

DOUBLE CONTACTS

As we head into the National Championship season, many of know, last season, NCAA played under a new rule to allow a double contact on the 2nd team hit if the next contact is made by a teammate. You also may have heard that NFHS will be using the same rule next season (Fall 2025).

USAV has NOT changed this rule for the 2025 season. The USAV rules committee voted to make this rule change, but it will not go into effect until the 2026 season. For the remainder of the 2025 season, we should be calling double contacts when necessary. Referees should continue applying the ball-handling guidelines that have been in the rulebook for many years (page 19). A referee who says, "I'm not calling doubles because NCAA isn't, or because we will be going to this next season," is subject to a valid protest. You are not interpreting the rule correctly. The current rule is we should be calling obvious double contacts on the second team contact.

SIMULTANEOUS CONTACT REVIEW – NO FAULT

- A ball is completely higher than the top of the net and set by a back-row setter, who is in the front zone, but the ball remains on the setter's side (not in the plane of net) and is simultaneously contacted by players from both sides.
 - This is **NO FAULT**. The setter is not called for an illegal attack since their teammate contacted the ball simultaneously with the blocker. Play continues.
- A ball is completely higher than the top of the net and set by a back-row setter, who is in the front zone, and the ball is simultaneously contacted by players from both sides in the plane of the net.
 - This is **NO FAULT**. This situation follows the same interpretation as a situation where the ball is simultaneously contacted on the attacking team's side. If the ball enters the plane and is simultaneously contacted by the attacker and the blocker, the attack-hit has been made and negates an illegal attack on the setter. Play continues.
- A ball is contacted three times by a team and then enters the plane of the net, and the ball is simultaneously contacted by players from both sides.
 - This is **NO FAULT**. Previously this was considered 4 hits since the team that had contacted the ball three times also contacted the ball in the plane (considered the 4th contact by that team). With the new simultaneous contact interpretations, if a blocker contacts the ball at the same time as the attacking team, the opponent's contact of the ball negates the 4 hits fault. Play continues.
- A ball contacts the ceiling after a team's first or second contact and enters the plane of the net, and the ball is simultaneously contacted by players from both sides.
 - This is **NO FAULT**. Previously the ball was considered "out" when the blocker contacted the ball. With the new simultaneous contact interpretations, the attacking team's contact of the ball negates the fault of the ball being "out" from the ceiling. Play continues.

- **NEW!** A player makes a first team contact, and the ball enters the plane of the net. The ball is simultaneously contacted by the opponent and the same player that made the previous contact.
 - This is NO FAULT. As in the previous 4-hit scenario, since the blocker contacted the ball simultaneous with the player that would have played the ball two times in a row, this negates the 2 hits fault. Play continues.

SIMULTANEOUS CONTACT REVIEW – STILL A FAULT

- A Libero uses a finger pass in the front zone and sets a ball that remains on the setter's side (not in the plane of net). While the ball is higher than the top of the net, it is simultaneously contacted by an attacker and blocker.
 - This is STILL A FAULT. The Libero is called for an illegal attack since the attack-hit was completed when the blocker legally contacted the ball.
- A Libero uses a finger pass in the front zone and sets a ball that is completely higher than the top of the net when it is simultaneously contacted by an attacker and blocker in the plane of the net.
 - This is STILL A FAULT. This situation follows the same interpretation as a situation where the ball is simultaneously contacted on the attacking team's side. If the ball enters the plane of the net and is simultaneously contacted by the attacker and the blocker, the attack-hit has been completed and results in an illegal attack caused by the Libero's finger pass while in the front zone.
- A back-row setter is setting a ball that is completely higher than the top of the net, and a blocker reaches beyond the net and contacts the ball simultaneously with the back-row setter while the ball is completely on the setter's side (not in the plane of net).
 - This is STILL A FAULT, and the *blocker* is called for illegally reaching beyond the net. Blockers may not contact the ball beyond the net **before** an opponent has executed an attack hit (14.3). Blocking beyond the net on the attacking team's side is only permitted during an attack-hit.
- A back-row setter is setting a ball that is completely higher than the top of the net, and a blocker contacts the ball simultaneously with the back-row setter while the ball is in the plane of net.
 - This is STILL A FAULT, and the *setter* is called for a back-row block. A back-row setter reaching higher than the top of the net is still at risk of committing a back-row fault if there is simultaneous contact in the plane of the net.

LASER POINTERS

A recent trend has been the use of laser pointers to show players where they need to go/stand during competition. While this may be an effective way to show the player where to go, the use of such a device is not allowed during USAV competition. This can be distracting to opponents and officials as well as the potential to be used in an unsporting manner. This includes during a live rally and in between rallies. It is up to the discretion of the club if they want to allow the use of a laser pointer during practices.

NEW POLICY FOR ALLOWING CHILDREN ON THE BENCH

USA Volleyball created a new policy to allow children under 8 to be on the bench. This gives coaches who are parents another option for watching/caring for their children when they are coaching. This can be used for any USA Volleyball-sanctioned tournament.

Coaches who want to keep their children on the bench assume all risk. USA Volleyball provides free membership for children 8 and under. Once the coach obtains the membership, he or she must fill out a waiver form at the tournament. The membership is verified by the tournament staff, and the waiver is obtained for that tournament. A waiver form must be signed for each tournament. The referees must ask the coach to see the waiver at the beginning of each match.

NOTE: This new policy allows the child to be on the bench, behind the bench, or held by the parent (strapped to them if needed), or behind the bench while the team is playing. This does NOT allow coaches to have the child strapped to them when fulfilling their team referee assignment.

Teams must still follow rules regarding junior competition. In the event a coach must take the child away from the court during a match, there must be an eligible coach on the bench for the team to continue. If they are the only coach, they can use timeouts to give them time, but if the timeout ends and they are not back, the team defaults the set.

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