 is clearly injured as a rally ends. R#10 immediately enters the substitution zone intending to substitute for #9.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Since this is a completed rally, the substitution request by Team R is proper. However, the referees must ignore the request until the injury situation is resolved. Although the substitution of R#10 for #9 may be normal when Team R rotates into this position, it is also possible that the coach of Team R is attempting to gain an advantage should an exceptional substitution be required for R#7. If R#7 is able to continue playing, the request to substitute R#10 for #9 should be acknowledged and completed.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 15.10.3.1 15.7 USAV 17.1.1b</p>
<p><b>15.34</b> Team R has nine players and one Libero and all have played in the set. Team R has used ten substitutions and none of the substitutes currently on the bench, R#3, #8, and #10, have played in the same position as R#7. Team R wins the rally, but R#7 is clearly injured as a rally ends. R#10 and R#8 report to the substitution zone intending to substitute as usual. R#7 is unable to continue playing.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Since this is a completed rally, the substitution request by Team R is proper. However, the referees must ignore the request until the injury situation is resolved. Since there are no substitutes that can legally enter the game in the same position as R#7, Team R's coach requests an exceptional substitution, R#3 for #7. The 2nd referee whistles and acknowledges the exceptional substitution. After R#7 has been safely moved from the court, R#10 and #8 are still waiting to substitute. Although Team R has already requested the exceptional substitution for R#7, this substitution request is also allowed as a regular game interruption. In addition, the exceptional substitution is not counted as a normal substitution, so these substitutions are Team R's 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> substitutions of the set.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 15.10.3a USAV 17.1.1b 15.7</p>



<p><b>15.35</b> As the 2nd referee is checking Team S's line-up, a player becomes ill and runs from the court. Team S's coach turns to the 2nd referee and requests a substitution using the appropriate hand signal.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The coach and captain are allowed to request substitutions in unusual or unexpected situations, including prior to the start of a set, an injured/ill player, a disqualified or expelled player, or a situation in which a team is forced to rotate.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 15.2.1 USAV 15.10.3.1 USAV 15.3.2</p>
<p><b>15.36</b> S#7 enters the substitution zone. While the 2nd referee and scorer are administering the substitution, S#9 reports to the substitution zone to enter the match as well.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Provided there is no significant delay between incoming substitutes, both substitutions will be permitted. If there is a delay by the second substitute, the second substitution shall be denied as an improper request and play will resume immediately.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 15.10.4 USAV 15.10.4</p>
<p><b>15.37</b> After the 1st referee whistles for service, Team R's captain requests a time-out.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The referees should ignore the request. After the rally is completed, the improper request by Team R is noted. If the 2nd referee whistles to acknowledge the request, the 1st referee must assess Team B a delay sanction.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 15.11.1.1 15.11.2</p>
<p><b>15.38</b> The coach from Team R requests a time-out as the 1st referee is preparing to beckon for service. The 2nd referee whistles to acknowledge the request at the same time the 1st referee whistles to authorize service.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> When whistles occur simultaneously, the 1st referee must determine which action occurred first. In this case, the request was just before the 1st referee's whistle for service, and the 2nd referee's whistle was slightly late. The 1st referee should accept the request.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 15.11.1.1</p>

<p><b>15.39</b> Team S requests a substitution that would result in its 13<sup>th</sup> substitution.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The scorer notifies the 2nd referee that Team S has used all of its substitutions. If the 2nd referee has not acknowledged the request by blowing the whistle, the substitution is denied and an improper request is assessed to the team. If the 2nd referee has blown the whistle, the team is assessed a delay sanction.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 15.11.1.4</p>
<p><b>15.40</b> Team R was assessed a delay warning in the first set of a match. In the third set, the coach of Team R requests a third time-out.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> A team's first improper request in a match that does not affect or delay the game shall be rejected without any other consequences, even if the team has received a delay warning. If the 2nd referee has not acknowledged the request, the request is rejected and an improper request by Team R recorded. If the 2nd referee blows the whistle, Team R is assessed a delay penalty.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 15.11.2 USAV 16.1</p>
<p><b>15.41</b> The 1st referee whistles when the ball hits the court of Team S and awards a point and service to Team R. Team R then requests a substitution. During the substitution, the 1st referee is approached by a line judge who states that Team R's attack contacted the antenna. The referee whistles again, and then awards the rally to Team S.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Because of the 1st referee's mind change, the coach of Team R may withdraw the substitution request without penalty. If Team R's coach no longer wants the substitution, it will be removed from the score sheet and the original player returned to the court.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 15.11.2</p>

<p><b>15.53</b> R#5 is sanctioned with a penalty giving Team S point 14. Later in the set, it is determined that Team S had an illegal substitution after having scored point 8.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> During the process of rectifying the illegal player, all of Team S's points scored after 8 are cancelled, but the penalty point associated with the red card to R#5 will be restored. The match will resume with Team S at 9 points.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 15.9.2.3</p>
<p><b>15.55</b> Team B has listed six players and two Liberos on its roster. A Team B player becomes injured on the court and cannot continue to play. Neither of Team B's Liberos is on the court at the time of the injury.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> When neither Libero is on the court at the time of the injury, either Libero may be selected as the exceptional substitute at the team's discretion. The Libero must change jerseys to match the rest of the team. The team will continue with only one Libero.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 15.7a</p>
<p><b>15.56</b> Team B consists of six players and two Liberos for the match. Team B #10 becomes injured and cannot continue to play. Team B's starting Libero is on the court in replacement of #12 at the time of the injury. The second Libero is on the bench.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Team B has two options when a Libero must be used in the exceptional substitution procedure. The second Libero on the bench may be used as the exceptional substitute for injured #10, player #12 returns to the court for the Acting Libero, and the Acting Libero may be used as the exceptional substitute for the injured #10. In either case, the Libero used as an exceptional substitute must change uniforms to match the rest of the team. #10 may not return to the match after being replaced by exceptional substitution.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 15.7a</p>

<p><b>15.57</b> Team B consists of six players and two Liberos for the match. Team B #10 becomes injured on the court. Team B's starting Libero is on court in replacement of #12 at the time of the injury. Team B's coach would like a Libero to replace #10 instead of using an exceptional substitution.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> This would require two Libero replacements during the same dead-ball period, and consequently is not permitted.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.3.2.1</p>
<p><b>15.58</b> Team A receives a delay warning in set 1. In set 2, Team A requests a substitution, #6 for #4. The substitution is denied because #6 is wearing warm-up pants and is not ready to enter the game. A delay penalty is assessed, and while the penalty is being recorded on the score sheet, #6 removes the warm-up pants and enters the substitution zone again.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The substitution is permitted, as long as no further delay occurs. Penalty points are considered as a completed rally, so Team A may make a substitution request after the penalty point is recorded on the score sheet.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 6.1.3 USAV 15.9.1b 16.2.3</p>

## Rule 16: Set Delays

### Type of Delays; Delay Sanctions

<p><b>16.01</b> The 2nd referee blows the whistle to indicate the end of a time-out. Team S promptly moves onto the court, but Team R remains in a huddle near the sideline.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The 1st referee may issue Team R a delay warning. If the team then fails to return to play in a reasonable time, it may be further sanctioned with a delay penalty. The 2nd referee should take an active role in helping to return Team R to the court to avoid any delay sanction.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 16.1.2</p>
<p><b>16.02</b> After completion of a rally, the 1st referee gives the players sufficient time to prepare for the next service. Just before the referee blows the whistle for service, R #5 stops to tie a shoe.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> If in the 1st referee's judgment this was a delay, then a delay sanction should be administered. Shoe tying or floor mopping must be done without delaying the set. The referees should be especially observant when the opponents are serving.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 16.1.5 USAV 1.2.1a</p>
<p><b>16.03</b> After losing a rally, Team R forms a huddle to discuss strategy for the next play.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The 1st referee should allow reasonable time for the players to move to their positions for the next service. The 1st referee may, per the rules, immediately assess Team R a delay sanction. The 1st referee may consider informing the game captain that if the action is repeated, the team will be sanctioned.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 16.1.5</p>

