



## MEMORANDUM

Apr. 4, 2025

### VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA National Collegiate Beach Volleyball Head Coaches

FROM: Kristin Fasbender  
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SUBJECT: NCAA National Collegiate Beach Volleyball Rules Interpretations  
**Clarifications, Interpretations, and Techniques**

The following scenarios are examples of real situations that have been brought forward to the Rules Interpreter in the first half of the 2025 NCAA beach volleyball season. Please review each scenario and related rules interpretations for clarification.

**Scenario A:** While in the area of competition (i.e., court(s) being utilized for individual pairs or team warm-up or cool-down activities, area(s) surrounding the playing area), a team's coach allows one or more members of the team to wear part of the official team uniform illegally (i.e. top off or intentionally shortened, shoulder strap(s) lowered). The official notifies the coach that this is in violation of NCAA Rules Modifications. Is the official correct or incorrect?

**NCAA Rules Interpretation:** The official is correct. NCAA Rules Modification 4.3 states, "...Wearing any part of the official team uniform illegally (i.e., top off or intentionally shortened, shoulder straps lowered) while in the area of competition shall lead to a warning by the official that, repeated violations may result in disciplinary action."

**Related NCAA Championship Policy [Reference also: Bylaw 12.5.4 in the NCAA Manual]:** Playing uniforms must be in accordance with NCAA rules. Participants in the championship shall wear exclusively the official uniform of their institution in competition and during related ceremonies. This applies to warm-up shirts and uniforms, and competitive uniforms.

**Scenario B:** An individual not designated by certification of the institution as the Head Coach, Assistant Coach, or Designated Third Coach and not also listed on a team's Dual Match Line-Up Form is keeping in-game notes and stats (i.e., serving and blocking signals, hitting charts, etc.) from outside the Team Area. Those notes and stats are then passed into an identified Head

Coach, Assistant Coach, Designated Third Coach, or match participant during competition. Is this a permissible NCAA Match Standard or NCAA Coaching guideline?

**NCAA Rules Interpretation:** No. When observed, the official will consider such action(s) as external assistance and subjects the Coach (or designated captain, in the absence of a Coach) to sanction (individual misconduct). Misconduct by any player or coach should be managed when possible through verbal warning(s). Referees may offer one Formal Warning (Individual Yellow Card) per MATCH to a TEAM (player or coach) guilty of misconduct. Subsequent misconduct by ANY player or coach on that team in that MATCH must be sanctioned by **PENALTY** (Red Card: point and serve to opponent). All Misconduct and all Delay warnings or Sanctions remain in effect through the entire MATCH. Reference USA Volleyball Misconduct Sanction Scale (Diagram 7) and NCAA Rules Modification 20.b. The official should also request the Head/Lead Referee to the side of the court to further monitor the issue of external assistance.

Due to the potential for NCAA Bylaw violation, PENALTIES (red cards) assessed as a result of external assistance must be reported to the NCAA NC Beach Volleyball Rules Interpreter at [treenie.meyer@gmail.com](mailto:treenie.meyer@gmail.com) within 48 hours of the completion of the affected dual.

USA Volleyball Rule 4.1.4 declares that players are not allowed to receive external assistance or coaching during a match. NCAA Rules Modification 4.1.4.5 further declares that coaches may not give instructions during play, may give instruction only during time outs, technical time-outs, side changes, and between sets.

Additionally, NCAA Rules Modification 4.1.1.4 (in accordance with NCAA Bylaw 11.7.5.4) states that no individual other than coaches designated to fill the coaching limits set forth in Bylaw 11.7.5 may participate in any manner in the coaching of the intercollegiate team of a member institution during any game, practice or other organized activity...

**Scenario C:** Team A is playing Team B in the 4<sup>th</sup> dual of the day. Team B last competed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> dual of the day while Team A competed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> dual of the day. Is the Head/Lead Referee correct to require the Team B completed line-up form 1 hour before the start of dual 4 and the Team A completed line-up form 15 minutes before the start of dual 4?

**NCAA Rules Interpretation:** The Head/Lead Referee is correct. The Team Lineups section of the NCAA Rules Modification states that the team lineup must be submitted to the Head/Lead Referee one hour before the start of play, or 15 minutes before the start time of the next dual, if playing back-to-back duals, at which time, the lineup is official. Refusal by a coach to submit their team lineup in accordance with the NCAA Rules Modifications is subject to a Team Delay

Warning (Yellow Card) assessed at the beginning of all matches (Pairs 1s – 5s) in that dual. All Misconduct and all Delay warnings or Sanctions remain in effect through the entire MATCH. The second and subsequent delay of any type by any match participant (player or coach) in the same match constitutes a fault and results in a Delay Penalty (Red Card: point and serve to opponent). *Multiple Delay Penalties may be assessed within a match.*

**Related clarification:** Once both lineups become official, the Head/Lead Referee may share them between the opponent teams.

**Related reminder:** A completed NCAA Beach Volleyball - Regular Season Dual Match Lineup Form (team lineup) is required for each event.

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