



2026-27 Men's Volleyball Rules Modifications

The following rules modifications were approved by the NCAA Men's Volleyball Committee, Division III Men's Volleyball Committee, and the Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel. These modifications will be implemented for the 2026-27 season.

Rule	Rule Modification and Rationale
Substitutions (National Collegiate Only)	Increase allowable substitutions from 6 to 8, with one re-entry. Rationale: Provide more substitution opportunities for men's volleyball student-athletes.
Libero Designation (National Collegiate Only)	When a team decides to designate two liberos, allow them to switch the designations of who the two libero players are between sets. Rationale: Freedom to make adjustments.
Cheerleaders, Bands and Team Mascots (National Collegiate Only)	Cheerleaders and official team mascots may be in nonplaying areas on their team's portion of the facility or in spectator seating at any time. During play, the designated area for cheerleaders and official team mascots is on their own team's portion of the playing area, beyond the sideline opposite the team bench or beyond the end line. They must be at least 2 meters (6 feet, 6 inches) from the court, or farther if the facility allows. During timeouts and between sets, cheerleaders and official team mascots may be on their team's playing area or anywhere in the free zone on the first referee's side of the court. Rationale: Limit distractions during contests.
Penetration Under the Net	Contacting the opponent's court with feet is permitted, provided some part of the penetrating foot or feet remains in contact with or directly above the center line, and there is no interference with opponents. It is a fault to completely cross the center line and contact the opponent's court with one or both feet. Rationale: Align with NCAA women's volleyball in enforcing the rules consistently.
Release	Any player may leave their correct rotation position at the moment the server's motion begins. Rationale: Speed of the serve and align with FIVB rules.
Use of Electronic Aids	Electronic transmission of live statistical data and/or live video to the bench area for coaching purposes would be permitted. Video transmitted to the bench may not be used to show the referee(s) a possible missed call or interpretation. There shall be no use of electronic equipment for communication purposes to and from the bench

	area. However, when not used for communication purposes, laptop computers or tablets are permitted to be used on the bench. When an official is certain that the computer or tablet is being used to communicate to and from the bench area, an individual penalty (red card) shall be assessed to the head coach. Rationale: Currently, the use of electronic aids and statistical data are not addressed in the rules modification document for men's volleyball.
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