



2023 RULES INTERPRETATION NEWSLETTER #2
October 12, 2023



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

Jewelry

Rule 7.2.2: All jewelry must be removed except small secured jewelry (stud or posts). No jewelry will be allowed below the chin. String bracelets, commemorative bracelets and body jewelry are considered jewelry and are not permitted. Taping over other jewelry is not permitted.

Jewelry (Green arrows indicate legal jewelry; red arrows indicate illegal jewelry)

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Illegal Equipment – Safety

Per Rule 7.2.1 – It is forbidden to wear any object that may cause an injury or give an artificial advantage to the player, including, but not limited to headgear, jewelry and unsafe casts and braces.

Protective Face Masks

A player may only wear a protective face mask if a waiver has been provided by the NCAA. To receive a waiver, the institution must submit a request that includes the medical rationale for the face mask along with a photo of the face mask to the NCAA Secretary Rules Editor. Waivers are for individual players only, not an entire team.



Watches

Watches (including smart watches) are illegal equipment. For a watch to be worn as a medical device, a waiver must be provided by the NCAA. If a waiver is granted for a watch, it must be padded on all sides with ½” slow-rebounding foam per Rule 7.2.4.



Situation 1: Libero Play

After the ball rebounded off the block, the libero, while in the front zone, contacts the ball using a reactionary, defensive move that results in an overhand finger pass to a teammate. A teammate then completes an attack hit while the ball is completely higher than the top of the net, sending the ball over the net. The referees allow play to continue.

Ruling:

The decision by the referees was incorrect. An illegal attack fault should have been whistled.

Rule 12.1.2.4 applies in this situation. A teammate may not complete an attack-hit when, at the moment of the attack-hit, the ball is entirely above the top of the net and the ball is coming from an overhand finger pass by the libero in the front zone.

An overhand finger pass is when the libero uses fingers to play the ball. There are currently no exceptions that allow the libero to use certain “types” of finger passes in the front zone which make this situation legal. A defensive, reactionary, protective action where fingers are not used (such as the ball being played with the sides of the hands, fists, or palms) is not considered a finger pass.

Situation 2: Challenge Review – Timing of Centerline Fault

Team S9 attacks a ball onto Team R's court. S9's foot lands across the centerline. The R2 whistles and signals a centerline fault. Team S coach challenges that the ball landed in the court before the centerline fault. The second referee accepts the challenge.

Ruling:

The decision by the second referee was incorrect. The timing of a centerline fault (which is not a challengeable fault) is not a reviewable decision under Rule 18.1.4.

Situation 3: Challenge Review – Honor Calls

At the end of a rally, Team S coach challenges that the Team R blocker(s) touched the ball before it landed out of bounds. The second referee accepts the challenge. As the second referee begins the video review process, Team R admits to the referees that their blocker touched the ball. The referees accept this honor call, end the challenge and award the ball to Team S. Team S retains the challenge.

Ruling:

The referees' actions were correct. If the opponent admits to a fault, such as a touch or net fault, after a challenge has been accepted, the review process will be terminated and the challenging team will be awarded the point and next service. The challenge will be retained. The challenge should be recorded as Reversed.

Situation 4: Challenge Review – Bundle

When S3 attacks the ball, R4 is near the net and attempts to block the ball. The ball stays on R's side of the net and R6 makes the first contact using a "pancake." The first referee determines the pancake was unsuccessful and whistles and signals the ball was "in." Team R coach challenges that the play by R6 was a successful pancake and should not have been whistled.

The second referee accepts the challenge, and the original decision is reversed and a replay is awarded. Coach S then challenges that R4 was in the net as she blocked (prior to the pancake). Because this was an earlier fault, the second referee accepts the additional challenge. During the review, the second referee determines there was a net fault on R4 and awards a point to Team S.

Ruling:

The second referee accepted the challenge by Team R correctly. However, the second referee should have originally reviewed the play for a net fault as part of the "bundle."

In this situation, because the potential net fault was part of the same playing action that was challenged by Team R, the second referee should have looked for all possible outcomes (in/out, touch, net fault) when reviewing the video. Team S should not have been required to use a challenge to review a potential fault that was part of the "bundle."

As a result of the "bundled" review, Team R will lose the challenge, and Team S will retain the point and serve next.

Situation 5: Player's Shoe Comes Off During Play

During a rally, S7's shoe comes off and she grabs the shoe and throws it off the court. The rally is completed with the ball landing in Team R's court. Neither referee saw the shoe come off during the rally and no one from Team R indicated any awareness that S7's shoe came off during the rally. The referees award a point to Team S.

Ruling:

Gym shoes are required equipment per Rule 7.1.1. The referees should be aware if a player's shoe comes off during a rally and immediately stop play and award a replay. In this situation since neither the referees nor the opponent were aware the player's shoe had come off, it is up to the discretion of the referees whether to call a replay.