<p><b>16.04</b> A team has been granted two time-outs. Later in the set, the team’s game captain makes a third request for time-out, and it is acknowledged and whistled by the 2nd referee. After the time-out has been granted, the scorer realizes that this is the team’s third time-out and notifies the 2nd referee.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The time-out will be immediately terminated and the 1st referee notified of the error. The 1st referee will inform the game captain that a team delay warning is being assessed since the action created an interruption in play.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 16.1.6 15.11.1.4</p>
<p><b>16.05</b> Team S has used all twelve of its team substitutions. During a dead ball, the 2nd referee recognizes that a substitute is running toward the substitution zone to enter the game.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Good referees understand their role in the flow of the match. Their job is to prevent teams from committing procedural errors whenever possible instead of trying to “catch” a team making a mistake. Good referees facilitate play, providing the players a safe, fair environment. In this spirit, preventing the player from entering the substitution zone, without interrupting the flow of the match, is a correct action by the referee. If the 2nd referee can prevent the substitute from entering the substitution zone and there is no delay, no sanction is assessed. If the substitute enters the zone, but the 2nd referee does not whistle to acknowledge the substitution request, Team S is assessed an improper request. If the 2nd referee acknowledges the request by blowing the whistle, Team S is assessed a delay sanction.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 16.1.6 15.11.2</p>

<p><b>16.06</b> Team R is assessed a delay warning for making an illegal substitution in the first set. In the third set, a Team R substitute enters the substitution zone and is acknowledged and whistled by the 2nd referee, but Team R's coach decides not to complete the substitution.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Delay penalty for Team R. Delay sanctions are in force for the duration of the match. After a delay warning has been assessed in a match, any subsequent delays by the same team in that match must result in a delay penalty.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 16.2.1.1 16.2.3</p>
<p><b>16.07</b> Team A #3 enters the substitution zone, and the 2nd referee whistles the substitution request. A #3 then realizes she is not supposed to substitute into the game until the next rotation, so she returns to the warm-up area.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Delay sanction. Because the R2 recognized (whistled) the substitution before the request was withdrawn, the team is charged with a delay sanction.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 16.1.1 USAV 16.1.6</p>
<p><b>16.08</b> Team A substitutes #16 for #11. As #11 heads for the bench after the completion of the substitution, the coach realizes that the substitution was not supposed to occur until the next rotation. Prior to the 1st referee's authorization for service, the coach sends #11 back into the substitution zone.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Improper request. Once the substitution is completed, the team may not make another substitution request until the next completed rally.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 16.1.1 USAV 16.1.6</p>

## Rule 17: Exceptional Set Interruptions

Injury; External Interference; Prolonged Interruptions

<p><b>17.01</b> Team R attacks a ball that is blocked by S#11 and S#14. S#14 lands and twists an ankle. The ball lands out of bounds and the 1st referee whistles the play dead.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Next serve to Team R. The ball is “out” off of Team S. While the injury technically happened just before the play ended with the referee’s whistle, the injury had no effect upon the result of the play.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 17.1.1</p>
<p><b>17.02</b> Team S’s Libero is legally replaced after a completed rally. During the next rally, back row player S#4 becomes injured and the 1st referee calls a replay. S#4 is unable to continue. The Libero replaces the injured player.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal. A Libero replacement is one of the options allowed in this situation. If S#4 recovers before the Libero is forced to rotate to the front row, S#4 may replace the Libero after any completed rally. If the Libero’s position rotates to the front row, S#4 must replace the Libero, or a legal or exceptional substitution for S#4 must be made.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 17.1.1 19.3.2.1</p>
<p><b>17.03</b> Team R has only six players. In the second set, R#12 is injured and granted a special three-minute injury time-out. Later in the set, R#12 becomes injured again, and the Team R coach requests consecutive time-outs. At the end of the second time-out, R#12 is ready to play. The game resumes.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> This is allowed. The three-minute time-out may only be used once in a match for the same player. However, if a team has available time-outs, it may use them for any reason. If R#12 had been unable to continue after the second time-out, Team R would have been incomplete and would have been defaulted the match.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 17.1.2 17.1.2 USAV 15.7.b 6.4.3</p>



<p><b>17.04</b> Team R attacks the ball while a Team S player stops a ball from entering the court. The attacked ball lands on Team S's court near the player who was pushing the errant ball away.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> If, in the 1st referee's judgment, the ball rolling near the court, although not actually on the court, clearly interfered with play, the rally should be replayed. The 1st referee may take advice from the referee corps.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 17.2</p>
<p><b>17.05</b> As S#5 attacks the ball, a player from another court collides with a player from Team R who was not involved in the play. The ball lands on Team R's court. No Team R player had a play on the ball.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> If, in the referee's judgment, the player coming onto the court did not interfere with play, Team S wins the rally. The 1st referee may take advice from the referee corps.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 17.2</p>
<p><b>17.06</b> After S1 serves the ball, a loose ball rolls onto Team R's court, and then the served ball hits the antenna.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Next service to Team R. The ball hitting the antenna is a service fault. The loose ball on the court did not interfere with play.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 17.2</p>

<p><b>17.07</b> S3 legally contacts the net away from the play and not in the act of playing the ball, causing the net to shake. A whistle is blown on an adjacent court and the 1st referee and several players look at the 2nd referee to see if a fault has been whistled. The ball lands on Team R's court near the sideline, but the 1st referee does not whistle to stop play. The 2nd referee indicates there was no net fault, and the 1st referee signals a replay. The Team S captain says the ball was "in" on Team R's court. Team R's captain states that the team did not play the ball because they heard a whistle.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Improper ruling. If the 1st referee was not sure whether the ball landed in or out, the line judges should be consulted to determine the result of the play. If after consulting with the lines judges, it cannot be determined if the ball landed in or out, a replay may be directed. However, while whistles from adjacent courts are certainly distracting to both referees and players, they do not constitute external interference or an inadvertent whistle. When this occurs and one or more players stop playing, the referees must determine the winner of the rally if at all possible.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 17.2 8.2 USAV 8.2</p>
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<p><b>17.08</b> Water is dripping onto a court. At the end of the first set, the tournament director moves the match to a nearby court and directs the 1st referee to resume play with the beginning of the second set. Team S's captain immediately complains that the entire match has to be replayed since it has been moved to another court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> If a tournament director must move a match for the safe and expeditious completion of the tournament, the match should be continued from the point of the interruption. Since the interruption occurred immediately after the first set had been completed, the match will resume on the nearby court at the beginning of the second set.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 17.3.2.2</p>
<p><b>17.09</b> A back row player on the court becomes injured and cannot continue to play after a reasonable amount of time. The Libero is currently on the bench, and the coach would like the Libero to replace the injured player instead of making a substitution.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal. The team can choose to make a legal Libero replacement for the injured player.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 17.1.1</p>

## Rule 18: Intervals and Change of Courts

### Intervals; Change of Courts

<p><b>18.01</b> Team S scores the final point of the first set and the teams go to their respective end lines to wait for the 1st referee's signal to change courts.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Incorrect procedure. Players do not go to the end line before changing courts at the end of a set. Immediately upon the 1st referee's signal to change courts, the players (on the court) immediately move toward the net post to their right, then pass outside the post (or under the net near the sideline) before going to their new bench area. Other team members change benches in front of the scorer's table.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 18.2.1.1 18.2.1.2 Match Procedures 8a</p>
<p><b>18.02</b> A deciding set is required to determine the winner of a match. Prior to the start of the set, the team captains join the referee at the scorer's table for the coin toss. The remaining players go to their respective team benches.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Correct procedure. If the teams need to change courts prior to the start of a deciding set, team members from both teams will pass in front of the scorer's table. The 2nd referee should assist in this process, and both referees must pay attention for possible unsporting conduct.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 18.2.1 Match Procedures 8c</p>
<p><b>18.03</b> When the referee directs the teams to change courts, substitutes for the team on the 1st referee's left enter the court and switch courts near the 1st referee with the players.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The referees should attempt to prevent this action. Only the players (on the court) change courts near the net post to their right. Substitutes and other team members from both teams change benches in front of the scorer's table. The team may be assessed a delay sanction if the 1st referee feels resumption of play has been delayed, especially if during the court change that occurs midway through the deciding set.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 18.2.1.1 18.2.1.2 Match Procedures 8a Match Procedures 9a&amp;b 16.1.5</p>

<p><b>18.04</b> The 1st referee directs teams to change courts in a deciding set. Team coaches agree that team members on the benches would not change sides but would remain seated on the opponent's side of the net.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Teams must change courts and benches when directed by the 1st referee in a deciding set.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 18.2.2 Match Procedures 9b</p>
<p><b>18.05</b> During a deciding set of a match or playoff, the change of court is made at the incorrect score. A captain protests since the change was not made at the correct point.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Protest denied. If the change is not made at the proper time, it will take place as soon as the error is noticed. The score remains unchanged.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 18.2.2</p>
<p><b>18.06</b> As teams change courts during a deciding set of a match, a player stops at the bench to quickly drink water.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Players should not be allowed to delay the change of courts during the deciding set. If, the 1st referee judges this action or any other action to be a delay in the resumption of play, a delay sanction may be assessed to the player's team.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 18.2.2 16.1.5</p>
<p><b>18.07</b> As teams change sides of the court during the deciding set, players on the team to the 1st referee's left go to the bench to gather their water bottles and bags and attempt to change courts in front of the scorer's table along with the other team members.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Players must change courts near the net post to their right. Only substitutes and other team members from each team change benches in front of the scorer's table. If the 1st referee feels resumption of play has been delayed, the team may be assessed a delay sanction.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 18.2.2 Match Procedures 9b 16.1.5</p>

