

FIVB OFFICIAL BEACH VOLLEYBALL RULES 2017 – 2020

Approved by the 35th FIVB Congress 2016

The new rules were agreed at the 35th Congress in 2016 and became effective in competition from the 1st January 2017.

They do not include any major changes to the current rules in use but there are some minor alterations and clarifications of certain rules which for the most part affect the International game (or in FIVB parlance “for FIVB, World and Official competitions”; where this is referred to in this briefing it will be shown as FWOC).

Rules Amendments

Section 1 – PLAYING AREA

Rule 1.4: ZONES AND AREAS

FIVB have inserted the word ‘playing’ so the rule now refers not to “...the court...” but “...the playing court...” thus:

1.4 There is only the **playing** court, service zone and the free zone surrounding the **playing** court.

Section 2 – NET AND POSTS

Rule 2.2: STRUCTURE

Insert of the word ‘playing’ in para 1 of the rule in relation to the net being hung “...over the narrow axis at the middle of the **playing** court.”

Rule 2.3: SIDE BANDS

FIVB have inserted the word ‘directly’ into the rule in relation to the side bands plus one other semantic change so that the rule now reads:

2.3 “...fastened vertically to the net and placed **directly** above each side line. They are considered **as** part of the net.

Rule 2.5: POSTS

FIVB have replaced the word ‘from’ to ‘outside’ in relation to the distance each post is from the side line, thus:

2.5.1 The posts supporting the net are placed at a distance of 0.70-1.00m ~~from~~ **outside** each side line. They are 2.55m high and preferably adjustable.

Section 3 – BALLS

Rule 3.1: STANDARDS

FIVB have inserted the word ‘uniform’ into the rule defining the colour of the balls, thus:

Colour: light **uniform** colour or a combination of colours.

VE implication – no material impact for VEBT, Student Cup, NEVZA, CEV or other VE officially sanctioned events

Section 4 – TEAMS

Rule 4.1: TEAM COMPOSITION

FIVB have inserted the phrase ‘for Seniors’ into the rule 4.1.4 which relates to FWOC, thus:

4.1.4 For FIVB, World and Official competitions **for Seniors**, players are not allowed to receive external assistance or coaching during a match.

VE implication – No impact, unless stipulated in tournament regulations. Presumably this distinction has been made because age-related world competitions are often used as a test bed for future rules changes.

Rule 4.3: EQUIPMENT

FIVB have made some semantic changes from the singular possessive to plural possessive (e.g. **player's** to **players'**) in this rule and throughout the rule book in general.

They have also made some corresponding contextual changes from the plural to the singular or vice-versa in relation to referenced objects (e.g. **numbers** to **number**, **jerseys** to **jersey**) to reflect this.

Rule 4.3: EQUIPMENT

Change of word '**undershirts**' to '**...an undershirt...**' reflecting grammatical change described above.

Rule 4.3: FORBIDDEN OBJECTS

Insertion of "**...or visible underwear...**" into the FWOC caveat at the end of this rule. It seems even your undies must be colour coordinated if you wish to play at an international level and was required to be codified as such.

4.5.3 [...]

For FIVB, World and Official Competitions for seniors, these devices or visible underwear must be of the same colour as part of the uniform.

Section 6 – TO SCORE A POINT, TO WIN A SET AND THE MATCH

Rule 6.1: TO SCORE A POINT

Change of word '**grounding**' to '**landing**' in 6.1.1.1 thus:

6.1.1 Point:

A team scores a point:

6.1.1.1 by successfully **landing** the ball on the opponent's court;

6.1.3 Rally and completed rally

Changes in wording to be more explicit as to what constitutes a completed rally. The old wording used a phrase 'out-with' and this is now replaced by "**loss of service for service hit made after the time limit**", thus:

[...]

A rally is the sequence of playing actions from the moment of the service hit by the server until the ball is out of play. A completed rally is the sequence of playing actions which results in the award of a point.

This includes

- **the award of a penalty**
- **loss of service for a service hit made after the time-limit.**

Section 7 – STRUCTURE OF PLAY

Rule 7.1: THE TOSS

Insertion of the word "playing" in Rule 7.1.2.2 when the winner of the toss chooses either the right to serve or receive or the side of the *playing* court, thus:

7.1.2.2 the side of the **playing** court.

