



**USA Volleyball**  
**2010-2011 Rules Interpretation Bulletin #1**  
**January 14, 2011**

**Blocking: Rule 14.1**

1. Must all players be reaching higher than the top of the net to be considered part of a collective block?

**RULING:** Yes. By definition, a player can only be considered a blocker if the player is reaching higher than the top of the net. A player, who is near a collective block but not reaching higher than the top of the net, is not considered a blocker. If the ball contacts this player, it will be considered the team's first hit.

**Completed Rally: Rule 6.1.3, Rule 15**

2. With regard to the definition of a completed rally, if a rally-in-progress is interrupted, is a line-up check permitted before the serve is re-authorized?

**RULING:** Yes, line-up checks are a courtesy provided by the second referee with the scorer's assistance. Line-up checks are not considered regular game interruptions (Rule 15), and therefore are not prevented by the new "completed rally" definition.

**Player Equipment: USAV 4.5.1**

3. Are small plastic studs/spacers allowed in the nose, lip, or ear?

**RULING:** Yes, these are considered legal as replacements for jewelry in piercings.

4. Is it legal for a player to have monofilament line, string or thread looped through a piercing hole?

**RULING:** No, monofilament line, string or thread looped through a piercing hole is not legal. However, a straight piece of line, knotted at both ends, would be considered legal.

**Time-out Requests and Procedures: USAV 5.1.2.3, Rule 15.10.1, Rule 19.3.2.4**

5. Is it permitted for the captain to request a time-out even if a coach is present on the bench?

**RULING:** Yes. In the preamble of the DCR that contains the significant rule changes, it states that USAV 5.1.2.3 was added to clarify that "The captain may request a time-out." In the body of the DCR, that change was inadvertently omitted.

6. Do USAV rules allow for Libero replacements or substitutions during time-outs without following the normal replacement or substitution procedure?

**RULING:** No. The six players who were on the court when the time-out was called must return to the court at the conclusion of the time-out. A legal Libero replacement or substitution may then occur before the resumption of play.



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**Center Line Penetration and Player Interference: Rule 11.2, USAV 8.4.2**

7. A player from Team A falls to the floor and rolls under the net beyond the center line. The player has both hands completely touching his own court, but his feet are in the air above the opponent's court with no part of the Team A player's feet touching his own court. Is this a fault?

**RULING:** No. Provided the encroaching player (from Team A, in this situation) does not interfere with the opponent's play, no fault has been committed.

8. A ball is passed over/outside an antenna by Team B. A Team B player legally pursues the ball into Team A's free zone and sends the ball back toward Team B's court. On the return path, the ball hits the first (or second) referee. Should this be a replay since the ball would have otherwise remained in play if it had not hit the referee?

**RULING:** No, a replay is not awarded in this situation. Rule 8.4.2 indicates that the ball is "out" if it touches a person out of play. This includes members of the officiating team.

9. A player is chasing a teammate's poorly passed ball. As the player is preparing to contact the ball, the player runs into an official (line judge or second referee). The player is prevented from reaching the ball due to the contact with the official. Should this be a replay if the referees determine the player had made a legitimate effort to play the ball, which was impeded by the contact with the official?

**RULING:** Yes. USAV 8.4.2f indicates that a replay may be granted if an official, media equipment or personnel, or a spectator interferes with a player's legal attempt to play the ball.

**Coaches: USAV 5.1.2.2**

10. In 14 & under competition, is a coach permitted to walk across the court to speak with the first referee?

**RULING:** No. Although the coach is permitted to act in place of the captain for 14 & under competition, this does not allow the coach the right to enter the court to have discussions with the first referee. In this case, the second referee should be the primary point of contact for the coach. In the absence of a certified professional second referee, the first referee should communicate with the coach through the playing captain, and if absolutely necessary, may leave the stand to address the coach near the bench.

**Libero Replacements: Rule 19.3.2.1**

11. Team A's Libero is occupying the left back position (position 5) for #12. Team A wins the rally and rotates for serve. The Libero is not replaced by #12 and remains on the court, now occupying left front (position 4). Her team serves and wins the rally. The referees then discover that the Libero was occupying a front row position. #12 now returns to the court, replacing the Libero. Team A's coach would like the Libero to immediately replace their last server, stating that although she was on the court illegally, since a point has been scored by the opponent, this constitutes a completed rally and she should be able to immediately replace another player. Is this a correct interpretation?

**RULING:** No, although there was a completed rally, the Libero was on the court (illegally), and must therefore sit out a rally before replacing another player.