

Volleyball Start of Season Notes

Uniforms: This jersey number is illegal under rule 4-2-4.c. Unless your association has been contacted by a jurisdiction (county or state level), the libero cannot play wearing it. Additionally, if the regular players are wearing an illegal jersey like this, penalty 5 to rule 4 (loss of rally/point to the opponent) should be awarded.



Religious Medals and Other Religious Items: Religious items (including bracelets) are to be "taped to the body and worn under the uniform." Casebook 4.1.7 Situations B and D, (new this year) added that religious items on the wrist that can't be removed should be taped. If possible, they should be under the uniform.

Libero Playing Actions: According to rule 9-5-6, the libero can never attack a ball from anywhere if the ball is entirely above the height of the net at the moment of contact. Additionally, the libero can never set a ball from in front of the attack line with finger action if the set results in a completed attack from anywhere on the court with the ball above the height of the net at the moment of contact. These actions become faults when the ball crosses the net or is legally contacted by an opponent.



Play at the Net: The ball in the photo is in the plane of the net and above the height of the net. Both teams have the right to play it. However, if #11 is a back row player, she is committing a fault, most likely an illegal block, because the contact appears simultaneous with the blocker on the left. That said, if in the judgment of the R1, #11 contacted the ball first, an illegal attack could also be an appropriate call.

Attacking the Ball in the Opponent's Space: While rule 9-6-4 allows a team to block a ball entirely on the opponent's side of the net once the attack is complete, a player is never allowed to attack a ball that is completely on the opponent's side of the net. If a blocker swings at a ball and attacks it before it enters the plane of the net, it is a fault. Conversely, a ball can be blocked with only one arm. Know the position of the ball and call what you see.

Second Referee Responsibilities: R2's do not always follow the flight of the ball. Keep your eyes on the net and centerline while players are near the net, then find the ball once players are clear. The R2's central vision should not see first contact or the ball hitting the

floor on a hard-driven ball near the endline or deep sideline. Stay focused on the net (where your primary responsibilities are located) until the players are not in danger of committing a net or centerline fault.

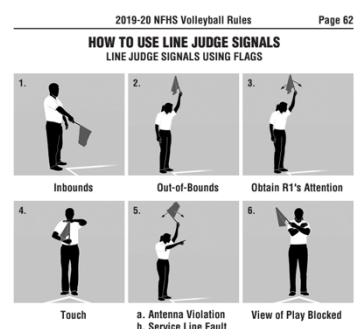
First Referee Responsibilities: During play, the R2 is primarily responsible and should whistle to end the rally for four faults: net faults, centerline faults, alignment faults on the receiving team, and balls outside the antenna on the R2's side of the court. To the maximum extent possible, the R1 should allow the R2 to whistle and signal these faults. More sophisticated coaches, players, and fans know that these faults are the R2's responsibility. If the R1 routinely makes these calls, it creates the impression that the R1 does not trust the R2 as a partner able to call the match. R2 credibility is diminished, and that may not help you later in the match. Additionally, when the R1 calls one of the R2 faults, it is likely that the R1 was not completely focused on his/her primary responsibility. Late nets and centerline faults should not be seen by the R1's central vision, which should be following the ball.

Net and Centerline Faults: Unlike other volleyball rule codes, it is a net fault when a player touches the net or net cables outside the antenna while the ball is in play. Additionally, a player can only touch the floor across the centerline with a hand or foot, and only if the hand or foot is in contact with or directly above the centerline. Contacting the floor across the centerline with any other part of the body is a fault.

Unwanted Substitution: A player enters the substitution zone. The R2 blows the whistle and signals for the substitution. The head coach does not want to substitute. The team is not required to complete the substitution, but will be awarded an unnecessary delay if the substitute request is withdrawn (rule 9-9-1.p). Be sure the coach is aware of the options in this fairly common occurrence.

Medical Equipment: Protective facemasks molded to the face are legal and do not require any waiver or authorization. Knee braces that are unaltered from the manufacturer's original design do not require additional padding. Ear piercings to mitigate migraine headaches (daith piercings) are not jewelry and are legal.

Line Judge Signals: Several people complained about a video question on this year's exam. While the signal demonstrated is seldom used, it is one of the approved signals. On the exam, the line judge was seen pointing at the floor while making signal 3. You should interpret this as a line judge pointing out something unsafe. Note: this graphic is on page 63 of this year's rule book.



Deciding Sets: The coin toss before a deciding set is only for serve or side, since we are not switching sides again this year – no exceptions. If a coach believes one side has an advantage, refer them to the district representative for volleyball found in the state handbook. Remember that the home team calls the deciding set toss. After the second referee communicates the result of the toss to the first referee, the first referee then whistles and signals the teams to remain at their bench. The timer will begin the 3-minute clock after this whistle. See rule 5-4-4.c.