Rule 7.7: SERVICE ORDER FAULT

Clarification that correction of any potential service error, if spotted, must occur prior to the whistle for service, thus:

7.7.2 The scorer(s) must correctly indicate the service order and correct any incorrect server **prior to the whistle for service.**

Section 8 – STATES OF PLAY

Rule 8.3: BALL “IN”

Rewording of the Rule to remove any ambiguity that when the ball touches any part of the line when landing on the court, it is “In”, thus:

The ball is “in” if at any moment of its contact with the playing surface, some part of the ball touches the court, including touching the boundary lines.

Section 9 – PLAYING THE BALL

Rule 9.1: TEAM HITS

Rule 9.1.1 Consecutive contacts

Amendment to the Rules referenced, when exceptions to a player not hitting the ball two times consecutively are applicable; now 9.2.2.2, 9.2.2.3, 14.2 and 14.4.2.

FIVB have now included an additional Rule to describe formally what happens when a joust occurs and the ball hits the antenna after a joust. Previously, this was covered in the refereeing guidelines.

9.1.2.4 If the ball hits the antenna after simultaneous hits by two opponents over the net, the rally should be replayed.

Rule 9.2: CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HIT

There has been some tweaking of this rule and derivative sub-rules in an attempt to clarify things. The use of ‘exceptions’ to describe when the Rules on simultaneous and consecutive contacts during ball contact *did not apply* or when a variation of the Rule applied depending on the circumstances has been replaced. Rule 9.2.2.x now reads:

9.2.2.1 Simultaneous Contacts:

The ball may touch various parts of the body, provided that the contacts take place simultaneously.

9.2.2.2 Consecutive contacts:

At the first hit of the team, provided it is not made overhand with fingers, consecutive contacts are permitted provided that the contacts occur during one action. During the first hit of the team if it is played overhand using fingers, the ball may NOT contact the fingers/ hands consecutively, even if the contacts occur during one action.

9.2.2.3 However, at blocking, consecutive contacts may be made by one or more players, provided that they occur during one action.

9.2.2.4 Extended contacts:

In defensive action of a hard driven ball, the ball contact can be extended momentarily even if an overhand finger action is used.

Section 10 – BALL AT THE NET

Rule 10.1: BALL CROSSING THE NET

Rule 10.1.4

A re-wording of the Rule on when a player can follow a ball into the opponents’ space. FIVB have also swapped the order in which it was stated.

10.1.4 A player, however, may enter the opponents’ court in order to play the ball before it passes outside the crossing space, or before it crosses completely the lower space.

Section 11 – PLAYER AT THE NET

Rule 11.3: CONTACT WITH THE NET

Rule 11.3.1

In order to help referees understand the playing action, the words of the definition is extended and reads:

11.3.1 The action of playing the ball includes (among others) take-off, hit (or attempt) and landing safely, ready for a new action.

Rule 11.4: PLAYER'S FAULTS AT THE NET

Rule 11.4.3

The text tidies up the Rule which covers when a player interferes with play in the action of playing the ball even if no actual contact with the ball occurs. It now reads:

11.4.3 [...]

Any player close to the ball as it is played, and who is him/herself trying to play it, is considered in the action of playing the ball, even if no contact is made with it.

Rule 12.3: AUTHORISATION OF THE SERVICE

Semantic change to replace the phrase "the teams" with "both teams" when referring to whom the 1st referee checks prior to service authorisation.

The 1st referee authorizes the service, after having checked that both teams are ready to play and that the server is in possession of the ball.

Rule 12.5: SCREENING

Rule 12.5.2

Semantic phraseology change affecting the wording of the Rule on screening which now reads:

12.5.2 A player of the serving team makes a screen by waving arms, jumping or moving sideways during the execution of the service, and in so doing hides both the server and the flight path of the ball.

Section 15 – INTERRUPTIONS

Rule 15.4: TIME-OUTS AND TECHNICAL TIME-OUTS

Rule 15.4.4

FIVB have added TTO to the definition of regular interruptions and when players must return to their designated team areas:

15.4.4 During all regular interruptions (including Technical Time Outs) and set intervals, players must go to the designated players' area.

