



# COMPARISON OF TECHNIQUES and MECHANICS NCAA/PAVO AND USA VOLLEYBALL 2025

Highlighted and underlined text denotes revision from previous version.

	NCAA/PAVO	USA Volleyball
1. Second referee position at end of rally	When the second referee's whistle ends a rally, s/he should step to the offending team's side of the net, and signal the fault. If the first referee's whistle ends the rally, it is recommended (but not required) that the second referee steps to the offending team's side of the net to repeat the signals of the first referee. Movement to the fault side should not affect the fluidity and tempo of the match.	When the second referee's whistle ends a rally, s/he should step to the offending team's side of the net and signal the fault. When the first referee's whistle ends the rally, the second referee steps to the offending team's side of the net to repeat the signals of the first referee.
2. Indicating captain	The second referee indicates the captain with an open hand. The captain acknowledges the first referee (raised hand or head nod).	The second referee indicates the captain by showing the captain signal (palm down below the number on the front of the jersey where the captain stripe would be) followed by indicating the player with an open hand. The captain acknowledges the first referee (raised hand or head nod).
3. Illegal attack signal	Place the arm on the offending team's side to the side of the body at head height, elbow bent at a right angle, and then make a forward and downward motion with one arm from the shoulder with the forearm and hand. Indicate the player at fault, if necessary, by pointing with an open hand.	Completely extend one arm and hand straight up from the shoulder and then bend the arm at the elbow, lowering the forearm and open hand in front of the face to about chin level.
4. Illegal block/screening signal	Raise both hands to the side at head height, elbows bent at right angles, palms facing away from body.	Completely extend both arms straight up from the shoulders (elbows are not bent), palms facing away from the body.
5. Second referee "ready" signal	Indicated by extending one hand/arm toward first referee and making eye contact.	Indicated by holding both hands in front of body at head height, palms toward first referee, making eye contact with the first referee.
6. Signal for same player making 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> team contact	Signal "four hits."	<u>Signal "four hits."</u>
7. Indication of which player(s) contacted the net	Indicate the player at fault by showing the jersey number, using one or both hands.	Indicate the player at fault by pointing with an open hand.
8. Improper request technique	Without card, hold palm of one hand against the opposite wrist. Second referee communicates to a coach at the end of the rally.	Without a sanction card, hold palm of one hand against the opposite wrist. Second referee communicates to coach (or first referee to captain) at earliest opportunity, without delaying the match.
9. Roster verification	Rosters not utilized, although referees still visually review team uniforms and player numbers for legality.	Rosters verified pre-match by scorer, assisted by second referee. Both referees visually review uniforms for legality.

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10. Substitutions by both teams on same dead ball	Second referee whistles to acknowledge first request and may administer both teams' substitutions without repeating the whistle (unless necessary).	Second referee should whistle to acknowledge first request and repeat the whistle to administer the second team's request.
11. First referee repeating second referee signals	The first referee repeats the second referee's signal for a substitution or timeout.	The first referee does not repeat the second referee's signal for a substitution or timeout.
12. Notification of substitutions used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second referee notifies coach when the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th substitutions are used.</li> <li>Second referee notifies first referee when 15th substitution is used by signaling only the number "15" (no substitution signal given).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second referee notifies coach when the <u>12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th</u> substitutions are used.</li> <li>Second referee notifies first referee when <u>15<sup>th</sup></u> substitution is used by showing substitution signal followed by the signal for the number "<u>15</u>."</li> </ul>
13. Indicating team calling timeout	After timeout signal, point with open hand/extended arm toward the court of the team that called the timeout	After timeout signal, point with open hand/extended arm toward the bench of the team that called the timeout.
14. Timeout administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teams not required to leave court; timeout may be held anywhere in the facility except the opponent's team area.</li> <li>Second referee whistles 15 seconds prior to the end of the timeout if teams have not returned to the court.</li> <li>Teams may return to court at any time; timeout may end early if both teams are ready to play.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teams are not required to leave the court and go to the bench area.</li> <li>Second referee whistles at end of 30 seconds.</li> <li>Teams may return to court prior to expiration of timeout, unless necessary for court to remain clear; however, timeout will not end early.</li> </ul>
15. Line judge position during timeouts	At intersection of attack line and sideline near first referee.	At midpoint of respective end line.
16. Line judge position when server is within one meter of line judge's position	The primary position of the line judge is to take a position along the imaginary extension of the end line about 3 to 4 feet. The line judge must quickly move back to base position to make required line calls.	At the first referee's direction, the line judge takes a position along either the sideline or the end line extension until service contact. Line judge quickly returns to corner base position.
17. Line judge duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is not the line judges' responsibility to signal a fault when a non-server is off of the court when the service is contacted.</li> <li>A line judge may signal foot faults on their side of the net or on their side line for servers on the opposite side of the court.</li> <li>When asked by the first referee, line judges may provide assistance regarding a player contacting the antenna.</li> <li>When asked by the first referee, line judges may provide assistance when a player contacts the ball in a non-playing area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is the line judges' responsibility to signal a fault when a non-server is off of the court when the service is contacted.</li> <li>A line judge may signal foot faults on their side of the net or on their side line for servers on the opposite side of the court.</li> <li>A line judge may signal when a player contacts the top 80cm (32") of either antenna.</li> </ul>
18. Referee technique at end of set preceding extended intermission	First referee dismisses teams to their benches.	No intermission is used.

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19. Change of courts between sets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the end of a non-deciding set, the players on the court proceed in a counterclockwise direction along the sideline and directly to their new bench areas. Team members off the court change team benches immediately.</li> <li>At the end of a set immediately before an extended intermission, the first referee dismisses the teams from their courts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The default protocol is for each team to remain on their respective side of the court throughout the match, including the deciding set.</li> <li>If teams are changing courts, at the end of a non-deciding set, players on the court do not have to go around the court. Both teams can return to their bench and gather their belongings before switching in front of the scorer's table.</li> </ul>
20. Referee technique at the end of set preceding a deciding set	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First referee dismisses teams to their benches.</li> <li>Second referee conducts the coin toss with the team representatives near the scorer's table.</li> <li>The second referee communicates the results of the toss to the first referee by extending an outstretched arm on the side of the team to serve first and giving the appropriate signal indicating if teams will remain on their sides or change courts.</li> <li>The first referee whistles and gives the appropriate signal indicating if teams will remain on their sides or change courts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First referee dismisses teams to their benches.</li> <li>First referee conducts the coin toss with the team representatives near the scorer's table but may request that the second referee conduct the coin toss.</li> <li>When playing a match where teams are switching sides, if the teams need to switch sides at the beginning of the 3rd set, the second referee will administer the court change.</li> </ul>
21. First/second referee duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First referee controls player conduct during the pre-match warm-ups. Second referee times the warm-ups.</li> <li>Either referee should call net faults; first referee hesitates briefly to avoid double whistles on net faults.</li> <li>Second referee may call (whistle) antenna faults on either antenna</li> <li>Referees do not check scoresheet for accuracy after the match is completed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First referee controls player conduct during the pre-match warm-ups. First referee also times the warm-ups but may request that the second referee assist.</li> <li>Either referee should call net faults; first referee hesitates briefly to avoid double whistles on net faults</li> <li>Second referee calls (whistles) antenna faults on his/her side of the court.</li> <li>Referees review the scoresheet for accuracy at the end of the match, and the first referee</li> <li>signs the scoresheet.</li> </ul>
22. Scorer "ready" signal	The recommended signal is one hand extended toward the second referee, similar to the "ready" signal used by the second referee.	Hold both hands in front of the body, just above head height, palms toward the 2nd referee.

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August 2025