



2019 RULES INTERPRETATION NEWSLETTER #2

October 9, 2019



NOTE: Use the following code to analyze these situations:

R = RECEIVING TEAM

R1 = RIGHT BACK
R2 = RIGHT FRONT
R3 = CENTER FRONT
R4 = LEFT FRONT
R5 = LEFT BACK
R6 = CENTER BACK

S = SERVING TEAM

S1 = RIGHT BACK
S2 = RIGHT FRONT
S3 = CENTER FRONT
S4 = LEFT FRONT
S5 = LEFT BACK
S6 = CENTER BACK

Important Information Regarding the Jersey Number

The contrasting number rule (Rule 7.1.2.4) was passed by the NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules Committee in 2016, with an implementation date of 2019 (a three-year phase-in). The change has been noted in the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 rule books. It was also covered in detail in the coaches' video in 2016, 2017 and 2018. In 2016, 2017 and 2018 the detailed specifications of the contrasting number rule were reviewed at the AVCA convention during the Division I, II and III coaches' meetings. This rule requires that the color of the uniform number must clearly contrast with the jersey color, **irrespective of any border around the number**. The rule was changed in 2016 **at the request of coaches** who had difficulty viewing non-contrasting numbers on video.

However, there are still large number of teams using uniforms that do not comply with the 2019 requirement for a contrasting number. As a result, the decision was made to suspend implementation of the contrasting number rule for the remainder of the 2019 season. The referees have been instructed to continue to ask your team to comply if possible during the current season, and to continue to report any non-compliant institutions to the NCAA Secretary-Rules Editor (SRE). The SRE will send only one notification to each non-compliant institution that is reported. It is the responsibility of each institution to comply with the NCAA rules, whether or not they received notification from the Secretary-Rules Editor.

NOTE: The suspension of this rule is temporary. For 2020, this rule will be enforced throughout the entire season, starting with the first competition weekend.

SITUATION 1: At the end of a timeout the Team S setter claps her hands together and a cloud of dust goes into the air. The first referee calls her to the stand and notices some powder on her hands. The first referee tells her to wipe her hands off and instructs the second referee to check the ball for residue.

RULING: *The referee's decision is correct. Substances that could alter the texture of the ball or cause the floor to become slippery are not allowed.*

SITUATION 2: As the Team R server tosses the ball for service, someone in the stand yells her name loudly and yells "timeout". The server looks at the stands as the ball drops. The first referee signals replay.

RULING: *The referee's decision is incorrect. Even though the yelling came from the stands, the player should play until they hear a whistle. The referee should indicate illegal service and award the rally to Team S. The second referee should make event management aware of the situation.*

SITUATION 3: During a rally a Team S player is moving to play a ball when her shoe comes off. Team S sends the ball to Team R's side. The referees allow play to continue.

RULING: *The referee's decision is incorrect. Gym shoes are required equipment. Play should have been stopped, a replay signaled, and the player be given time to put her shoe back on. However, if the player's shoe comes off as the rally is ending (ball lands out of bounds or referees whistle a fault), the result of the rally stands and no replay will be awarded.*

SITUATION 4: During a rally the lights go out in the gym. It takes over fifteen minutes to get the lights back on. The referee asks both coaches how much, if any, warm-up time the teams would need. Both coaches agree to 3-minutes ball handling on their half of the court, and the referees allow this warm-up time.

RULING: *The referees' decision is correct. If there is a prolonged interruption the referees should get consensus from both coaches about warm-ups before resuming the match.*

Situation 5: As Team S is wiping the floor, a player enters the substitution zone and is recognized (whistled) by the second referee. The coach decides he does not want the sub and the player returns to the warm-up area. Team S is still wiping the floor. The second referee asks for a delay sanction.

RULING: *The second referee should have been monitoring the floor wiping. Since the floor was still being wiped no delay occurred, and the sanction does not need to be assessed. However, if the scorer has recorded the substitution and now has to correct the scoresheet causing a delay, the delay sanction should be assessed.*

Situation 6:: After Team S player 3 serves the ball, the scorer informs the second referee that S3 is a wrong server. The Team S coach disputes the wrong server. Team S protests, and the protest is accepted. Information from the stat crew does not solve the problem so the officials review video to confirm that Team S had the correct server.

RULING: *The officials handled the situation correctly. All information, stat crew, play by play, or CRS, can be used for any potential scoring error including a wrong server.*