<p><b>18.08</b> As teams exchange sides of the court during a deciding set, a coach stops a player to give instructions.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Coaching is permissible, but if the 1st referee feels resumption of play has been delayed, a delay sanction may be assessed.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 18.2.2 USAV 5.2.3.4 16.1.2</p>
<p><b>18.09</b> In the deciding set, Team A leads 10-6. The officials then discover that an illegal player has been playing for Team A during the set. After correcting the illegal player, Team B now leads 7-0. The Team A captain requests that the teams switch back to the original sides of the court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Once the teams have switched courts in a deciding set, they will complete the match on those courts.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 18.2.2</p>

## Chapter Six: The Libero Player

### Rule 19: The Libero Player

Designation of the Libero; Equipment; Actions Involving the Libero;  
Re-designation of a New Libero; Expulsion and Disqualification

<p><b>19.01</b> Team S does not designate any Liberos on the line-up sheet for set 1. In set 2, #3 and #9 are listed as the Liberos.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Incorrect procedure. Each team has the right to designate two Liberos for the match, or zero or one Libero each set. Since less than two Liberos were designated for set 1, Team S may designate one or no Libero for subsequent sets, but may not designate two Liberos.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 19.1.1</p> <p>Techniques, Mechanics, &amp; Procedures: Points of Emphasis #6</p> <p>Instructions for Use of the Score Sheet</p>
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<p><b>19.02</b> Team S does not designate any Liberos on the line-up sheet for set 1. The line-up sheet for set 2 shows S#7 as the Libero.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Correct procedure. Each team has the right to designate two Liberos for the match, or zero or one Libero each set. If zero or one Libero is designated, the Libero may be different for each set. If no Libero is listed on the line-up sheet for any set, the 2nd referee and scorer should use preventative officiating and verify with the team's coach or captain that no Liberos will be used.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 19.1.1</p> <p>Techniques, Mechanics, &amp; Procedures: Points of Emphasis #6</p> <p>Instructions for Use of the Score Sheet</p>
<p><b>19.03</b> Team B's coach has designated two Liberos on the line-up sheet for set 1. The line-up sheet for set 2 shows a different number for one of the Liberos.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Incorrect procedure. The designation of two players as Liberos for set 1 is in effect for the entire match. The two Liberos listed on the line-up sheet for set 1 may not be changed unless both are declared unable to play and then another player may be re-designated as the Libero.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 19.1.1</p>
<p><b>19.04</b> The coach submits the team's starting line-up for set 1 and has #11 listed as both the starter in position 1 and one of the Liberos.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The coach must decide if #11 will play as a starting player or the Libero. If #11 will be a starting player, another player may immediately be designated as Libero. If #11 will be the Libero, the line-up must be corrected but only in the starting position where #11 was recorded. No other changes may be made to the line-up.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 7.3.4</p>
<p><b>19.05</b> At the beginning of the match, the 2nd referee checks Team R's line-up and authorizes a Libero to enter the court, noting that the second Libero replaces R5.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Noting the number of the Libero that enters the court at the beginning of a set should be part of the line-up check done by the 2nd referee and scorers. Either Libero may take the court for the first play of the match.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.3.2.3</p>



<p><b>19.06</b> Team S starts the match with no Libero on the court. After Team S loses a rally, the second Libero, whose number is listed in the second box on the line-up sheet, replaces S1.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Correct procedure. Since neither Libero was the court during the previous rally, either may replace a back row player prior to the next service.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.1.3</p>
<p><b>19.07</b> After the 2nd referee has checked a team's line-up at the beginning of set 3, the second Libero, whose number is listed in the second box on the line-up sheet, replaces a back row player.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Correct procedure. Either Libero may replace a back row player at the beginning of any set.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.1.3</p>
<p><b>19.08</b> The Libero's uniform does not have a number.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Illegal uniform. The Libero uniform may have a different design, but it must be numbered like the rest of the team members.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.2 USAV 4.3.3</p>
<p><b>19.09</b> All of Team S's Libereros are injured and unable to play, but the re-designated Libero does not have another shirt that contrasts with the shirts worn by the rest of the team.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The re-designated Libero must either change jerseys or take appropriate and reasonable action to comply with the Libero uniform rules (<i>e.g.</i>, a bib, vest, or jacket). If a bib, vest, or jacket is worn by a re-designated Libero, the jersey number must be visible. The re-designated Libero must keep the same number worn as a regular player.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 19.2b 19.4.2.4</p>



<p><b>19.10</b> All of Team R's Liberos are injured and unable to play and R#7 is re-designated as Libero. Team R's captain requests that R#7 be allowed to change into the jersey of an injured Libero.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The re-designated Libero may NOT wear the jersey of one of the injured Liberos, but must keep the same number worn as a regular player. The re-designated Libero must either change jerseys or take appropriate and reasonable action to comply with the Libero uniform rules (<i>e.g.</i>, a bib, vest, or jacket). If a bib, vest, or jacket is worn by a re-designated Libero, the jersey number must be visible.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 19.2b 19.4.2.6</p>
<p><b>19.11</b> Team A Libero #1 enters the court at the beginning of Set 1, replacing #17. #17 returns for the Libero when her position rotates to the front row when Team A is leading 7-5. Team A #5 serves 2 points and then Team B wins the point. Libero #1 replaces #5, and the assistant scorer then realizes that Team A has only indicated one Libero on the line-up sheet, #2. Team A is leading 9-6.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Since #2 is the only Libero listed on Team A's line-up sheet, Libero #1 was an illegal player. However, all players for Team A were legal during #5's term of service since the Libero was not on the court. Because the referees had to correct the illegal Libero replacement, Team A is assessed a delay sanction. Libero #1 must exit, and Team A has the option of having #5 return to the court or Libero #2 may immediately enter the court (if #2 is not ready to enter, #5 must return to the court). Team B will serve, and the score remains 9-6.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.3.2.9 15.9.2.3</p>

<p><b>19.12</b> While completely in the back zone, Team R’s Libero makes the team’s second contact of a ball that is completely above the height of the net, sending it toward the opponent’s court. R4 contacts the ball before it completely crosses the vertical plane of the net.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal play. Attack-hits involving the Libero become faults only when completed, <i>i.e.</i>, when the ball completely passes beyond the plane of the net or is touched by an opponent.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.3.1.2 19.3.1.4 13.1.3</p>
<p><b>19.13</b> Team S’s Libero, who is in the front zone, contacts the ball using a “beach dig” off of the palms of the hands. S3 attacks the ball while it is completely above the height of the net.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal attack. A player may not complete an attack-hit from higher than the top of the net, if the ball is coming from an overhand finger pass by a Libero in the front zone. However, S3’s attack is legal because the Libero did not use an overhand finger pass. This would also be true if the Libero uses the knuckles, back, or the heel of the hand(s).</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.3.1.4</p>
<p><b>19.14</b> Team R’s Libero makes an overhand finger pass while lying on the court in the front zone. While the ball is completely above the height of the net, R4 attacks the ball into the block of S2.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Attack-hit fault. A player may not complete an attack-hit from higher than the top of the net, if the ball is coming from an overhand finger pass by a Libero in the front zone. Attack-hits involving the Libero become faults when they are considered complete, <i>i.e.</i>, when the ball completely passes beyond the plane of the net or is touched by an opponent.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.3.1.4</p>

<p><b>19.15</b> During the deciding set of a match, after the side change occurs, Team R's Libero, who had been on the bench, is now on the court. No visible replacement was made.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> After the court switch, a time-out, or any other interruption, the players who were on the court at the time of the interruption must return to the court. Then, as the referees and scorers are preparing to resume play, a Libero replacement or exchange may occur. This is to ensure that the assistant scorer observes the action. The 2nd referee should check with the assistant scorer during the interruption to make sure that the correct players return to the court. In this example the 2nd referee should ask the regular player to return to the court, then allow the players to repeat the replacement.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.1.3 24.3.1 A4.1.5</p>
<p><b>19.16</b> Team B's Libero has replaced B#12 and is now in position 5. Team B wins the rally and rotates to serve. The Libero is not replaced by B#12 and remains on the court in position 4. Team B serves and wins the rally. The referees then discover and correct the positional fault. B#12 replaces the Libero on the court. The Libero then immediately returns to the court to replace Team B's last server.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Illegal replacement. Although there was a completed rally, the Libero was on the court illegally. All Team B Liberos must sit out one additional completed rally before replacing another player.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 15.9 19.3.2.1 19.3.2.9</p>

