

Frequently Asked Questions on Uniforms and Contest Delays Beach Volleyball – 2020-21

This document includes specific NCAA Beach Volleyball Rules Modifications references where applicable.

1. What words, logos and symbols are allowed on the jersey?

Other than the uniform number, here are the only items allowed by governance on the jersey (NCAA Beach Volleyball Rules Modification 4.3):

Words

- Player's name
- School name/reference
- Mascot name/reference

Logos

- NCAA
- Conference
- School
- Mascot
- Postseason Game
- Commemorative
- Insignia

2. What size restrictions are there for these?

Only a single reference can be on the front and/or back of the jersey. There are no size restrictions for player name, school name or mascot. However, the reference cannot alter the integrity of the uniform number. The sleeve(s) can contain a mascot/school reference that cannot exceed 3x5 or 4x4 inches. As authorized by the institution or conference, allow a commemorative/memorial patch (e.g., names, mascots, nicknames, logos, and marks intended to celebrate or memorialize persons, events, or other causes). The patch must not exceed 2¼-square inches and must be placed on the front or sleeve of the uniform and may not interfere with any required markings. While not all team members are required to wear the commemorative/memorial patch, the patch must be identical for those who choose to wear the patch.

3. Are any words other than the player's name allowed on the back?

Yes, the back of the jersey may contain one of the following: player's name, school name or a school mascot reference. Additionally, as authorized by the institution/conference, names/words intended to celebrate or memorialize persons, events, or other causes on the back where the player name is traditionally located are allowed. The names/words may vary by team member.

4. May the jersey contain any other words, slogans, messaging, etc.?

Yes, the jersey sleeve may contain a mascot or school reference (Mighty Ducks, Fighting Irish, etc.). It cannot exceed 3x5 or 4x4 inches.

5. *Are words allowed on wristbands and other attachments?*

The NCAA Division I Manual specifies parameters related to logos/labels/trademarks on such items. However, neither the NCAA Division I Manual, USAV Beach Volleyball Rules, nor the NCAA Beach Volleyball Rules Modifications specifically address other wristbands, arm sleeves, etc. with regard to words or messaging.

6. *What about messaging for causes, organizations, etc.?*

Neither the USAV Beach Volleyball Rules nor the NCAA Beach Volleyball Rules Modifications specifically address words or symbols that reference charitable causes, political candidates or political issues, social media, religious or club affiliation, etc. There have been exceptions, such as breast cancer awareness month (teams were allowed to have the pink ribbon on the jerseys). As authorized by the institution/conference, names/words intended to celebrate or memorialize persons, events, or other causes on the back of the jersey where the player name is traditionally located are allowed. The names/words may vary by team member.

7. *How does the unsportsmanlike acts rule apply?*

Minor misconduct offenses are not subject to sanctions. It is the 1st referee's duty to prevent the teams from approaching the sanctioning level. This is done in two stages. Incorrect conduct by a team member toward officials, opponents, teammates or spectators is classified in three categories according to the seriousness of the offense. (USAV Beach Volleyball Rule 20).

8. *What are the rules about jersey colors for opposing teams?*

The NCAA Beach Volleyball Rules Modifications requires that the visiting team ensure its uniform top is a contrasting color to that selected by the home team. An exception exists wherein tournament brackets may designate uniform color. When competing team's uniforms do not contrast, the visiting team must change uniforms. (NCAA Rules Modification 4.4)

9. *Is it possible for the visiting team to wear their home (colored) jerseys?*

Yes, especially during a tournament in which teams play more than one match in a single day. There is no penalty if the visiting team wears a white/light jersey (see #8).

10. *What are the rules about the contrast of jerseys and numbers?*

- Player's game jerseys must be uniquely numbered on the front and back of the jersey.
- A player number with Arabic numerals.
 - Each team member's game jersey shall be numbered on the front and back. The number shall be centered on the back of the jersey. In the front, the number must be either centered or placed on one shoulder with the top of the number no more than 5 inches down from the shoulder seam.
 - Player's game jerseys may be numbered from 0 through 99 inclusively. Duplicate numbers may not be worn.
 - The number shall be at least 6 inches high on the back and at least 4 inches high on the front and not less than 1-inch wide.
- The number shall be one single solid color that contrasts the jersey color and may be bordered by no more than a ½-inch border of any color(s).

11. What is the penalty for wearing a jersey whose numbers do not contrast?

Teams appearing in a jersey which does not conform to the contrasting number rule will be given the opportunity to change into a legal jersey prior to the start of the official warm-up. Failure to adhere to NCAA Rules Modification 4.3 subjects the non-compliant team(s) to match forfeiture. (NCAA Rules Modification 4.3).

12. What is the purpose of the rules regarding numbering and visibility?

The rules for contrasting numbers and visibility are intended to provide clearly visible numbers for the stakeholders: officials, coaches, fans, media, television audience, etc. This means that the numbers should be clearly visible at a distance under a variety of lighting conditions.

13. What is the rule regarding refusal to play?

If a team refuses to play after being summoned to do so, it is declared in default and forfeits the match with the result 0-2 for the match and 0-21 for each set. (USAV Beach Volleyball Rule 6.4.1)

14. Are there any playing rules that specify protocols for student-athletes and/or coaches during the national anthem?

There is not a playing rule specifying protocols; thus, institutions are free to incorporate the national anthem into game day procedures at their discretion. However, it is standard procedure to conduct a pre-match protocol that includes the playing of the national anthem at one of the following times:

- just prior to the R1's whistle for the pre-match captain's meeting and coin-toss, or
- after the teams have reported to the end-line, but just prior to the R1's whistle inviting teams to the net to shake hands.

Oftentimes and due to the nature of how competition days are structured (multiple duals scheduled back-to-back), the national anthem will be played one time only, at the beginning of the event.

Additionally, participants should be allowed to express their opinions (e.g., kneeling during the national anthem) as long as the action does not delay or disrupt competition.

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