



USA Volleyball
2007-08 Rules Interpretation Bulletin #3
May 19, 2008

1. A player from Team A legally pursues a ball in the opponent's free zone and contacts the ball, sending it back toward Team A's court. On the return path, the ball hits the first referee.

Ruling: *The ball is "out" per Rule 8.4.2.*

2. A player runs into the second referee or line judge while chasing the ball.

Ruling: *The first referee may award a replay if he/she feels the physical interference impeded the player's attempt to legally play the ball (USAV 8.4.2f).*

3. A back row player on the court becomes injured and cannot continue to play after 30-seconds. If the Libero is currently on the bench, can the Libero replace the injured player instead of a substitution having to take place?

Ruling: *Yes. A legal Libero replacement for the injured player remains an option after the 30-second injury evaluation period has elapsed.*

4. The numbers on the front of the team's jerseys are not centered according to Rule 5.1.4. Is the team permitted to play while wearing these jerseys?

Ruling: *At USAV national competitions, the jerseys must conform to Rule 4.3.3.1, and the team would not be allowed to play with these jerseys.*

5. The coach submits the team's starting line-up and has player #1 listed as a starter in Position 1. Player #1 is also listed as the Libero. The second referee and scorer did not notice this until the line-ups were being checked to start the set. What is the appropriate action by the referees to handle this situation?

Ruling: *During that set, the only player who may be the Libero for this team is #1, and player #1 may not participate as a regular player. A "phantom" substitution must be made in the position occupied by #1 on the team's line-up. If, however, this is noticed when the line-up is submitted to the R2, a good preventive refereeing technique would be to ask the coach/captain which position they would like #1 to play, and allow them to "fix" the line-up sheet error.*

6. Team A is granted a substitution and immediately thereafter, Team B requests and is granted a time-out. At the conclusion of the time-out, Team A requests another substitution.

Ruling: *The request is denied, and the team may be subject to an Improper Request. A team is allowed only one request for substitution during each dead ball.*

7. Team A asks for a substitution at the same time that Team B requests a time-out. The second referee acknowledges (whistles) the time-out and indicates that the time-out will be granted first, and the substitution will be administered at the conclusion of the time-out. During the time-out: 1) Team A indicates that an additional substitution is desired at the conclusion of the time-out. Does this constitute a second request for substitution during the same dead ball? 2) Team A indicates that no substitutions are desired at the conclusion of the time-out. Does this constitute an improper request or delay?

Ruling: 1) *No. Since the time-out was administered first, if Team A still wants a substitution, the request must be made at the conclusion of the time-out. This may be a request for single or multiple substitutions.*

2) *No. Since the time-out was administered first and the substitution request was not recognized, if Team A makes no request for substitution after the time-out, play resumes without sanction.*

8. If a player's towel or pair of glasses falls to the floor during play, should a delay sanction be assessed if the rally must be stopped to allow the player to retrieve the item?

Ruling: *If a player's towel falls to the floor during a rally, which consequently requires a stoppage of play, a delay sanction must be issued. The rally should not be stopped unless a true hazard exists to the players. A towel that falls to the floor on a team's own side of the court is generally that team's "problem," and that team must take steps to mitigate the risk hazard. A player missing a play on the ball while moving the towel is not sufficient cause to stop the rally. However, the towel falling on the centerline, where it may become a hazard to the opponents, is cause enough to stop the rally, issue a delay sanction, and replay the rally.*

Eye-glasses (or contact lenses) are worn at the player's own risk (Rule 4.5.2). If a stoppage of play results due to a concern for safety, a delay sanction is assessed and a replay should be granted. A similar rationale, as noted above in the "towel" situation, should be used to determine if a true safety hazard exists. Of course, if a player is injured as his/her lenses fall to the floor, the injury takes precedence and the provisions of Rule 17.1 should be applied.

9. A player is wearing a hard plastic headband to control long hair. Is this legal?

Ruling: *Smooth plastic headbands may be used to control the hair. Likewise, barrettes and bobby pins are permitted. Such items do not need to be covered or padded.*