<p><b>19.17</b> A Team R Libero replaces R#3 in the back row. After the Libero passes a served ball poorly and team R loses the rally, Team R replaces the Acting Libero with its second Libero</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal replacement. The coach may replace the Acting Libero with the second Libero for any reason after a completed rally at any time during the match. The second Libero becomes the Acting Libero, and the Acting Libero becomes the second Libero.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.3.2.2</p>
<p><b>19.19</b> A team substitutes a serving specialist, #6, for a middle blocker, #8. After the team loses a rally, a Libero replaces #6. Several rallies later when the Acting Libero's position rotates into the front row, #8 replaces the Acting Libero.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Illegal replacement. If the team recognizes the illegal replacement and requests a substitution, #8 for #6, before the 1st referee authorizes service, the substitution is allowed. If the team does not correct the illegal replacement, but the officials notice it before the serve is executed, the officials will rectify the illegal replacement and the team will be sanctioned for delay. If the illegal replacement is not noticed and the player serves before it is corrected, the consequences are the same as for an illegal substitution.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.3.2.2 19.3.2.9</p>
<p><b>19.21</b> S1 serves the ball and then runs off the court. At the same time a Team S Libero runs onto the court to replace S1 while the rally is in progress.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Illegal replacement. Libero replacements can only occur at the beginning of a set after the line-up has been checked or after a completed rally. In this case, the 1st referee will whistle and indicate a positional fault on Team S.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.3.2.3</p>

<p><b>19.22</b> Before the 2nd referee checks a team's line-up at the beginning of the second set, a Libero replaces a back row player.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The starting player must be on the court at the time of the line-up check. The back row player must quickly replace the Libero. After checking the line-up, the 2nd referee will authorize the Libero replacement. If this delays the game, a delay sanction may be assessed.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.3.2.3 24.3.1</p>
<p><b>19.23</b> Team R's Acting Libero replaces R#2 and is now in position 5. Team R wins the rally and rotates. R#2 replaces the Acting Libero. Team R then requests a substitution, #7 for #2.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The Libero replacement and subsequent substitution are legal. There may only be one substitution request between two rallies. However, Libero replacements are not substitutions.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.3.2 19.3.2.8 15.3.2</p>
<p><b>19.24</b> After the 1st referee whistles to authorize service, but before contact of ball by the server, a Team S Libero runs onto the court to replace one of the back-row players.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> If the 1st referee determines that Team S players were not in proper position at the moment of the service hit, Team S has committed a positional fault, and a point and service are awarded to Team R. If the players were in the correct positions, the 1st referee should allow the rally to continue uninterrupted. After the rally, the 1st referee must issue a verbal warning to the team captain (provided no previous delay sanctions have been assessed to Team S during this match). However, if the replacement had been made after the service hit, the 1st referee would immediately whistle and indicate a positional fault by Team S.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.3.2.5</p>

<p><b>19.25</b> Team R's Acting Libero, replaces #17. The Libero becomes ill and cannot continue playing. Team R's second Libero and another player, #20, are on the bench.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> When a team has designated two Liberos and the Acting Libero is ill or injured, the second Libero becomes the Acting Libero. The second Libero or the player the Libero replaced, R#17, may replace the ill Acting Libero on the court. If both Liberos become ill or injured, another player may be re-designated as Libero. If re-designation occurs, it is for the remainder of the match, and the original Liberos may not re-enter the match.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.4.2.2</p>
<p><b>19.26</b> Team S designates two Liberos at the beginning of the match. One of Team S's Liberos becomes ill and cannot complete the match. Later in the match, Team S's remaining Libero replaces S#7. The Libero becomes injured and cannot continue playing. S#7 and #10, who was in the set earlier for #12, are on the bench.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> When a team's only Libero is injured while on the court, the injury situation must first be addressed. The player whom the Libero replaced, S#7, must return to the court for the injured Libero before any re-designation can take place. Since both of its Liberos are ill or injured, Team S may re-designate another player as Libero using any player not on the court at the time of the re-designation. This re-designation does not have to occur immediately. In this situation, only S#10 (or #12 if #10 has substituted for #12 at the time of re-designation) is eligible to be re-designated as Libero. If re-designation occurs, it is for the remainder of the match, and the original Liberos may not re-enter the match.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.4.3 19.4.2.1</p>

<p><b>19.27</b> Team R designates one Libero at the beginning of the match. Team R's Libero replaces R#9. The Libero becomes injured and cannot continue playing. R#9 and #13, who was in the set earlier for #14, are on the bench.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> When a team's only Libero is injured while on the court, the injury situation must first be addressed. The player whom the Libero replaced, R#9, must return to the court for the injured Libero before any re-designation can take place. Since the only Libero is ill or injured, Team R may re-designate another player as Libero using any player not on the court at the time of the re-designation. This re-designation does not have to occur immediately. In this situation, only R#13 (or #14 if #13 has substituted for #14 at the time of re-designation) is eligible to be re-designated as Libero. If re-designation occurs, it is for the remainder of the set, and the original Libero may not re-enter the match.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.4.2.1</p>
<p><b>19.28</b> All of a team's Liberos are ill or injured and another player is re-designated as Libero. The re-designated Libero is injured later in the match.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Another re-designation may take place if there is an eligible player. There is no limit on the number of re-designations. If re-designation occurs, it is for the remainder of the match, and no previous Libero may re-enter the match.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.4.3 19.4.2.2</p>

<p><b>19.29</b> A team's Libero is expelled.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> If a Libero is expelled from the set or disqualified from the match while on the court, the Acting Libero must be replaced by the second Libero or the player whom the Libero replaced. If the Libero is on the bench at the time of the sanction, no further action is necessary. If expelled, the Libero may play in the next set. If disqualified, the Libero may not participate for the remainder of the match. If a team's only Libero is expelled or disqualified, the team may choose to re-designate another Libero. If re-designation occurs, it is for the remainder of the match, and the original Libero may not re-enter the match.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.5 19.4.1 19.4.2.1</p>
<p><b>19.30</b> A team's only Libero is disqualified. The team's coach wants to re-designate another player as Libero.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Since the team started with only one Libero and that player is no longer able to play, another player may then be re-designated as Libero. A Libero may become unable to play if injured, ill, expelled or disqualified or can be declared unable to play for any reason. The original Libero may not play for the remainder of the match.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.4.1 19.4.2.1</p>
<p><b>19.31</b> A team has designated two Liberors. One of the Liberors is wearing a red jersey; the other dark blue. The regular players are wearing white jerseys.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal. The two Liberors do not need to wear matching uniforms. The only requirement is that they contrast in color with that of the regular players.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.2d</p>



<p><b>19.32</b> One of Team R's Liberos has replaced R#6 on the court. After Team R loses a rally, Team R's second Libero replaces the Acting Libero.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal replacement. Either the second Libero or R#6 may replace the Acting Libero after the completed rally.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.3.2.1 19.3.2.2</p>
<p><b>19.33</b> A Team R player is injured, and the 1st referee stops play and signals a replay. Before the 1st referee whistles and authorizes serve, Team R replaces the Acting Libero with its second Libero</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Illegal replacement. The Acting Libero may only be replaced after a completed rally, unless the Acting Libero becomes unable to play, causing the replay.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.3.2.1 19.3.2.9</p>
<p><b>19.34</b> One of Team R's Libero's has replaced R#11 and is in position 5. Team R wins the rally and the Libero's position rotates to the first row. R#11 replaces the Acting Libero. At the same time, Team R's second Libero replaces R#4 in position 6.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Illegal Libero replacement. R#11 must replace the Acting Libero since the position has rotated to the front row. However, there must be another completed rally before either Libero may replace another player. Note there is an exception if the second Libero was replacing the player in position 1 and is the next correct server.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 19.3.2.1 19.3.2.9</p>

<p><b>19.35</b> Team B has designated two Liberos for the match. The Acting Libero becomes injured on the court. Team B would like to re-designate another Libero in order to continue the match with two Liberos.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The team may not re-designate another Libero. A team that has designated two Liberos for the match will continue with only one Libero if the starting or second Libero becomes ill or injured. A team may re-designate a Libero only in the case when the team has been reduced to NO Libero(s) through injury or illness. If re-designation occurs, it is for the remainder of the match, and the original Libero(s) may not re-enter the match.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.4.3.1</p>
<p><b>19.36</b> A team has designated two Liberos. During the match, one of the Liberos is <b>disqualified</b>. Later in the match, the other Libero is injured and the team's coach wants to declare the injured Libero unable to continue and re-designate another player as Libero.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Request accepted. The injured Libero may not return to the match.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.4.1.1 19.4.3</p>
<p><b>19.37</b> The coach for Team B designates player #27 as Libero for set 1. On the line-up sheet for set 2, the coach has player #33 listed as Libero. The 2nd referee notifies the 1st referee after completing the courtesy line-up check at the beginning of set 2 that Team B has changed their Libero.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Since only one Libero was designated in the first set of the match, the team has the option of changing the Libero for subsequent sets. It is extremely important that this information is communicated to the 1st referee. The 2nd referee should notify the 1st referee prior to the beginning of the set when a team has designated a different Libero.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.1.1</p>

