



## 2024 RULES INTERPRETATION NEWSLETTER #1

August 29, 2024



In the scenarios and interpretations below, Team R refers to the receiving team, and Team S refers to the serving team.

### **Elimination of Double Hits Faults on the Second Contact (Rule 14.2.3.1)**

Successive contacts (double hits) with various parts of the player's body in a single attempt to play the ball are permitted during the team's second contact if the ball is next contacted by a teammate.

Further interpretation:

- If no other fault occurs, a double hit on the second contact becomes a fault when the ball completely crosses the net or is first legally touched by an opponent.
- After a double hit on the second contact, if the ball enters the plane of the net where there is simultaneous contact between a teammate and an opponent, the double hit is not a fault.
- After a double hit on the second contact, if a previous fault occurs before a teammate or opponent contacts the ball or the ball completely crosses the net, the previous fault takes precedence.
- The decision about who contacted the ball next after a double hit (i.e., a teammate or the opponent) is not challengeable.

### **Situation 1a: Simultaneous contact after a double hit**

The Team S setter clearly double hits the team's second contact. The ball enters the plane of the net and is next contacted simultaneously by a Team S teammate and a Team R player. The first referee allows play to continue.

#### ***Ruling:***

*The first referee is correct. After a double hit on a team's second contact, if there is simultaneous contact in the plane of the net between a teammate and an opponent, the double hit is not a fault.*

### **Situation 1b: Challenge - Simultaneous contact after a double hit**

The Team S setter clearly double hits the team's second contact. The ball enters the plane of the net where it is contacted simultaneously by teammate, S#4 and a Team R blocker. The first referee allows play to continue. Team S wins the rally. The Team R Coach wants to challenge that his blocker contacted the ball before S#4, so a double hit fault should have been called on Team S.

#### ***Ruling:***

*The decision about who contacted the ball next after a double hit on a team's second contact (i.e., a teammate or the opponent) is not challengeable. Team R's challenge request is denied.*

### **Situation 2a: Ball crosses the net untouched after a double hit on a team's second contact**

The Team S setter clearly double hits the team's second contact. The ball travels toward teammate S#4 but crosses the net without being touched by S#4 or any other teammate. The first referee whistles a double hit fault and awards a point and the serve to Team R.

#### ***Ruling:***

*The first referee is correct. A double hit becomes a fault when the ball completely crosses the net or is first legally touched by an opponent.*

### **Situation 2b: Challenge - Ball crosses the net after a double hit on a team's second contact**

The Team S setter clearly double hits the team's second contact. The ball travels toward teammate S#4 but crosses the net without being touched by S#4 or any other teammate. The first referee whistles and signals double hit fault and awards a point and the serve to Team R. The Team S coach wants to challenge that S#4 touched the ball before it completely crossed the net; therefore, a double hit fault should not have been called.

#### ***Ruling:***

*The decision about who contacted the ball next after a double hit (i.e. a teammate or the opponent) is not challengeable. Team S's challenge request is denied.*

### **Situation 2c: Challenge bundle - Sequence of faults for a double hit on a team's second contact when opponent touches ball and also commits a net fault**

The Team S setter clearly double hits the team's second contact. The ball is next legally blocked by Team R. The first referee whistles and signals a double hit fault on Team S. The first referee awards a point and service to Team R. Team S coach wants to challenge that a net fault occurred before the double hit.

***Ruling:***

*This play is challengeable. When a double hit on a team's second contact has been whistled by the first referee, the team at fault may challenge that the opponent committed a challengeable fault before the double hit was called. If video review determines a different fault occurred before a teammate or opponent contacted the ball, that fault takes precedence over the double hit.*

*Note: The height or location of the ball is not challengeable. The second referee can only review the video to determine whether an opponent committed a fault (i.e., touched the net) before the opposing blocker contacted the ball. Video cannot be used to determine if the fault occurred before the ball completely crossed the net.*

**Situation 2d: Challenge Bundle - Sequence of faults when double hit crosses the net untouched and opponent commits a net fault**

The Team S setter clearly double hits the team's second contact, which crosses the net untouched by any Team S teammate or the opponent. As the first referee whistles and signals a double hit fault on Team S, the second referee whistles and signals a net fault on Team R. The first referee awards a point and service to Team R. Team S coach wants to challenge that the net fault occurred before the double hit crossed the plane of the net.

***Ruling:***

*This play is not challengeable. Video cannot be used to determine the timing of the ball crossing the net to determine whether the double hit occurred first or the net fault. The referees should confer and come to an agreement about which fault occurred first.*

**Situation 2e: Challenge Bundle - Ball handling decision vs. net contact by the opponent**

The Team S setter clearly double hits the team's second contact, which crosses the net untouched by any other Team S teammate or an opponent. The first referee does not whistle a double hit fault on Team S. A Team R blocker touches the net while attempting to block the ball. The second referee whistles a net fault by Team R and a point and the serve are awarded to Team S. Team R coach wants to challenge that a double hit occurred before the net fault.

***Ruling:***

*Ball handling decisions are not challengeable, Rule 18.1.4. Since the first referee did not whistle a double hit fault, video cannot be used to determine the timing of the net fault, but can be used only to determine whether the Team R blocker touched the net.*

**Situation 3: Back-row setter double hit, then simultaneous contact between teammate and opponent**

The Team S back-row setter is in the front zone and clearly double hits the team's second contact, while the ball is entirely above the height of the net. The ball travels toward teammate S#4 and enters the plane of the net where S#4 and a Team R blocker contact the ball simultaneously.

