



2022 and 2023 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. All rules changes are effective with the 2022 season.

Rule	Rules Language and Rationale
5.2.4.3 Coaches	<p>When the ball is out of play, only the head coach from each team may address the referees for the purpose of quickly clarifying a non-judgmental ruling, requesting a challenge or lodging a protest.</p> <p>Rationale: No other sport allows assistant coaches or multiple coaches to address the officials. It is often confrontational in nature, whether the head coach remains seated on the bench or participates in the conversation. Any coach can still ask the referees to confirm the number of timeouts, substitutions or challenges their team has used, request a lineup check, or ask for a timeout.</p>
7.2.2 Jewelry	<p>All jewelry must be removed, except small secured articles like post or stud piercings. Articles of jewelry below the chin are not permitted.</p> <p>Rationale: This change is not intended to encourage players to wear jewelry. It simply recognizes that some jewelry may be worn without a safety concern. This would align NCAA rules with USA Volleyball rules, which should reduce confusion for student-athletes, coaches and officials.</p>
18.1.4.7 (NEW) Reviewable Decisions	<p>Allow teams to challenge a decision about whether the libero's foot/feet or take-off point is in the front zone when they set the ball to a teammate.</p> <p>Rationale: To allow officials to get the call correct. This is a relatively simple challenge that should be able to be seen on most challenge review systems. Note that the height/position of the ball when the libero's teammate attacks is not challengeable.</p>
18.1.5.1 (NEW) Challenge Review System Procedures	<p>Revise the challenge review system procedures so that each team begins the match with two challenges. 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. If a fifth set is played, each team will be awarded an additional challenge, up to a maximum of two for that set.</p> <p>Rationale: During the 2021 season, 15 Division I conferences and one Division II conference experimented with this rule. The overwhelming response from coaches was that this was a positive change. Data from the experimental rule also showed that there wasn't an increase in the overall number of challenges. Additionally, allowing only two challenges prevented coaches from misusing them as timeouts, so the challenges were used with the correct intent.</p>