<p><b>19.38</b> The coach for Team B designates players #27 and #33 as Liberos on the set 1 line-up sheet. On the line-up sheet for set 2 the coach lists player #33 as Libero and #27 as a regular player. The 2nd referee notifies the 1st referee after completing the courtesy line-up check at the beginning of set 2 that Team B has changed their Liberos.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Both the coach and the referees are incorrect. Since two Liberos were designated in the first set of the match, the team must play with those two players as Libero for all subsequent sets, and neither may play as a regular player except through the exceptional substitution process in the case of an injury to a teammate. In this case, the 2nd referee should remind the coach that both #27 and #33 were listed as Liberos in the first set, so both #27 and #33 will remain as Liberos for the entire match. Since the line-up has been submitted, a legal substitution must be made for #27.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.1.1</p>
<p><b>19.39</b> Team R's Libero moves into position to play a second ball with one foot in the front zone and one foot behind the three-meter line. Just before contacting the ball, the Team R Libero lifts the foot that was in the front zone, and with one foot still in contact with the floor behind the three-meter line, makes an overhand finger pass to her teammate, R3, who attacks the ball which is entirely higher than the top of the net. The ball lands on the court of Team S.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Since the last point of contact with the playing surface for Team R's Libero was outside the front zone, this is a legal play. Point to Team R.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.3.1.4</p>

<p><b>19.40</b> Team R’s Libero makes an overhand finger pass from her knees while her knees are in the front zone but her feet are behind the three-meter line. While the ball is entirely higher than the height of the net, R4 attacks the ball into the block of S2.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Attack-hit fault. A player may not complete an attack hit from higher than the top of the net if the ball is coming from an overhand finger pass by a Libero in the front zone. In the spirit of the rule, if any part of the Libero’s body is in contact with their front zone, the Libero is considered to be in their front zone. Attack-hits involving the Libero become faults when they are considered complete, i.e., when the ball completely passes beyond the plane of the net or it is legally touched by an opponent.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.3.1.4</p>
<p><b>19.41</b> The coach for Team A designates player #13 as Libero for set 2. When the 2nd referee checks the line-up at the start of the set, it is discovered that Team A does not have a #13 on their roster. The 2nd referee informs the coach that they have listed #13 as the Libero on the line-up sheet, and the coach requests to re-designate player #33 as Libero.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal request. The coach has the option of declaring a Libero unable to play <b>for any reason</b>, including this situation where the Libero number listed on the line-up sheet does not appear on their roster. This simply becomes a “phantom” re-designation, similar to a phantom substitution when the line-up sheet has a non-rostered number listed as a regular player.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.4 7.3.5.2</p>

<p><b>19.42</b> The colors of a team's primary jerseys are red, white, and blue. The three colors are used equally on the panels of the jerseys, excluding trim on the collar and sleeves. The team's Libero wears a solid red jersey, which is the same red color used on the team's primary jerseys.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Illegal combination. The fact that each color makes up approximately one-third of the jersey makes each a dominant color of that jersey, and the Libero jersey must clearly contrast with all of the dominant colors.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 19.2</p>
<p><b>19.43</b> A team's jersey's are tie-dyed with red and blue colors. The Libero is wearing a blue jersey that is the same blue color used in the tie-dyed jerseys.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> This is likely an illegal combination, as both colors used in the tie-dyed jerseys would be considered dominant colors. There may be cases where a tie-dyed jersey looks to be dominantly one color, and in that case, it may be that a Libero jersey of the less than dominant color would be allowable.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 19.2</p>
<p><b>19.44</b> In Rotation 2, the Team S Libero moves from position 5 to position 1 and prepares to serve the ball. After the 1st referee beckons for service, the Libero realizes this is not the rotation where she wishes to serve. She does not serve the ball, and the 1st referee whistles and signals an 8-second service violation. Later in the match when the team is in Rotation 5, the Libero moves from position 5 to position 1 and serves the ball.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Illegal Libero replacement. The Libero already established her serving position earlier in the set. Even though she did not contact the ball for service, she made a legal replacement for the player in position 1 and there was a completed rally which resulted in an illegal service (delay in service). If the referees notice the illegal replacement when it happens, they should correct the illegal replacement and issue a delay sanction.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 19.3.2.1 19.3.2.9</p>

<p><b>19.45</b> In Rotation 2, the Team S Libero enters the court from the bench and prepares to serve the ball. After the 1st referee beckons for service, the Libero realizes this is not the rotation where she wishes to serve. She does not serve the ball, and the 1st referee whistles and signals an 8-second service violation. Later in the match when the team is in Rotation 5, the Libero moves from position 5 to position 1 and serves the ball.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Illegal Libero replacement. The Libero already established her serving position earlier in the set. Even though she did not contact the ball for service, she made a legal replacement for the player in position 1 and there was a completed rally which resulted in an illegal service (delay in service). If the referees notice the illegal replacement when it happens, they should correct the illegal replacement and issue a delay sanction.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 19.3.2.1</p>
<p><b>19.46</b> Team A makes an illegal Libero replacement, and the 2nd referee notices the illegal replacement before the serve is contacted.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The 2nd referee should whistle to prevent the serve and to correct the illegal replacement. Team A will be assessed a delay sanction.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.3.2.9</p>
<p><b>19.47</b> Team A rotates, and the Libero and #7 complete a Libero Replacement. They then realize that #7 is still in the back row and quickly switch back.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Although the rule states that there must be one completed rally between two Libero replacements, this was an obvious mistake and should not be counted as a fault as long as there is no delay.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 19.3.2.1</p>

## Libero Service

<p><b>19.51</b> No Team A Libero is on the court. Team A wins a rally and rotates. Libero #11 replaces #4 in position 1 and prepares to serve. L#11 and #4 both pass through the Libero replacement zone.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Proper procedure. In one rotation (one position on the score sheet), a Libero is allowed to replace the player in position 1 and serve.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 19.3.1.3b USAV 19.3.2.1</p>
<p><b>19.52</b> Team A's Libero #11 has replaced #4 in position 5. No Libero has served in the set. #7 is in position 2. Team A wins a rally and rotates. L#11 moves to position 1 and prepares to serve. #4 re-enters the court from the bench and #7 leaves the court, both passing through the Libero replacement zone.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Proper procedure. When moving to position 1 to serve, the Libero is not required to leave the court and there need not be a completed rally between Libero replacements. Two Libero replacements must be recorded on the Libero control sheet, one each involving players #4 and #7. This is an exception to the rule that allows only one Libero replacement during a dead ball.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 19.3.1.3b USAV 19.3.2.1</p>
<p><b>19.53</b> Team A has designated two Liberos on the line-up sheet: #11 and #21. L#11 has replaced #4 in position 5. #7 is in position 2. No Libero has served in the set. Team A wins a rally and rotates. #4 replaces L#11 in position 4 and L#21 replaces #7 in position 1 and prepares to serve. Both replacements occur in the Libero replacement zone.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Proper procedure. A team with two designated Liberos may exchange Liberos freely after a completed rally. Two Libero replacements must be recorded on the Libero control sheet. This is an exception to the rule that allows only one Libero replacement during a dead ball since L#11 could have legally moved to position 1 to serve, but then been replaced by L#21.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 19.3.1.3b USAV 19.3.2.1 19.3.2.2</p>

