

## Significant 2011 – 2013 USAV Rule Changes

USAV 4.5.1: “It is forbidden to wear hats or casts (even if padded). Braces, jewelry, prosthetic limbs or other headgear that may cause an injury or give an artificial advantage to the player must not be worn. If a brace, prosthetic limb or headgear is used, padding or covering may be necessary. **A junior volleyball athlete participating in a junior event may not wear jewelry.** An exception will be made for religious or medical medallions that are removed from chains and taped or sewn under the uniform.”

Note: There is no longer a prohibition for **adult** players to wear jewelry, unless it may cause an injury. Large dangling earrings, non-smooth rings, iPods and earphones may cause injury to either the player or his/her teammates and are prohibited.

Note: Jewelry that is taped or covered up is not legal. In USAV, the referee may not force a player remove tape to verify if there is jewelry underneath. However, if during the match it is discovered that the player has illegal jewelry, a Team Delay sanction will be issued and the jewelry must be removed.

## 19.1 DESIGNATION OF THE LIBERO

19.1.1 Each team has the right to designate from the list of players up to **two (2)** specialized defensive players: Liberos.

19.1.2 All Liberos must be recorded on the scoresheet before the **match** in the special lines reserved for this.

19.1.3 One Libero [the first listed] designated by the coach before the start of the match will be the starting Libero. The Libero on court is the Acting Libero. If there is another Libero, he/she will act as the second libero.

19.1.4 Only one Libero may be on court at any time.

19.1.5 The Libero cannot be either team captain or game captain at the same time as performing the Libero function.

Note: Either libero may replace a back-row player or the other libero after a completed rally.

## **Significant rule changes from previous years**

### 11.3 CONTACT WITH THE NET

11.3.1 Contact with the net by a player is not a fault, unless it interferes with the play.

11.3.2 Players may touch the post, ropes, or any other object outside the antennae, including the net itself, provided that it does not interfere with play.

11.3.3 When the ball is driven into the net, causing it to touch an opponent, no fault is committed.

### 11.4 PLAYER'S FAULTS AT THE NET

11.4.1 A player touches the ball or an opponent in the opponent's space before or during the opponent's attack hit.

11.4.2 A player interferes with the opponent's play while penetrating into the opponent's space under the net.

11.4.3 A player's foot (feet) penetrates completely into the opponent's court.

11.4.4 A player interferes with the opponent's play by (amongst others):

- touching the top band of the net or the top 80 cm (2' 7.49") of the antenna during his/her action of playing the ball, or
- taking support from the net simultaneously with playing the ball, or
- creating an advantage over the opponent, or
- making actions which hinder an opponent's legitimate attempt to play the ball.

USAV 1.4.5: The **warm-up area** is at the end of the bench or bench area, and no nearer to the court than the front of the team bench. Substitutes must not interfere with play or the officials' duties.

#### 4.1 TEAM COMPOSITION

USAV 4.1.1: b. A team may consist of a maximum of 15 players and five coaches/staff personnel.

Note: For IREVA JO teams, there must be at least one IMPACT certified Coach on the team bench.

#### 4.2 LOCATION OF THE TEAM

4.2.1 The players not in play should either sit on their team bench or be in their warm-up area. The coach and other team members sit on the bench, but may temporarily leave it. The benches for the teams are located beside the scorer's table, outside the free zone.

4.2.2 Only the team members are permitted to sit on the bench during the match and to participate in the warm-up session.

Note: In IREVA, the Club Director is allowed to sit on a team's bench without explicitly being on the roster. All other coaches/staff personnel must be listed on the team roster.

Note: During warm-ups, only USAV-registered members are allowed on the court (such as parents or siblings shagging balls).

#### 5.2 COACH

5.2.3.2 sits on the team bench nearest to the scorer, but may leave it;

5.2.3.4 may, as well as other team members, give instructions to the players on the court. The coach may give these instructions while

standing or walking within the free zone in front of his/her team's bench from the extension of the attack line up to the warm-up area, without disturbing or delaying the match.

USAV 5.2.3.4: During play, the coach may give these instructions while standing or walking within the free zone in front of his/her team's bench from the extension of the attack line up to the warm-up area, no closer to the court than 1.75 m (5'10") from the sideline and its extension without disturbing or delaying the match. The extension of the attack line is drawn to a distance of 1.75 m (5'10") from the sideline.

### 5.3 ASSISTANT COACH

5.3.1 The assistant coach sits on the team bench, but has **no right to intervene** in the match.

USAV 5.3.1: **One assistant coach at a time** may leave the bench to give instructions to the players on the court. During play, this assistant coach may give these instructions while standing or walking within the free zone in front of his/her team's bench from the extension of the attack line up to the warm-up area, and no closer to the court than 1.75 m (5'10") from the sideline and its extension, without disturbing or delaying the match. The extension of the attack line is drawn to a distance of 1.75 m (5'10") from the sideline.

