



2010 & 2011 Volleyball Rules Changes

The following rules-change proposals have been approved by the NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules Committee and by the Playing Rules Oversight Panel. They will be incorporated into the rules book for the 2010 and 2011 volleyball seasons. The rule and page references are from the 2009 Women's Volleyball Rules Book.

Playing Surface. (Rule 1.1.1.2, page 12)— Media personnel will be permitted on the court during timeouts and between sets unless prohibited by the host institution or tournament director. **Rationale:** The previous language was intended to designate media personnel's position during play. The new language clarifies the media's position at other times.

Uniform Numbers. (Rule 7.1.2.8, page 36)— A damaged jersey has been added as an exception to the requirement for players to retain the same number throughout the match. **Rationale:** The previous language only covered the situation where blood makes a uniform unusable. A damaged jersey or unreadable number must be dealt with in a like manner.

Playing Faults and Consequences. (Rule 8.1, page 42)— A “completed rally” is defined as the sequence of actions that begins with a service contact and ends with a point awarded. Libero replacements and requests for timeout, substitution or lineup check can only occur after a completed rally. **Rationale:** The previous rule language was not specific in the definition of a completed rally, so replay situations were open for interpretation. The new definition will help to clarify those situations.

Pre-Match Protocols. (Rule 9.1.1.1, page 46)— In a tournament situation, if a warm-up court in the same facility (complete with net and a team area as defined in Rule 1.3.5 for each team) is available for at least 10 minutes prior to the start of the timed warm-up period, the required 10 minutes of shared court warm-up may take place there rather than on the competition court. The warm-up protocol on the competition court may consist of only the last 19 minutes of the defined pre-match protocol. **Rationale:** This change will allow tournaments to run more efficiently and stay on time without reducing the overall warm-up time for the student athletes.

Deciding Set Coin Toss. (Rule 9.2.4.4, page 48)— Playing captains are no longer required to report for the deciding set coin toss. Any team representative may attend. **Rationale:** After a fourth set is completed, the playing captain who has been competing should be allowed to go directly to the team bench if necessary, rather than reporting to the referees for the coin toss. The pre-match coin toss can be conducted with any team representative; it is logical for the deciding game coin toss to use the same parameters.

Team Lineup Submission. (Rule 10.1.1.1, page 50)— Playing lineups for the first set of the match must be submitted at least three minutes prior to the end of the timed warm-up protocol. However, changes will be allowed without substitution until there is one minute remaining in the timed warm-up protocol. At that time, the lineups can be released to the official statisticians, announcer, and other appropriate parties. **Rationale:** The previous requirement to submit the lineup with only one minute remaining until match time did not allow sufficient time for the scorekeeper and assistant scorekeeper to accurately record the lineups on the official forms. The new process will allow that to occur, and still establish a point at which the lineups can be released to the statisticians and other match personnel.

Rotation Fault (Wrong Server). (Rule 13.2.3.1, page 67)— When a wrong player is about to serve the ball, the scorekeeper will wait for the service contact and then report the fault to the referees. The scorekeeper will not be responsible for stopping play. **Rationale:** The previous rule language called for the scorekeeper to stop play. However, frequently it was subsequently discovered that the scorekeeper's wrong server identification was incorrect. The new language will allow the second referee to use good judgment on stopping play or allowing the current rally to complete before reviewing the scoresheet to determine if the server was indeed incorrect.

Ball Crossing the Net (“Pursuit” Rule). (Rule 15.1.1.1, page 75)— If a ball has crossed to the opponent's free zone that is pursuable per this rule, a player is no longer restricted from crossing under the net or net cable to retrieve the ball. **Rationale:** Other rule codes that have allowed this play have not reported a significant injury rate to players making this play, and have stated that a high percentage of successful retrievals are made by players using this path. If one of the most exciting plays in the game of volleyball can be allowed without increased injury exposure, the rules should not prohibit it.

Significant Editorial Changes

Use of Electronic Aids. (Rule 6.1.5, page 30)—Language will be added to indicate that the use of electronic devices within the facility is only restricted if the information being transmitted pertains to the competition.

Illegal Equipment/Jewelry. (Rule 7.3.2, page 40)—A clarification will be made to indicate that if jewelry or illegal equipment/uniform is discovered on a player who is on the court, a delay sanction will only be assessed if a delay results from requiring the jewelry or illegal equipment/uniform to be rectified.

End of Match. (Rule 9.3, page 49)—The language was modified to make the post-match handshake by players optional.

Event Management. (Page 100) —The instructions have been modified to allow cheerleaders and official team mascots to stay on one side throughout the match at NCAA Championship sites at the direction of the tournament committee. Cheerleaders and mascots will still be required to not interfere with the opposing team when they are on the court during timeouts and between sets.

Event Management.—Instructions have been added for use of the scoreboard horn/buzzer during the warm-up protocol, timeouts, and between sets.

Appendix D has been added to provide guidelines for identifying and dealing with concussions.

Points of Emphasis

Net Measurements. (Rule 2, page 18)— The specifications for the net are clearly described in Rule 2. All net specifications, including the variance from the ends of the net to the middle of the net, should be adhered to. As described in Rule 2.1.1.4, the net must remain taut throughout and maintain the required dimensions – the use of a dowel rod at the end of each net to secure the cables will help meet this requirement. The net must be placed directly over the center line, and should maintain its integrity and position even while referees and players move around it. If the referees identify that net specifications are not met and cannot be remedied for the current event, the referee will communicate with the school administration or conference and the NCAA secretary-rules editor after the event.

Line Judges. (Rule 18.1.1, page 82 and Rule 18.5, page 91)— The line judges are defined as members of the required officiating corps, and Rule 18.5 specifies the line judges' duties. It is vital that line judges are trained and given an opportunity to practice their skills before actually working at an event. Line judges should be required to arrive 30 minutes prior to the match, dressed as instructed in Event Management on page 97. Training tools and certification opportunities offered by the Professional Association of Volleyball Officials (PAVO) are described in detail in Appendix B.

Event Management— New language emphasizes that fan behavior and location should be monitored by event management to present the least possible interference with the match. Restricting fans from the playable area through the use of stanchions or establishing fan walkways that are not part of the playable area are among the suggestions.

Event Management—New language describes use of the scoreboard horn/buzzer for warm-up protocol, timeouts, and intervals between sets.