

2009-2011 Significant Rule Changes and Arizona Region Commentary

PLAYER'S DROPPED EQUIPMENT

Add New USAV 4.5.2: "If a player's equipment falls to the floor and creates a safety hazard, play is stopped and a delay sanction assessed."

Narrative Explanation of Change in Regulation: This change clarifies how to handle a safety hazard caused by player equipment.

COACHES SIGN SCORESHEET

Add USAV 5.1.3: Defines when and by whom the score sheet is signed.

Add New USAV 5.1.3: "For junior competition, both coaches sign the score sheet after the match to verify the results."

WARMUPS FOR REGIONAL AND NATIONALLY SANCTIONED COMPETITIONS

Add New USAV 7.2.2.b: "For junior competition, when one team has exclusive use of the court, the other team must either be at its team bench or out of the playing area. Warming up with balls at the team bench or the spectator walkways is not permitted."

ARIZONA REGION PLAY: The team not having exclusive use of the court may no longer warm up with balls around the court or in the walkway areas. They may stretch at their bench area or use the off court time for personal reasons. The timed portion of the warm up (5-4-4 or 2-4-4) has not changed.

SAFETY FOR ALL IS OUR PRIMARY CONCERN

ARIZONA REGION COMMENTARY ON THE NEW CENTERLINE RULES:

1. The new rules will reduce minor centerline violations, while still providing for player safety on both sides of the net. The rules still prohibit interference with the opponents play.

11.2.2.2: NEW CENTERLINE RULE

1. Deleted 11.2.2.2: "To contact the opponent's court with any other part of the body is forbidden."
2. Replaced with 11.2.2.2: "to touch the opponent's court with any part of the body above the feet is permitted provided that it does not interfere with the opponent's play."

11.4.2: NEW CENTERLINE RULE

1. Deleted 11.4.2: "A player penetrates into the opponents' space under the net, interfering with the latter's play."
2. Replaced with 11.4.2: "A player interferes with the opponent's play while penetrating into the opponent's space under the net."

11.4.3: NEW CENTERLINE RULE

1. Deleted 11.4.3: "A player penetrates into the opponents' court."
2. Replaced with 11.4.3: "A player's foot (feet) penetrates completely into the opponent's court."

ARIZONA REGION COMMENTARY ON THE NEW NET TOUCH RULES:

These changes are designed to reduce interruptions in play, thus promoting longer, more exciting rallies.

1. The new rules will eliminate 'non-violation' nets, even in the action of playing the ball, while still providing for player safety on both sides of the net. The rules still prohibit interference with the opponents play
2. Significant nets that interfere with play will still be called as "net violations".
3. These new rules do not relieve the clubs from teaching basic hitting and blocking skills.

11.3.1: NEW NET TOUCH RULE

1. **Deleted 11.3.1:** "Contact with the net by a player is not a fault, unless it is made during the action of playing the ball, or it interferes with the play. Some actions of playing the ball may include actions in which the players do not actually touch the ball."

2. **Replaced with 11.3.1:** "Contact with the net by a player is not a fault, unless it interferes with the play."

11.3.2: NEW NET TOUCH RULE

1. **Deleted 11.3.2:** "Once the player has hit the ball, he/she may touch the post, rope or any other object outside the total length of the net, provided that it does not interfere with play."

2. **Replaced with 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."

11.4.4: NEW NET TOUCH RULE

1. **Deleted 11.4.4:** "A player touches the net or the antenna during his/her action or playing the ball or interferes with the play."

2. **Replaced with 11.4.4:** "A player interferes with the opponent's play by (amongst others):

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

NEW SUBSTITUTION REQUEST

15.10.3: Substitutions are only recognized when the sub enters the zone. There is no longer a request from the coach or captain.

1. **Deleted 15.10.3:** "At the moment of the substitution request, the substitute player(s) must be ready to enter the court, standing close to the substitution zone. If that is not the case, the substitution is not granted and the team is sanctioned for a delay."

2. **Replaced with 15.10.3a:** "The actual request for substitution is the entrance of the substitute player(s) into the substitution zone, ready to play, during a regular interruption."

3. **Replaced with 15.10.3b:** "If that is not the case, the substitution is not granted and the team is sanctioned for a delay."

4. **Replaced with 15.10.3c:** "The request for substitution is acknowledged and announced by the scorer or second referee, by use of the buzzer or whistle, respectively."