



2010 RULES INTERPRETATION NEWSLETTER #1

August 26, 2010

NOTE: Use the following code to analyze these situations:

R = RECEIVING TEAM

R1 = RIGHT BACK
R2 = RIGHT FRONT
R3 = CENTER FRONT
R4 = LEFT FRONT
R5 = LEFT BACK
R6 = CENTER BACK

S = SERVING TEAM

S1 = RIGHT BACK
S2 = RIGHT FRONT
S3 = CENTER FRONT
S4 = LEFT FRONT
S5 = LEFT BACK
S6 = CENTER BACK



NOTE: The NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules Committee did NOT make a change to the net fault rule for 2010-11, and differs from USAV (club) rules. The net fault rule currently in use for NCAA Women's play states that contact with the net is not a fault unless the player making contact is playing the ball or the contact interferes with play (as in, contacting the net to prevent the opponent from playing the ball on the opponent's side).

1. If a damaged jersey (or blood) necessitates a number change, how is that marked on the scoresheet?

Ruling: *The scorekeeper should place an "X" over the original number, and write the new number beside it. Make a notation in the COMMENTS section about reason for the changed number.*

2. The rules now require that the lineups for the first set be submitted by the three-minute mark on the clock, but the scorekeeper is quite experienced, and feels she can wait until the one-minute mark to enter the lineups to avoid the possibility of having to mark a lineup change.

Ruling: *Scorekeeper should record the lineups when submitted at the three-minute mark. The intent of this rule is not only to allow the scorekeeper to take extra time in recording the lineups, but to (a) allow the libero tracker to record the lineups from the lineup forms, rather than trying to copy the scorekeeper's entries on the scoresheet; (b) allow the second referee time to memorize/review the lineups as needed, and compare the lineups with the scoresheet entries for confirmation; (c) have the lineups immediately ready for the other appropriate parties (announcer, statistics crew) at the one-minute mark. Technique hint – a proficient scorekeeper could have extra paper available to write the starting lineups on, ready to hand it to the announcer at the one-minute mark.*

3. Team S submits a lineup prior to the three-minute mark on the clock timing the warm-ups. Before the clock reaches the one-minute mark, the Team S coach states that the starting lineup will be changed. What are the procedures that should be followed by the officials?

Ruling:

- a. *The lineup for either team can be changed prior to the one-minute mark, without a substitution or sanction charged. That change can involve replacement or a change of position for any number of players.*
 - b. *The coach should initiate the change in the lineup through the second referee. If the second referee is otherwise occupied, and the coach attempts to make the change directly to the scorekeeper, the scorekeeper should refer the coach to one of the referees. The change(s) can be marked on the lineup sheet in the most efficient and readable manner, such as marking out original players with "X"s and writing the new numbers nearby, using a new lineup form if several changes are being made, etc.*
 - c. *There is not a rule about how the change(s) must be marked on the scoresheet. In the majority of cases, changes should be marked by placing an "X" over the number of the player that is removed, and writing the number of the new player beside the replaced player's number. Make a notation in the COMMENTS section about reason for the changed number.*
4. In the first set, when should a delay sanction be assessed for a late lineup?

Ruling: *The rules now state that lineups for the first set are due when the clock timing the pre-match warm-ups reaches the three-minute mark. Lineups submitted after that point are considered late and result in a delay*

sanction. *NOTE: To prevent sanctions, referees should be sure to mention the new lineup submission deadline to both coaches prior to the match, and if the coach is not preparing the lineup for submission a few seconds prior to the 3:00 mark, move toward the bench to remind the coach again that the lineup is due soon. The new rule may call for these reminders prior the first set, but the referees are not asked to be any more officious regarding the lineup submission at the three-minute mark than when the rules required submission at the one-minute mark.*

5. There is not two meters of free space behind the first referee stand. Can players still pursue a ball by going under the net/net cable, since that path is now legal?

Ruling: *No. The pursuit rule is either in use for a match (if two meters of free space is available behind **both** the first referee stand and the pole on the bench side) or it is not (if two meters of free space is not available on **both** sides). If adequate space is available outside the net pole/referee stand, pursuing players may either go around the net pole/referee stand or under the net/net cable. If adequate space is not available, the pursuit rule is not in effect at all.*

6. As S4 goes under the net cable to pursue the ball, she contacts the net (either inside or outside the antenna).

Ruling: *The referees must determine whether, at the time of net contact, the player was close enough to the ball to be "playing the ball". Just as a blocker who is moving into position to block may not be guilty of a net fault even if there is contact, a player pursuing the ball may not commit a net fault as she moves to a position to play the ball. The net contact is only a fault if the referees determine that the player and the ball are in near enough proximity that the player is considered to be "in the action of playing the ball" when the net contact occurs.*

7. Does the new rule that allows "media personnel" on the court during timeouts and the interval between sets extend to still photographers?