<p><b>19.54</b> Team A has designated two Liberos on the line-up sheet: #11 and #21. L#11 has served in rotation 1 on the score sheet. Both Liberos are on the bench. Team A wins a rally and rotates. L#21 replaces the player in rotation 4 on the score sheet and prepares to serve.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Rotational fault when L#21 serves. When a team has designated two Liberos, the Liberos may only serve in one rotation (one position on the score sheet) for each set. Although the scorer or assistant scorer may notice the impending fault, since the replacement was technically a legal replacement, no fault has occurred until the ball is contacted for serve. At that point, the scorer will notify the 2nd referee of the wrong server.</p> <p>Having entered from the bench, L#21 may stay on the court.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 7.1.1 USAV 19.3.1.3b</p>
<p><b>19.55</b> Team A has designated two Liberos on the line-up sheet: #11 and #21. L#11 serves 3 points. L#21 then exchanges with L#11 and prepares to serve.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Legal action. Liberos may freely exchange with one another after a completed rally.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 19.3.1.3b 19.3.2.2</p>
<p><b>19.56</b> Team A rotates and #7 moves to position 1 to serve. Libero #21 replaces #7 with both players moving directly between the service zone and the warm-up area.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Improper Libero replacement procedure. All Libero replacements and exchanges must occur in the Libero replacement zone. The referees will verbally warn the team for the first occurrence and may issue a delay sanction if a team continues to use improper procedure.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 19.3.1.3b 19.3.2.7</p>



<p><b>19.57</b> The Libero for Team A has replaced #3, who is opposite #8. When #3's position is in left back and #5 should be serving, the Libero moves to right back and prepares to serve. #3 returns to the court in left front, and #8 exits. #5 is incorrectly positioned in right front. The Libero serves the ball, and the scorer notifies the 2nd referee that #5 should have served. Team B receives the point and service, and the 2nd referee corrects Team A's lineup. In the next rotation, the team repeats the double replacement, and the Libero serves for #8.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Correct procedure. The Libero's serving position is established when the Libero serves after replacing the player in position 1. Although the Libero served the ball when #5 should have served, the Libero was not on the court in replacement of #5. The Libero was simply a wrong server. The scorer should not triangle the service order Roman numeral unless the Libero is serving for the player he or she replaced.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 19.3.1.3b</p>
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## Chapter Seven: Participants' Conduct

### Rule 20: Requirements of Conduct Sportsmanlike Conduct; Fair Play

<p><b>20.01</b> The Team R captain continually questions the 1st referee's calls and asks for an explanation as to why the call was made. The 1st referee responds to each request, which periodically results in a delay to the resumption of play.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The 1st referee should not allow such action. When it becomes apparent that such action is going to occur frequently, the 1st referee may warn the captain. If the captain continues to question the referee's calls, the 1st referee should call the captain to the stand and assess a warning to the captain and team by showing a yellow card.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 20.1.1 USAV 20.1.1 21.1</p>
<p><b>20.02</b> R#6, who is not the captain, continually gives the 1st referee demonstrative "illegal hit" signals when S#3 sets the ball.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The action by R#6 is intended to influence the 1st referee's decisions and may be sanctioned with a verbal warning, a yellow card warning, or with a misconduct penalty if the action continues.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 20.1.3 20.2.1 21.1 21.2.1</p>
<p><b>20.03</b> Team S attacks a ball which lands out of bounds on Team R's side of the net. The 1st referee scans the line judges and 2nd referee to see if any are signaling that the ball was touched by a Team R player before landing out. No touch signal is being shown. R#4 approaches the 1st referee and admits to touching the ball while blocking.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> When a player admits a fault to a referee, the referee should accept this "honor call" in the spirit of fair play.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 20.2.1</p>

<p><b>20.04</b> Prior to each serve by Team S, Team R players yell “Serve!” The coach from Team S complains that the Team R players are trying to distract his servers.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> This is legal communication among teammates. If the 1st referee feels a team’s pre-service communications are intended to distract the opposing team or server, a verbal warning or sanction may be issued to the captain.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 20.2.2 20.2.1 21.1</p>
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### Rule 21: Misconduct and Its Sanctions

Minor Misconduct; Misconduct Leading to Sanctions; Sanction Scale; Application of Misconduct Sanctions; Misconduct Before and Between Sets; Sanction Cards

<p><b>21.01</b> At the end of a rally in the first set, R#6 shows frustration after losing the rally by tugging on the bottom of the net.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Minor unsporting acts by a team member are not subject to sanction but should be the object of a verbal warning. Any team member may receive more than one verbal warning during a match</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 21.1</p>
<p><b>21.02</b> R#11 has been sanctioned with a penalty. Later in the same match, R#11 is guilty of minor misconduct unrelated to the penalty assessed earlier.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Minor misconduct offenses are not subject to sanction. The 1st referee should verbally warn R#11.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 21.1</p>
<p><b>21.03</b> S#8 has been expelled. Later in the match, S#13 is guilty of minor misconduct.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Misconduct sanctions are strictly individual sanctions, and shall not take into account previous sanctions given to other members of the same team. Therefore, the 1st referee may issue warnings or penalties to other team members after a teammate has been expelled or disqualified.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 21.1 21.4.1</p>

<p><b>21.04</b> A frustrated player kicks a ball after a rally has ended. Or, a player hits a ball well after a referee's whistle has ended a rally.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The 1st referee must determine the severity of actions such as these and issue a warning or sanction. It is possible that a warning to the player or team is appropriate. However, if the action is dangerous to players, officials, or spectators, the 1st referee should judge this to be rude conduct and sanction the player with a penalty. In addition, if the referee judges the player has intentionally directed the ball toward an opponent, official, or spectator, the player may be sanctioned with disqualification for aggression.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 21.2 21.4.3</p>
<p><b>21.05</b> R#4 is attempting to move to a position to save a ball falling near the net. S#12 ducks under the net and yells at R#4 in such a manner that R#4 is distracted but still able to save the ball.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The 1st referee should stop play and immediately penalize S#12 for rude conduct. Point and service to Team R.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 21.2.1 20.2.1</p>
<p><b>21.06</b> S#3 is attempting to save a ball falling near the boundary line when R#21 yells "Out!" S#3, thinking it was a teammate yelling, allows the ball to fall onto a boundary line.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> As soon as R#21 yelled, this action became rude conduct. The 1st referee should stop play immediately and assess a penalty to R 21. Point and service to Team S.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 21.2.1 20.2.1</p>

<p><b>21.08</b> At the end of a rally, Team S#13, who is seated on the bench, does not like a judgment decision by the 1st referee and makes an insulting gesture toward the 1st referee.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Insulting words or gestures by a team member are subject to sanction by expulsion. An expelled player must remain seated on the bench, and any other expelled team member must leave the playing area, bench, and warm-up area for the remainder of the set.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 21.2.2 21.3.2.1 USAV 21.3.2.1</p>
<p><b>21.09</b> R#3 was disqualified from the match and was in the vicinity of the team bench picking up belongings and putting on warm-ups one minute later.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> As long as the team member was not creating any problems and was preparing to depart the area, the referee should ignore the team member and continue play.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 21.3.3.1 USAV 21.3.3.1</p>
<p><b>21.10</b> S#2 has been disqualified from the match but is standing behind the bench. Two rallies later, the 1st referee notices S#2 has not left the area.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The 1st referee should call the team captain to the stand and remind the captain of the requirement for S#2 to depart the Competition Control Area, which includes the playing area, bench, warm-up area, and spectator area. The captain should be given an additional short time to have S#2 depart or a default of the match will be declared.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 21.3.3.1 USAV 21.3.3.1</p>
<p><b>21.11</b> R#6 uses insulting language toward an opponent. R#6 has not received any previous verbal warnings or sanctions in the match.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The referees should normally try to prevent teams and players from reaching the sanctioning level. However, should a clear case of offensive conduct be committed, the 1st referee must expel the player without regard to previous sanctions.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 21.3.2.2 21.4.3</p>

<p><b>21.12</b> As teams change courts between sets, S#5 makes an unsporting remark to R#3. R#3 then uses profanity toward S#5. The referees assess both players with a red card penalty. After the set interval, both players return to the court with their teams.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Unsporting conduct between sets is penalized at the beginning of the next set. When opponents are issued a red card penalty for simultaneous unsporting acts, the serving team player is penalized first, followed by the receiving team player. In this case, the 2nd referee verifies the line-ups as usual. The penalty to S#5 is assessed resulting in a point and service to Team R. Team R rotates one position, and then the penalty for R#3 is assessed. Team S is awarded a point and service, and the Team S player listed in position 2 on the line-up sheet is the first server of the set with a score of 1-1.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 21.5 21.2.1 21.3.1</p>
<p><b>21.13</b> During set 2, the captain for Team R is assessed a yellow card warning for complaining to the 1st referee about judgment calls. Later in the same set, the coach makes a similar complaint (one that would normally receive a yellow card warning) about a judgment call.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Since each <b>team</b> can only receive one yellow card warning per match, and Team R has already been assessed a yellow card in this match, the 1st referee assesses the coach with an Individual Red Card (penalty) for unsporting conduct.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 21.1</p>

