MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

2026-27 RULES MODIFICATIONS

IF YOU THINK YOU OR YOUR TEAMMATE HAS HAD A

CONCUSSION

DON'T HIDE IT. • REPORT IT. • TAKE TIME TO RECOVER.



IT'S BETTER TO MISS ONE GAME THAN THE WHOLE SEASON.

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NCAA Men's Volleyball Committees

The charts below list the members of the committee that voted on and approved the rules included in this edition of the rules modification document. This information is being included for historical purposes. *(Term Expiration Date)*

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE

Karl France Farleigh Dickinson *(9-1-2027)*	**Anthony Holloman** Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference *(9-1-2027)*
Dan Friend Lewis University *(9-1-2028)*	**Paula Smith** University of California, Irvine *(9-1-2027)*
Jennifer James Pennsylvania State University *(9-1-2029)*	

DIVISION III MEN'S VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE

Dan Ames Aurora University *(9-1-2027)*	**Justin Beachy** Messiah University *(9-1-2029)*
Kulsum Khan Pratt Institute *(9-1-2028)*	**Brian Magoffin** Springfield College *(9-1-2027)*

Rules Process Overview

The NCAA competes using the USA Volleyball Indoor Rules Book as the standard playing rules for the sport of NCAA men's volleyball. The playing rules are applicable to all Division III and National Collegiate competition unless modified by this document. All NCAA men's volleyball competition is to be conducted under the rules of the Indoor Rules Book with any modifications approved by the specific divisional championship committee. Any rules specific to the NCAA championship can be found in the divisional Pre-Championships Manual.

The following modifications have been approved by the NCAA Men's Volleyball Committee, Division III Men's Volleyball Committee and the Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel. *Each changed or edited segment is identified in this document by a shaded background.*

Any questions concerning rules and interpretations should be directed to:

Paden Alie, Coordinator
NCAA Championships and Alliances
Email: palie@ncaa.org

Official Rules Modifications

No.	RULE	MODIFICATION
Mod 1	Sportsmanship Point of Emphasis USAV - Indoor Rules Book Chapter 7, Rules 20 and 21	Sportsmanlike conduct and minor acts of misconduct are defined by Chapter 7, Rule 20 and Rule 21 of the USAV - Indoor Rules Book. Student-athletes on the court and in the bench area must conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner during all men's volleyball competition. Officials must enforce the USAV - Indoor Rules Book playing rules as written.
Mod 2	Prohibit the Use of Tobacco Products	The use of tobacco by student-athletes, or team or game personnel (e.g., coaches, athletic trainers, managers and game officials), is prohibited during competition. Any student-athlete, or team or game personnel, who uses tobacco during competition shall be disqualified for the remainder of that competition.
Mod 3	Indoor Rules Book – 1.4.5	Institutions must place a 3 meter restraining line on the surface, painted or with tape, five feet from the sideline on the bench side of the court. The line will begin at the end of the bench area. Student-athletes and bench personnel not seated at the bench are required to remain behind the restraining line during play. **Effective for National Collegiate beginning 2023-24.*
Mod 4	Indoor Rules Book – 4.2.3.2	Ball handling during timeouts shall be permitted in the free zone.
Mod 5	Indoor Rules Book – 4.2.4	Attacking between sets shall be permitted into own court.
Mod 6	Indoor Rules Book – 7.1	The coin toss winner will choose to serve or receive. The home team will select the benches before the coin toss.
Mod 7	Indoor Rules Book - 9.3.4	A double contact during a team's second hit when the next contact on the ball is by a teammate is permitted. A double contact that crosses the net to the opponent or is next contacted by an opponent before a teammate, is a double contact foul.

No.	RULE	MODIFICATION
Mod 8	Indoor Rules Book –10.1.2.1	The international pursuit rule will be used provided the play does not extend into the spectator seating area.
Mod 9	Indoor Rules Book –10.1.2.1	Teams will be given two timeouts. Timeouts will last 75 seconds, with a 15-second warning whistle. Play can resume early if both teams are ready.
Mod 10	Indoor Rules Book – 15.1	Technical timeouts to only be used as requested by media.
Mod 11	Indoor Rules Book – 15.4.2 and 15.4.3	There will be a technical timeout when the first team reaches 15 points in sets one through four. In the fifth set, each team will receive two timeouts. There will be a technical timeout when the first team reaches eight points. The technical timeout will be canceled if either team calls a timeout before the automatic technical timeout.
Mod 12	Indoor Rules Book – 15.6a *Division III Modification	Twelve unlimited substitutions per set will be used. If a Division III institution plays a Division I or Division II institution, the number of substitutions per set will be limited to eight.
Mod 13	Indoor Rules Book – 15.6a *National Collegiate Modification	Number of substitutions per set shall be limited to eight, with one re-entry.
Mod 14	Indoor Rules Book – 18.1	Intermission between sets 2 and 3 shall be 3 to 10 minutes with prior notification to visiting head coach.
Mod 15	Indoor Rules Book – 19.2	The Libero must wear a uniform which has a different dominant color from the rest of the team. The uniform must clearly contrast the rest of the team. The Libero uniform must be numbered like the rest of the team.
Mod 16	Indoor Rules Book – 19.3.1.3	The Libero will not be allowed to serve. No exception is permitted.
Mod 17	Challenge Review System	The Challenge Review System (CRS) procedures are found in Appendix A of this document.