Ruling: *Yes. Television camera operators, webcast camera operators, and still photographers may come onto the court during timeouts and between sets as long as the host institution permits this action and they do not delay the resumption of play. Also, no media personnel can engage or attempt to engage team members while they are in the playing area.*

8. Team S is wearing white jerseys. Team S player #8's number is damaged during play, and she changes jerseys to become #10. In a later set, the coach wants her to play as the libero. The team has a dark jersey bearing #8, but does not have a dark jersey bearing #10.

Ruling: *Once a player has been forced to change to a new jersey and number due to damage or blood, the player should retain the new number for the rest of the match, unless the player is designated as the libero in a later set. In that case, if a libero jersey with the new number is not available, she may wear a libero jersey bearing the original number. NOTE: Since #8 has been worn by a player in this match prior to the damage, that number cannot be worn by any player for the remainder of the match (with the exception just noted when the player becomes libero in later set), even if the jersey is repaired.*

9. The first referee authorizes service (beckons) but before S1 can serve the ball, an errant ball from another court enters the playing area and creates a safety hazard. The referees whistle to stop the service action. The Team S coach requests a lineup check before the next authorization for service.

Ruling: *After an authorization for service, there can be **no** requests (timeout, substitution or lineup check) or a libero replacement until the next time the ball is out of play. If the next out-of-play ball occurs as the result of a completed rally, all requests are allowed at that time. If the next out-of-play ball occurs after play that is **not** a completed rally, a lineup check would be allowed, but no other requests or libero replacements would be permitted.*

10. **NOTE on completed rally with regard to Rule 12.2.1.2:** There is an exception noted regarding a required completed rally if the next action by the libero is to replace the current server. The spirit of this rule does not apply the exception to replay situations where the rally is not considered "completed".

Team S #3 serves. An errant ball enters the court, and the referees stop play and indicate a replay. The Team S libero has not yet served in this set. Whether the libero is on the bench or on the court in replacement of another player, can s/he now replace S#3 and serve the next ball?

Ruling: *No. The intent of the rule that allows the libero to **not** sit out a rally when the libero will serve next was not intended to be an exception to the restrictions regarding completed rallies.*

11. **Other “completed rally” situations.** There are a number of cases involving various interpretations on completed rallies on page 4.

Points of Emphasis & Reminders

1. **Change of uniform number:** If the referees allow a player’s number to be changed due to blood (Rule 11.3.7.3.2), damage (Rule 7.1.2.8) or because the libero is used as an exceptional substitution (Rule 11.3.6.1.2.3), the referees should ask event management to make sure all appropriate parties are informed. That might include the opponent, the statistics crew, the announcer, and media.
2. **Substitution procedures:** In order to avoid scorekeeping errors, it is mandatory that substitutes wait for authorization from the second referee before entering the match. Rule 11.2.4.3 states: “*The player leaving the court and the incoming substitute must wait near the sideline in the substitution zone until authorized to exchange by the second referee. If a substitute enters the court before the authorization signal, **the substitution is denied and a team delay sanction is assessed.***”
 - The “authorization to enter” is **not** the second referee’s whistle, or the substitution signal. Just making eye contact with the second referee as the substitute approaches the sub zone is not sufficient, either. The “authorization to enter” is the sweeping motion that the second referee gives with one hand. Until that signal is seen by the substitute and/or the player leaving the court, they **must** wait at the sideline. If the second referee is not otherwise occupied, the players’ hesitation at the sideline to look for the authorization will be only a second or two before the signal is given. But the players must see that signal before entering, or run the risk of having the substitution denied.
 - Referees are reminded to stringently require players to wait for authorization, in order to avoid illegal substitution issues or errors in scorekeeping. If players do not look for the authorization signal, referees should provide a warning to either the coach or the players themselves **once** for each team during a match. If players subsequently fail to wait for authorization after the warning has been given, a team delay sanction will result **and the incoming substitution will be denied.**
3. **Referee technique at beginning of match:** The PAVO Guidebook instructs that, after introductions are completed, the first referee should first whistle for the captains and then whistle for the remainder of the players to greet each other at the net. Typically in women’s collegiate play, introductions are done numerically, and the captain may not be the first person in line to greet the opponent. Referees should continue to use two whistles as the PAVO Guidebook indicates, but should not insist that the captains lead their teams in the handshake.