5.3.2 Should the coach have to leave his/her team for any reason including sanction, the assistant coach may, at the request of the game captain and with the authorization of the first referee, assume the coach's functions for the duration of the absence.

## 20.1 SPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

USAV 20.1.1: Participants must know the “Domestic Competition Regulations” and abide by them.

20.1.2 Participants must accept referees’ decisions with sportsmanlike conduct, without disputing them. In case of doubt, clarification may be requested only through the game captain.

20.1.3 Participants must refrain from actions or attitudes aimed at influencing the decisions of the referees or covering up faults committed by their team.

## 21. MISCONDUCT AND ITS SANCTIONS

### 21.1 MINOR MISCONDUCT

Minor misconduct offenses are not subject to sanctions. It is the first referee’s duty to prevent the teams from approaching the sanctioning level by issuing a verbal or hand signal warning to a team member or to the team through the game captain. This warning is not a sanction and has no immediate consequences. It should not be recorded on the scoresheet.

### 21.2 MISCONDUCT LEADING TO SANCTIONS

Incorrect conduct by a team member towards officials, opponents, teammates or spectators is classified in three categories according to the seriousness of the offense.

21.2.1 **Rude** conduct: action contrary to good manners or moral principles, or any action expressing contempt.

21.2.2 **Offensive** conduct: defamatory or insulting words or gestures.

21.2.3 **Aggression**: actual physical attack or aggressive or threatening behavior.

## 23. FIRST REFEREE

23.2.4 The first referee shall not permit any discussion about his/her decisions. However, at the request of the game captain, the first referee will give an explanation on the application or interpretation of the Rules upon which he/she has based the decision. If the game captain does not agree with the explanation of the first referee and chooses to protest against such decision, he/she must immediately reserve the right to file and record this protest at the conclusion of the match. The first referee must authorize this right of the game captain.

Protests considered by the first referee (Protest or Tournament Committee) include: a 1) misinterpretation of a playing rule, 2) failure of the first referee to apply the correct rule to a given situation, or 3) failure to charge the correct penalty-sanction for a given fault. Judgement is **NOT** protestable!

23.3.1.2 performs the toss with the team captains

Note: For IREVA, sending multiple team representatives to the coin toss at the beginning of a match is acceptable, as long as the team captain is present. A libero cannot be the team or game captain.

## 24. SECOND REFEREE

24.3.1 At the start of each set, at the change of courts in the deciding set and whenever necessary, he/she checks that the actual positions of the players on the court correspond to those on the line-up sheets.

USAV 24.3.1: The second referee's check of the line-up is a courtesy. The responsibility to ensure that the correct players are on the court rests with the captain and/or coach.

USAV 19.2(a) states: *“The Libero player’s jersey must contrast in color with that of the predominant colors of the other members of the team. Color combinations such as purple/black, dark green/black, navy/maroon, and white/light yellow are not distinctive enough to comply with the rules.”*

This was purposefully left slightly vague, per the YJOVD and Executive Council's direction, to allow for some creativity in the design of the jersey.

First, this does not mean that the Libero's jersey may not contain any colors that are on the team's regular jersey. It means that the Libero's jersey, taken as a whole, must contrast in color with any predominant color of the team's regular jersey.

For example, a team's regular jersey is red with white trim or design. The trim or design is a small part of the total jersey area, and is thus determined not to be a predominant color. The Libero jersey for this team is white with the same design or trim as the team's regular jersey, but in red. This is the classic "home and away" jersey set, common for many teams. Since the red and white are contrasting, and the Libero jersey, taken as a whole, is almost all white, and the white in the regular team jersey is not considered a "predominant color", this is a legal regular/Libero jersey combination. It meets the letter, and certainly the spirit and intent, of the regulation. If the jerseys were reversed (regular team is in the white, and the Libero is in the red), this is also a legal combination.

Next, let's consider a combination that would not be legal. If the regular team jersey is white, with 12" red side panels, and the Libero jersey is red, with 12" white side panels, this combination does not meet the regulation. It shouldn't stretch the imagination to declare that in both of these jerseys, red and the white are predominant colors. In the spirit of the rule, once "trim" becomes wider than about 2 inches, it no longer fits the widely accepted definition of trim, and starts to become a "panel" on the jersey. While the presence of these panels, even in a non-contrasting color, does not in and of itself make the jersey illegal, the colors in these panels on the jersey are much more likely to be considered as a "predominant" color on the jersey. Alternatively, even if the color stripe making up the design or trim is sufficiently narrow, it still may be considered a predominant color if it is not used sparingly in the design of the jersey.

- *Steve Thorpe, USA Volleyball Rules Interpreter*