No.	RULE	MODIFICATION
Mod 18	Indoor Rules Book - 19.1	When a team decides to designate two liberos, allow them to switch the designations of who the two libero players are between sets.
Mod 19	Cheerleads, Bands and Teams 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.
Mod 20	Indoor Rules Book - 11.2.1	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.
Mod 21	Indoor Rules Book - 12	Any player may leave their correction rotation position at the moment the server's motion begins.

No.	RULE	MODIFICATION
Mod 22	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.

Officiating Protocol Modifications

PROTOCOL 1

Introductions should be done through a sideline processional. To maintain more consistency with the protocol followed by the women and at the men's national tournament, the committee recommends that the players be introduced at the end line with the officials near the score table.

PROTOCOL 2

The USAV Indoor Rules Book indicates that line judges (LJ) be positioned at the center of the end line during time-outs. The committee recommends that LJ's be positioned at the intersection of the attack line and sideline on R1's side of the court.

PROTOCOL 3

The USAV Indoor Rules Book positions the line judge (LJ), when a server takes a position within 1-2 meters of the line judge, the line judge must step away from the imaginary extension of the end line.

*Officiating protocols for NCAA postseason competition can be found in the divisional Pre-Championship Handbook.

Appendix A

Challenge Review System

Prior to the 2018 men's volleyball season a Challenge Review System (CRS) was approved for use by the Playing Rules Oversight Panel.

1. Definition

1.1 The challenge review system (instant replay) is a process whereby video review is used to confirm, reverse or replay specific decisions made by the officiating team.

1.2 The second referee may reverse a ruling only if the video review reveals by indisputable evidence that the referee's ruling was incorrect.

1.3 If the second referee determines that the video review is inconclusive, the original decision stands.

1.4 All reviews shall be limited to the challengeable action.

2. Eligibility and Participation

Any member institution or conference may use the CRS, but there is no requirement to do so.

3. Equipment, Personnel and Location

3.1 Personnel

3.1.1 Instant replay personnel shall consist of a video review technician to operate the review equipment in an efficient and timely manner.

3.1.2 A third official (review official) may be used to decide the outcome of a challenge by viewing the video instead of the second referee. The review official sits at the scorer's table next to the video review technician and makes the final decision to confirm or reverse the original ruling. Use of a review official is not required.

3.2 Equipment

3.2.1 The type, location and number of cameras used for the CRS shall be determined by each conference or member institution.

3.2.2 A monitor must be located at the scorer's table. The second referee should have direct and easy access to the monitor.

3.2.3 Any camera used shall not alter the integrity of the net or interfere with the officials' performance of their duties.

3.2.4 The challenge card shall be a minimum of 3x5 square inches and may not exceed 4x6 square inches. The color of the challenge card shall be jasmine green. It is recommended that the cards be laminated.

3.3 Location

3.3.1 During a challenge review, the players currently in the game must remain on the court. The coaches, non-playing members and bench personnel may approach the sideline beyond the substitution zone.

4. Reviewable Decisions

The following decisions may be reviewed:

4.1 Ball ruled in or out, as defined in Rule 8.2 and Rule 8.3 of the USAV Indoor Rules Book , whether the ball contacted a player and whether a player touched the net or antenna.

4.2 Whether a team may have had four or more ball contacts before returning to the opponents' court.

4.3 Whether a player may have contacted the ball twice, in two separate and distinct attempts to play the ball.

4.4 A decision on an illegal attack, illegal block or illegally contacting the ball over the opponent's court is challengeable only if the decision is dependent on whether there was contact by an involved player. The position and/or height of the ball or a player are not challengeable.

4.5 Whether a service foot fault occurred as defined by Rule 12.7.1 of the USAV Indoor Rules Book.

4.6 Whether a backrow player was an illegal attacker as defined by Rules 13.2.2 and 13.2.3 of the USAV Indoor Rules Book.