2010-11 Rulebook Corrections

Rule 6.3.2.3, page 35: “Failure to submit a lineup by the ~~end of the final~~ three-minute mark on the clock timing the pre-match timed warm-up periods or 30 seconds before the expiration of the intermission between sets;”

Scorekeeping Instructions, page 119 (first bullet): “Note that libero replacements and requests for timeouts; and substitutions ~~or lineup checks~~ are only permitted after a completed rally.”

Scorekeeping Example, page 135, last paragraph: *The timeout that is noted here would not be allowed because the previous play is described as an individual penalty assessed during play.*

Official’s Mechanics, Signal #14, page 200: “**Timeout.** Raise forearm...Then, extend an open hand on the side making the request to indicate which team called the timeout, or ~~point to self (hands on shoulders)~~ extend arms with open hands to both courts for officials’ or media timeout.”

2010-11 Examination Corrections

Scorekeeping Exam, Answer key #43-46: *Point number 6 for team GREEN should be boxed in the running score column. NOTE: irrelevant to the question, there is also a missing slash in the substitution counter for the GREEN team, since one team substitution has been used.*

Other “completed rally” situations:

Situation description	Sub or Libero replacement allowed by-Team S?	Sub or Libero replacement allowed by-Team R?	TO allowed by Team S?	TO allowed by Team R?	Rationale
10-1. Errant ball enters court during play, referees stop play (also, inadvertent whistle/horn, player loses equipment on court, etc.).	NO	NO	NO	NO	No completed rally
10-2. Injury to player on Team S, referees stop play.	Yes - for injured player only	NO	Yes	NO	Injured player is exception
10-3. Wrong server Team S, referees call the fault after service contact but before play is terminated.	YES	YES	YES	YES	Rotation fault is a completed rally
10-4. Individual penalty assessed to a Team R team member during play, referees stop play to issue the sanction.	NO	NO	NO	NO	Penalty points are not considered "playing actions", and therefore a completed rally has not occurred.
10-5. Individual penalty assessed to a Team S team member during play, referees stop play to issue the sanction.	NO	YES	NO	NO	Team R is forced to rotate due to penalty point, and is therefore allowed a libero replacement or substitution(s).
10-6. Individual penalty assessed to Team R team member immediately after a play ends that resulted in a point for Team S.	YES - unless a Team S sub or libero replacement has already occurred between the point awarded at the end of the rally and the sanction point.	YES - unless a Team R sub or libero replacement has already occurred between the point awarded at the end of the rally and the sanction point.	YES - unless Team S took a timeout between the point awarded at the end of the rally and the sanction point	YES - unless Team R took a timeout between the point awarded at the end of the rally and the sanction point	The point awarded at the end of the play completes that rally, and another rally has not yet started. So the rules restricting teams to one timeout or substitution request or one libero replacement during the dead ball period apply.
10-7. Individual penalty assessed to Team S team member immediately after a play ends that resulted in a point for Team R.	YES - unless a Team S sub or libero replacement has already occurred between the point awarded at the end of the rally and the sanction point.	YES - even if a Team R sub or libero replacement has already occurred between the point awarded at the end of the rally and the sanction point.	YES - unless Team S took a timeout between the point awarded at the end of the rally and the sanction point	YES - unless Team R took a timeout between the point awarded at the end of the rally and the sanction point	The point awarded at the end of the play completes that rally, and another rally has not yet started. So the rules restricting teams to one timeout or substitution request or one libero replacement during the dead ball period apply. HOWEVER, Team R is forced to rotate by the penalty point, so even though there has not been another

Situation description	Sub or Libero replacement allowed by-Team S?	Sub or Libero replacement allowed by-Team R?	TO allowed by Team S?	TO allowed by Team R?	Rationale
					completed rally, Team R would be allowed a sub or libero replacement.
10-8. Play stopped during a rally to issue an expulsion or disqualification to a Team R player on the court.	NO	YES – a legal substitution or libero replacement is allowed for the expelled/disqualified player only.	NO	NO	Although the rally has not been completed, a team will not be forced to forfeit the set due to the completed rally rule. If there is a legal substitute or a libero replacement can be made legally, the expelled/disqualified player can be replaced and play continued.
10-9. Illegal service (service delay, toss & catch, toss hits obstruction, etc.).	YES	YES	YES	YES	Although the rules language states that a rally begins with contact of the service, in these situations the current interpretation is that the rally has started, and ends when the fault occurred. Since there has been a completed rally, all requests for interruptions are allowed.