<p><b>21.14</b> During set 1, player #45 for Team S is assessed a red card penalty for yelling profanity through the net at the opponents. In the second set, player #45 makes a minor complaint (one that would normally be sanctioned with a yellow card warning) about a judgment call.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Even though Team S has not been assessed a yellow card warning in the match and the misconduct is minor in nature, the 1st referee must expel player #45 by showing the yellow and red cards together since the individual player already reached the sanctioning level earlier in the match.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 21.4.2</p>
<p><b>21.15</b> During set 1, player #45 for Team A is assessed a red card penalty for yelling profanity through the net at the opponents. In the second set, Team A player #22 makes a minor complaint (one that would normally be sanctioned with a yellow card warning) about a judgment call.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Since Team A has not been sanctioned with a yellow card warning in the match, and the misconduct is very minor in nature AND by a different player than the one who was assessed the red card in the first set, the 1st referee assess a yellow card warning to #22.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 21.1, 21.4.2</p>
<p><b>21.16</b> With the score tied at 10-10, the captain for Team A is assessed a red card penalty for unsporting conduct. Later in the same set with the score 15-15 and Team A serving, it is discovered that Team B had an illegal player enter the set when the score was 5-5.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Since Team B had an non-registered player enter the set with the score 5-5, all points scored since the non-registered player entered will be canceled back to 5. However, since Team A was sanctioned with a red card penalty AFTER the illegal player entered the court, that penalty point will be restored to Team B. So the score will now be 15-6 and Team A continues to serve.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 7.3.5.4, 21.3.1</p>

# SECTION II – THE REFEREES, THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES, AND OFFICIAL HAND SIGNALS

## Chapter Eight: Referees

### Rule 22: Refereeing Corps and Procedures

Composition; Procedures

<p><b>22.01</b> At a junior tournament, the coach of the team assigned to provide a 2nd referee, two line judges, a scorer, and an assistant scorer for the match wants to allow players time to eat and does not want to provide an assistant scorer for the match.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> An assistant scorer is compulsory for all matches. It is also recommended that someone other than the scorer or assistant scorer operate the visual scoreboard.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 22.1 USAV 26.2.2.4</p>
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### Rule 23: 1st referee

Location; Authority; Responsibilities

<p><b>23.01</b> During a match, a line judge repeatedly makes incorrect calls and uses improper mechanics which confuse the teams and the other officials.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The 1st referee must have a thorough pre-match discussion with the line judges to ensure that they are familiar with proper mechanics and procedures. If a line judge does not perform his/her functions properly, especially after thorough instructions, the line judge (or any member of the officiating crew) may be replaced provided a suitable replacement is available.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 23.2.1</p>
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<p><b>23.03</b> The 1st referee identifies a position fault by the receiving team while scanning the court prior to the beckon for service.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> This call should be the responsibility of the 2nd referee, but the 1st referee may need to assist when the 2nd referee is not a certified referee. If there is significant concern by the 1st referee that the 2nd referee is not identifying the positional fault, the 1st referee should attempt to discreetly inform the 2nd referee of the fault. After attempting to communicate the fault to the 2nd referee, the 1st referee may make this call if the 2nd referee does not whistle the fault.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 23.2.1 24.3.2.2</p>
<p><b>23.04</b> S3 attacks a ball. R2 is near the net and jumps, but is not reaching higher than the net at the time of contact with the ball. R1 passes the ball to R2, who sets the ball to R4. R4 attacks the ball to the floor of Team S's court. The 1st referee awards a point and service to Team S and signals four hits on Team R. The Team R captain questions the decision, and the 1st referee explains that R2 was not reaching higher than the top of the net and the contact was the first team hit. The captain disagrees and lodges a protest, stating that since R2 jumped, the contact was a block, regardless of whether R2 was reaching higher than the net.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Although the 1st referee has correctly explained the rule, the captain is protesting a rule interpretation, not the 1st referee's judgment. The 1st referee must accept this protest, regardless of the degree of confidence in predicting the resulting ruling.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 23.2.4</p>

<p><b>23.05</b> Prior to authorizing the serve, the 1st referee notices that a videographer has set up a camera on a tripod in the free zone in the corner of the court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The 1st referee is responsible for determining before and during the match whether the playing area equipment and the conditions meet playing requirements. Both referees should frequently survey the court to make sure the playing area and the area surrounding it is safe and free of obstructions including ball bags, player equipment, spectator belongings, trash, etc. This should be done during warm-ups, before the match, during time-outs and the intervals between sets, and between rallies.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 23.2.5</p>
<p><b>23.06</b> After the match, the 1st referee reviews the score sheet.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> At the end of the match, some of the things the 1st referee is responsible for are: reviewing the score sheet for accuracy, verifying the results, and finally, signing the score sheet.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 23.3.3</p>

### Rule 24: 2nd referee

Location; Authority; Responsibilities

<p><b>24.01</b> The 2nd referee, who is positioned on the receiving team's side of the court in preparation for the next rally, looks through the net and notices two front-row players on the serving team are out of position.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The 2nd referee may only whistle and signal a positional fault on the receiving team. In this case, the 2nd referee may offer a discreet signal to assist the 1st referee prior to contact of the serve. Prior to the match, the referees should discuss the technique that each referee will use to notify the other referee of a positional fault by the opposing team.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 24.2.2 24.3.2.2</p>
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<p><b>24.02</b> During a match, the 2nd referee notices that the scorer has made numerous errors while recording information. These errors have made the score sheet inaccurate.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Although the 2nd referee has primary communication with the scorer, any concerns with the scorer’s ability to record match information should be reported to the 1st referee. The 2nd referee may recommend that the scorer be replaced. Prior to the match, the first and 2nd referee should ensure that the scorer has been properly instructed in the use of the USAV score sheet. This will reduce the likelihood of errors during the match. Also, the 2nd referee should maintain consistent communication with the scorer during the course of the match in order to quickly identify any scoring concerns.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 24.2.3</p>
<p><b>24.05</b> While checking the Team R line-up prior to the first set, the 2nd referee fails to notice that #20 is on the court in position 2 instead of #12. Team R wins the first rally, and when R #20 rotates and serves, the scorer calls “Wrong server!” The captain for Team R protests that the 2nd referee should have corrected this at the start of the set.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Protest is not accepted. Although an alert 2nd referee and scorer would have identified this immediately and taken appropriate action with the team to correct it, the coach and captain still have the primary responsibility to ensure that the correct players are on the court in their correct positions. The 2nd referee’s line-up check prior to any set is a courtesy.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 24.3.1</p>

<p><b>24.06</b> During a rally, the 2nd referee determines that S5 participated in a collective block with S2.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The first and 2nd referees share responsibility for determining the blocking faults of back-row players. The 2nd referee may whistle this fault if certain a fault has occurred. The 2nd referee should discreetly signal the fault to the 1st referee; but the 2nd referee should also be prepared to whistle this violation if the 1st referee does not recognize the fault or notice the 2nd referee's assistance. This should be included in the referees' pre-match discussion.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 24.3.2.4 USAV 24.3.2.4</p>
<p><b>24.07</b> The 2nd referee is certain that S6 has committed an attack-hit fault.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The first and 2nd referees share responsibility for determining the attack-hit faults of back-row players. The 2nd referee may whistle this fault if certain a fault has occurred. The 2nd referee should discreetly signal the fault to the 1st referee; but, the 2nd referee should also be prepared to whistle this violation if the 1st referee does not recognize the fault or notice the 2nd referee's assistance. This should be included in the referees' pre-match discussion.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 24.3.2.4</p>

<p><b>24.08</b> A player attempts to make a “pancake” save on a ball near the floor. The 2nd referee is watching the play and is certain that the ball contacts the floor.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Although the 2nd referee is authorized to whistle when the 1st referee is not in position to see the contact of the ball with the floor, the preferred technique is to assist the 1st referee with this call. The 2nd referee should step to the side of the court where the ball contacted the court, maintain a position visible to the 1st referee, and signal “in.” It may be necessary to take another step and repeat the signal again. If the 1st referee still does not recognize the assistance, the 2nd referee should whistle the fault. This should be included in the referees’ pre-match discussion.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 24.3.2.6</p> <p>Techniques, Mechanics, &amp; Procedures: 20f</p>
<p><b>24.09</b> A third team hit a) touches, b) crosses over, or c) crosses completely outside the antenna on the 2nd referee’s side of the court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> In all cases (a, b and c), the 2nd referee should immediately whistle, step to the offending team’s side of the net, and then signal “out.” There is no need to further clarify the signal by pointing to the antenna. The nature of the play suggests that if a referee whistles and signals “out” while the ball is otherwise still in play, the antenna must be the nature of the fault. It may be necessary to indicate the player that hit the ball into the antenna before the 1st referee awards point and service to the appropriate team.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 24.3.2.7</p> <p>Techniques, Mechanics, &amp; Procedures: 24</p>