4.7 Whether the libero's foot/feet or take-off point is in the front zone when they set the ball to a teammate as defined by Rule 19.3.1.2 of the USAV Indoor Rules Book.

4.8 Whether or not a player's foot/feet or other body part completely crossed the line resulting in interference with the opponent's play.

4.9 Whether or not the encroachment presented a safety hazard to opponents.

5. Procedures

5.1 Number of challenges per match.

5.1.1 A coach begins each match with three (3) challenges per match. If a coach is successful in challenging the result of a play using CRS, the coach will retain the use of that challenge.

5.1.2 If a fifth set is played, each team is awarded an additional challenge at the start of the set, not to exceed three (3) total challenges.

5.2 Only one challenge per team is allowed each time the ball is out of play.

5.3 Only the team that lost the rally may challenge. If the call is reversed as a result of that challenge, the team that lost the review would be able to challenge another aspect of the previous play.

5.4 Only the head coach may request a challenge. The head coach may request a challenge by holding up the challenge card.

5.5 A challenge must be requested before the first service after the play in which the challengeable action occurred. Replay requests must take place within 8 seconds after the rally is over. To ensure that the 8 second rule is appropriately followed for a challenge, the resolution of a challenge could dictate whether a timeout is needed.

5.6 The R1 will determine if the challenge occurred within 8 seconds. A challenge must be accepted by the second referee provided it is one of the challengeable actions. If an attempt is made to challenge a non-challengeable action, the challenge shall be denied and a delay sanction may be assessed.

5.7 If a replay is indicated, either team may challenge. If the decision is reversed as a result of the challenge, the team that lost the point after review can challenge an earlier fault during the same play.

5.8 After the challenge is accepted, the R2 will let the scorer and the announcer know what is being challenged. When the R2 (R3 when applicable) has made a decision on the challenge, they will inform the scorer and announcers of the outcome and give the proper result to the R1.

5.9 If the video review results in a reversal of the original outcome, that challenge is retained by the challenging team. If the original outcome stands or is confirmed, the challenging team loses that challenge.

5.10 If the referee is informed after accepting a challenge that a camera(s) that was available prior to the challenge has a mechanical failure, the referee will inform the challenging coach of the failure, and allow the coach to decide to continue with the challenge using the available cameras, or withdraw the challenge.

Appendix B
Concussions

Revised May 2025

Sport-related concussion is a traumatic brain injury caused by a direct blow to the head, neck or body resulting in an impulsive force being transmitted to the brain that occurs in sports and exercise-related activities. Signs and symptoms may present immediately or evolve over minutes or hours.

Game officials are often in the best position to observe student-athletes after they have had a blow to the head or body, and may be the first to notice the behaviors that indicate a concussion may be present. An official may observe the following behaviors by a student-athlete with a suspected concussion:

- Appears dazed or stunned.
- Appears confused or incoherent.
- Shakes head.
- Stumbles; has to be physically supported by teammates.
- Moves clumsily or awkwardly.
- Shows behavior or personality changes.

Student-athletes with a suspected concussion must be removed from competition so that a medical examination can be conducted by the primary athletics healthcare provider (i.e., athletic trainer or team physician).

Importantly, a game official is not expected to evaluate a student-athlete. Instead, if an official notices any behavior that suggests a concussion, the official should stop play immediately and call an injury timeout so that an appropriate medical examination can be conducted. A simple guide to the official's role is: "When in doubt, call an injury timeout."

A student-athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion must be removed from practice or competition and may not return to sport activity on that day. The athlete must undergo medical evaluation and follow a return-to-learn/return-to-sport protocol under the supervision of the team physician, and may not return to sport until cleared by an appropriate health care professional. Sports have injury timeouts and player substitutions so that student-athletes can receive appropriate medical evaluation.

IF A CONCUSSION IS SUSPECTED:

1. **Remove the student-athlete from play.** Look for the signs and symptoms of concussion if the student-athlete has experienced a blow to the head. Do not allow the student-athlete to just "shake it off." Each student-athlete will respond to concussions differently.
2. **Ensure that the student-athlete is evaluated immediately by an appropriate health care professional.** Do not try to judge the severity of the injury. Call an injury timeout to ensure that the student-athlete is evaluated by one of the primary athletics healthcare providers.
3. **Allow the student-athlete to return to play only if the primary athletics healthcare provider has determined that the student-athlete did not suffer a concussion.** Allow athletics medical staff to rely on their clinical skills and protocols in evaluating the student-athlete to establish the appropriate management.

Additional information and details regarding concussions can be found at ncaa.org/health-safety.



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