Section 17 – EXCEPTIONAL GAME INTERRUPTIONS

Rule 17.3: PROLONGED INTERRUPTIONS

Rule 17.3.2

Insertion of the word 'playing' (court) into Rule 17.3.2 when relating to resumption of a match after a delay, so it now reads:

17.3.2 Should one or several interruptions occur not exceeding 4 hours in total, the match is resumed with the score acquired, regardless of whether it continues on the same playing court or another playing court.

Section 22 – 1ST REFEREE

Rule 22.3: RESPONSIBILITIES

Rule 22.3.2.3

Codifying the existing responsibility relating to the passing of the ball over or outside the antenna on the side of the 1st referee, thus:

22.3.2.3 to decide upon:

[...]

(e) the served ball and the 3rd hit passing over or outside the antenna on his/her side of the court.

Section 23 – 2ND REFEREE

Rule 23.2: AUTHORITY

Rule 23.2.9: Change of “...if applicable...” (which seemed more appropriate) to “...if the 1st Referee is not able to do it...”, should the 2nd referee need to perform the coin toss between sets 2 and 3.

23.2.9 He/she conducts the toss between sets 2 and 3 if the 1st Referee is not able to do it. He/she then must pass all relevant information to the scorer.

Rule 23.3: RESPONSIBILITIES

Rule 23.3.2.7

Codifying the existing responsibility relating to the passing of the ball over or outside the antenna on the side of the 2nd referee, thus:

23.3.2.7 the served ball and the 3rd hit passing over or outside the antenna on his/her side of the court.

DIAGRAMS

Diagram 7a: MISCONDUCT WARNING AND SANCTIONS SCALE AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES

The table has been expanded to include the category of Minor Misconduct with the two stage process to apply (as or if appropriate).

CATEGORIES	OCCURRENCE	OFFENDER	SANCTION	CARDS	CONSEQUENCE
MINOR MISCONDUCT	Stage 1	Any member	Not considered as sanction	None	Prevention only
	Stage 2			Yellow	
	repetition any time		Considered as rude conduct	as below	as below
RUDE CONDUCT (same set)	First	Any member	Penalty	Red	A point and service to the opponent
	Second	Same member	Penalty	Red	A point and service to the opponent
	Third	Same member	Expulsion	Red +Yellow jointly	Team declared incomplete for the set
RUDE CONDUCT (new set)	First	Any member	Penalty	Red	A point and service to the opponent
OFFENSIVE CONDUCT	First	Any member	Expulsion	Red +Yellow jointly	Team declared incomplete for the set
	Second	Same member	Disqualification	Red +Yellow separately	Team declared incomplete for the match
AGGRESSION	First	Any member	Disqualification	Red +Yellow separately	Team declared incomplete for the match

Diagram 9: REFEREES' OFFICIAL HAND SIGNALS

The wording relating to when the Referee shows Signal #19 has been amended and expanded upon from:
“...SERVED BALL FAILS TO PASS TO THE OPPONENTS THROUGH CROSSING SPACE”

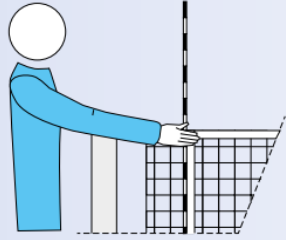
to

“...SERVED BALL **TOUCHES THE NET BETWEEN THE ANTENNAE AND DOES NOT PASS THE VERTICAL PLANE OF THE NET**”

19 NET TOUCHED BY PLAYER – SERVED BALL TOUCHES THE NET BETWEEN THE ANTENNAE AND DOES NOT PASS THE VERTICAL PLANE OF THE NET

Relevant Rule: 12.6.2.1

Indicate the relevant side of the net with the corresponding hand



F S

The diagram shows a referee in a blue uniform standing to the left of a tennis net. The referee's right arm is extended, pointing towards the net. The net is shown in a perspective view, with a vertical line representing the center line. The net is divided into two halves by this vertical line. The referee is pointing to the right half of the net. In the bottom left corner of the diagram, there are two small circles, one containing the letter 'F' and the other containing the letter 'S'.

It's not clear what signal should be shown if the served ball fails to cross through to the opponents crossing space and doesn't touch the net. In this eventuality, the 1st Referee should continue to show Signal #19 as before.

Only in the case where a player touches the net during a rally would the 2nd Referee show this signal, which is no change from current protocol.