<p><b>24.10</b> During a rally, a team's third hit completely crosses the net outside the antenna behind the 1st referee</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Each referee is responsible for whistling and signaling a ball that has crossed the net totally or partially outside the crossing space on the referee's side of the court. In this case, the 2nd referee may assist the 1st referee, if requested, by discreetly signaling "out" to the 1st referee. The 1st referee should turn on the stand in order to view a ball that may cross the net outside the crossing space, or to view the legality of the contact with the ball.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 24.3.2.7</p>
<p><b>24.11</b> After the match, the 2nd referee reviews the score sheet.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> At the end of the match, some of the things the 2nd referee is responsible for are: reviewing the score sheet for accuracy and verifying the results. The 2nd referee does not sign the score sheet.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USA V 24.3.3</p>
<p><b>24.12</b> The Team A coach asks how many time-outs they have used, and the 2nd referee tells them they have only used one time-out. The coach calls a time-out, and the 2nd referee whistles and acknowledges the time-out. The scorer then informs the 2nd referee that the team had already used two time-outs.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The 2nd referee should immediately whistle to end the time-out and get the teams back on the court. The team is not assessed a delay sanction due to the 2nd referee's incorrect information.</p> <p>If the coach waits and calls a time-out later in the set, and the time-out is recognized by the 2nd referee, the team would be assessed a delay sanction since they did not directly act upon the misinformation.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USA V 24.2.7d</p>

<p><b>24.13</b> The 2nd referee tells a coach he has used 10 substitutions, and the coach immediately makes a substitution. After recording the substitution, the scorer tells the 2nd referee this was the team's 12th substitution, not the 11th. The 2nd referee informs the coach that the team has used 12 substitutions, and the coach says he would not have made the substitution if he had known it was his last substitution.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The coach can choose to withdraw the substitution, and the team is not assessed a delay sanction.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 24.2.7d</p>
<p><b>24.14</b> When the score is 10-10, Team S asks for a line-up check, and the 2nd referee informs the coach that #7 is the correct server. After #7 has scored two points, the scorer says #5 should have been serving.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Because the team acted directly upon the misinformation, the referee's error will be corrected. The two points scored by #7 are cancelled, and the score is 10-10. The team is placed in the correct order, and #5 will serve.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 24.3.1b</p>



## Rule 25: Scorer

### Location; Responsibilities

<p><b>25.01</b> The scorer does not list the line-up for Team S correctly on the score sheet at the start of the set. After the third rotation, the scorer notifies the 2nd referee of a wrong server. A check of the signed line-up sheet reveals that the correct server had served.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Since this was a scoring error, the error on the score sheet must be corrected to agree with the line-up submitted by the coach. There is no penalty or loss of rally assessed to Team S due to the scorer's error.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 25.2.1.2</p>
<p><b>25.02</b> At the start of each set, the 2nd referee requests that the scorer visually confirm that the correct six players are on the court for each team while the 2nd referee verifies their starting positions.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> This "double check" by the scorer is recommended to ensure that the correct players are on the court for each team.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 25.2.2.2</p>
<p><b>25.03</b> As the match progresses, the scorer verifies substitutions against the roster.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> When rosters are available, the scorer should confirm the legality of each substitute entering the match by verifying that the substitute's number is listed on that team's roster. This needs to be done only once for each substitute.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 25.2.2.3 Instructions for Use of the Score Sheets; National Championship Procedures</p>
<p><b>25.04</b> The scorer sounds an audible device to indicate a rotational fault to the referees.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The scorer may use an audible device, or may verbally notify the 2nd referee of a rotational fault after the ball has been contacted for service by the incorrect server.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 25.2 USAV 22.2.1</p>



<p><b>25.05</b> Team A records #16 on the line-up sheet, and this number is recorded on the score sheet. While checking the line-ups before the set, the 2nd referee notices that #15 is in the court. He/she notifies the coach, and the coach states that the team does not have a #16 on the roster.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> In a match where rosters are turned in to the referees at the beginning of each match, a player number not on the roster cannot be recorded on the score sheet. The 2nd referee must ask the Team A coach to correct the line-up and provide a legal number in the position of #16. The scorer corrects the score sheet, and the set begins with no penalty. The scorer should have alerted the 2nd referee that the line-up included a number not on the roster and should not have recorded the illegal player.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> S3.8.3</p>
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## Rule 26: Assistant Scorer

### Location; Responsibilities

<p><b>26.01</b> The assistant scorer records Libero replacements on the Libero Control sheet.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The Liberos' uniform numbers are recorded on the Libero Control sheet next to the team name for each set. However, the letter "L" is used to denote the Libero used by the team first in the match in the tracking section of the sheet, and the letter "R" is used to denote the second Libero.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 26.2.2.1</p> <p>Instructions for Use of the Score Sheets</p>
<p><b>26.02</b> The assistant scorer records substitutions on the Libero Control sheet.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The assistant scorer records team substitutions as well as Libero replacements. On the Libero Control sheet, the player number before and after the "L", "R", or series of alternating "Ls" and "Rs" must always be the same; therefore, substitutions must also be recorded. The recording of substitutions also confirms the information on the score sheet.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 26.2.2.1</p> <p>Instructions for Use of the Score Sheets</p>

<p><b>26.03</b> A team makes an illegal Libero replacement.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> When an illegal Libero replacement has occurred, the assistant scorer should immediately notify the 2nd referee as soon as it is recognized. This may be done with an audible device.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 26.2.2.2 19.3.2.9</p> <p>Instructions for Use of the Score Sheets</p> <p>Techniques, Mechanics, &amp; Procedures: 27</p>
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### Rule 27: Line Judges

#### Location; Responsibilities

<p><b>27.01</b> Team S's third team hit touches the top of the net near a Team R blocker's hands and rebounds back to the Team S side of the court, landing out of bounds.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The ball landed "out," and the line judge responsible for that line must indicate "out" when the ball touches the floor. The decision whether a ball that returns to the attacking team's court has been touched by the opponent (<i>i.e.</i>, a possible "four hits" situation) is the sole responsibility of the 1st referee with the 2nd referee's assistance. The referee should include this situation in the pre-match briefing with the line judges.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 27.2.1.1</p>
<p><b>27.02</b> A line judge determines that the ball touches an overhead obstruction above a non-playing area.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Although not specifically included in a line judge's responsibilities, the 1st referee may instruct the line judges during the pre-match briefing to assist by signaling "out" when the ball contacts objects that are out of play.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 27.2.1.3</p>

<p><b>27.03</b> Upon contact of the serve, the line judge determines that a player on the receiving team is standing with one foot just across the sideline touching the floor outside the court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The 1st referee should properly instruct the line judges and include specific clarifications for determining this fault during the pre-match briefing. The line judge must be absolutely certain the player was indeed touching the court outside the sideline (or other boundary line) at the moment the ball was contacted by the server.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 27.2.1.4</p>
<p><b>27.04</b> A server stands near the left side line just outside the service zone hash mark to prepare for service. After the beckon for service, the line judge determines that the server was still contacting the floor outside the service zone when the ball was served.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> The 1st referee should properly instruct the line judges and include specific clarifications for determining this fault during the pre-match briefing. The line judge must be absolutely certain the player was clearly touching the floor outside the service zone before indicating this fault.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 27.2.1.5 12.4.3</p>
<p><b>27.06</b> The line judge notices a player touch the antenna while attempting to block a ball.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> A line judge may signal when a player touches the top 80cm (32”) of an antenna during the action of playing the ball (Line Judge Signal 5).</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 27.2.1.6</p>
<p><b>27.07</b> The line judge anticipates that a ball may cross over the antenna and moves away from a corner position to get the best possible view of this play.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Line judges are encouraged to position themselves appropriately in order to offer accurate information to the referees for each play.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> 27.2.1.7</p>

<p><b>27.08</b> During a time-out, team members are warming up in the free zone beyond the end line. The line judge moves to the intersection of the attack line and sideline on the 1st referee's side of the court.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> During time-outs, the line judges stand at the mid-points of the end lines. A line judge may move a short distance to ensure there is no interference with this warm-up activity.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> Techniques, Mechanics, &amp; Procedures: 29</p>
<p><b>27.09</b> The server is positioned about 1 m (3'3") from the left sideline in the service zone.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> 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 the position at the intersection of the end line and sideline.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> Techniques, Mechanics, &amp; Procedures: 30</p>
<p><b>27.10</b> During a rally, the line judge sees a player contacting the antenna during their blocking action. The line judge immediately waves their flag and points at the antenna.</p>	<p><b>Ruling:</b> Line judges may call a player contacting the antenna during the action of play.</p>	<p><b>Reference:</b> USAV 27.2.1.6</p>