



2020 and 2021 Women's Volleyball Rules Changes

The following rules changes were approved by the NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules Committee and the Playing Rules Oversight Panel. They will be incorporated into the rules book for the 2020 and 2021 seasons.

| Rule | Rules Change and Rationale |
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| 6.5 and 6.5.1 (NEW) | <p>To assess an administrative red card (one-point penalty) to a team wearing a non-compliant uniform. This is a one-time penalty that will be assessed prior to the first set. The administrative red card will not impact individual and team sanctions.</p> <p>Rationale: This proposal establishes an appropriate penalty for teams with non-compliant uniforms, while still allowing the match to take place.</p> |
| 7.1.1.1 | <p>To delete the requirement that all team members, with the exception of the libero, shall be dressed alike and allow players to wear uniform bottoms that differ in style and cut, provided the color and trim is identical (i.e., players could wear shorts, spandex of varying length, pants or skirts). Manufacturers' logos and lettering anywhere on uniforms are not required to be identical.</p> <p>Rationale: Currently, the only way for a student-athlete to wear a different style uniform bottom is to request a waiver, which stands as a barrier to inclusion. With the dramatic increase in waiver requests, this proposal allows teammates to wear different uniform bottoms for competition as long as the bottoms are identical in color and trim. The difference in uniform bottom does not alter the competitiveness or outcome of a contest.</p> |
| 7.1.3.4 (NEW) | <p>To allow a member institution's national flag on the jersey. The flag may not exceed 2¼ square inches and may not obstruct the uniform number.</p> <p>Rationale: While it is common practice to allow a flag on the jersey, current rules do not address this.</p> |
| 18.1.3.2 (NEW) | <p>To allow a third official (R3) to be used as a replay official to decide the outcome of a challenge by viewing the video instead of the second referee. The R3 would sit at the scorers' table and have the final decision to confirm or reverse the original ruling. The R3 would be permissible, but not required.</p> <p>Rationale: The rules committee has experimented with this proposal for the past two seasons. The data collected showed that using an R3 decreased the review time by approximately 20 seconds. It also removed the perception of the second referee's inability to overturn crew calls. This would not be a required position.</p> |

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| 18.1.4.1 | <p>To combine decisions regarding in/out/touch, net and antenna faults into one challengeable action. This allows the referee to call the first fault seen on the review.</p> <p>Rationale: When a coach challenges a decision on in/out/touch, the current rule only allows the second referee to review and consider those faults, even if the second referee clearly sees a net fault on review. This change allows the referee to make the right call.</p> |
| 18.1.4.2 (NEW) | <p>To allow any play to be challenged if the referee's decision is dependent on whether or not a particular player touched the ball.</p> <p>Rationale: Current rules do not allow challenges on whether a player contacted the ball if the resulting decision is illegal block, illegal (back-row) attack, or illegally reaching beyond the net. This change allows any play to be challenged if the referee's decision depends on whether an involved player touched the ball.</p> |
| 18.1.5.3 | <p>To allow a challenge by either team if the result of the play is a replay. If the decision is reversed as a result of that challenge, the team that lost the point after review would be able to challenge an earlier fault of the same play.</p> <p>Rationale: Current rules only allow a challenge if there has been a completed rally. This proposal would allow either team to challenge if play is stopped due to circumstances such as external interference or injury, and a replay results.</p> |
| 19.5.2.4 (NEW) | <p>When requested by the first referee, to allow line judges to provide assistance regarding a player contacting the antenna.</p> <p>Rationale: Line judges often have a better view of this play than the referees.</p> |
| 19.5.2.5 (NEW) | <p>When requested by the first referee, to allow line judges to provide assistance when a player contacts the ball while in a non-playing area.</p> <p>Rationale: Line judges often have a better view of this play than the referees.</p> |