***Ruling:***

*This is an illegal attack by the Team S back-row setter. When a back-row player in the front zone contacts the ball entirely above the height of the net, and the ball is then legally touched by an opponent (including simultaneous contact between a teammate and an opponent), this is an illegal attack. If the ball crosses the net untouched by a teammate or opponent, this is also an illegal attack by the back-row player. The attack-hit fault takes precedence over a ball handling judgment decision.*

**Elimination of Double Contacts: Mechanics**

The Team R setter double hits the team's second contact. The ball is not contacted next by a teammate. The possible outcomes are listed below with the correct referee decision and signal:

<b>Playing Action</b>	<b>Signal</b>
Ball crosses the net and lands out of bounds	Double hit
Ball lands in bounds on Team R's side of the court	In
Ball lands out of bounds on Team R's side of the court	Touch
Ball crosses the net outside an antenna	Out
Ball hits an antenna	Out

## **Challenges - Sequence of Faults**

*Note: When reviewing decisions included in 18.1.4.1-18.1.4.3, the first fault observed during the playing action(s) beginning with the initial action or contact with the ball up to and including the next team's first hit (except per Rule 14.6.2.1), or playing action(s) takes precedence.*

***If the sequence of faults cannot be determined using the video, the original decision stands.***

### **Situation 4: Challenge – Sequence of center line and net fault**

Team S#9 attacks a ball onto Team R's court. S#9 lands with her foot completely across the center line, which presents a concern for safety. The second referee whistles and signals a center line fault. The Team S coach wants to challenge that a Team R player contacted the net before the center line fault. The second referee accepts the challenge.

#### ***Ruling:***

*The second referee is correct. A net fault is a challengeable decision, Rule 18.1.4. A center line fault is not challengeable, but sequence of the faults may be reviewed.*

### **Situation 5: Challenge – Sequence of center line fault**

Team S#9 attacks a ball onto Team R's court. S#9 lands with her foot completely across the center line, which presents a concern for safety. The second referee whistles and signals a center line fault. The Team S coach challenges that the ball landed in the court before the center line fault. The second referee accepts the challenge.

#### ***Ruling:***

*The second referee is correct. A ball landing in/out is a challengeable decision, Rule 18.1.4. A center line fault is not challengeable, but the sequence of the faults may be reviewed.*

***Note: This is a change to the 2023 interpretation.***

### **Situation 6: Challenge – Sequence of illegal hit and net fault**

Team R#3 catches and throws the ball. The first referee whistles an illegal hit and awards a point and the serve to Team S. The Team R coach wants to challenge that a Team S player touched the net prior to the illegal hit by R#3. The second referee accepts the challenge.

#### ***Ruling:***

*The second referee is correct. A net fault is a challengeable decision, Rule 18.1.4. Ball handling faults are not challengeable, but the sequence of the faults may be reviewed.*

### **Situation 7: Challenge – Interference above the net**

As the Team S setter sets the ball to a teammate, a Team R blocker reaches beyond the net and touches the Team S setter's hand. The first referee whistles interference (i.e., reaching over) by the Team R blocker. The Team R coach requests to challenge that the Team R blocker touched the setter's hand after the Team S setter released it and thus there was no interference. The second referee accepts the challenge.

#### **Ruling:**

*The second referee is correct. Interference above the net is a challengeable decision, Rule 18.1.4.2.5. The second referee may review the video to determine whether the Team R blocker touched the setter's hand after the ball was played by the setter. Video may not be used to determine the location or position the ball is in relation to the net.*

#### **Sanction Administration During Challenge Review**

<b>Team receiving sanction</b>	<b>Timing of conduct or behavior receiving a sanction</b>	<b>Sanction level</b>	<b>When is sanction card assessed, displayed and recorded?</b>	<b>Is challenge review completed?</b>
Challenging Team	During challenge review	Warning (Yellow Card)	At time of occurrence	Yes
Challenging Team	During challenge review	Penalty (Red Card)	At time of occurrence	No. Review is not completed. Team retains that challenge
Challenging Team	After challenge review	Penalty (Red Card)	At time of occurrence	Yes, review result stands
Non-challenging Team	During challenge review	Warning (Yellow Card)	At time of occurrence	Yes
Non-challenging Team	During challenge review	Penalty (Red Card)	At time of occurrence	Yes
Non-challenging Team	After challenge review	Penalty (Red Card)	At time of occurrence	Yes, review result stands

### **Administrative Sanctions (Rule 6.5)**

Administrative sanctions for spectator conduct and crowd control are separate from administrative sanctions for non-compliant uniforms.

If a team receives an administrative sanction (red card penalty) for non-compliant uniforms, the first administrative sanction for spectator conduct is an administrative warning (yellow card).

A subsequent administrative sanction for spectator conduct issued to the same team during the same match is an administrative penalty (red card), per incident.

Administrative sanctions for spectator conduct may be issued to the home or visiting team.

### **Libero Play**

#### **Situation 7:**

Team S has designated two liberos, #7 and #9. Libero #7 serves in position 3 in the service order. Later in the set, libero #9 serves in position 6 in the service order. While #9 is still serving, the scorer informs the second referee that libero #7 has already served in position 3 earlier in the set.

#### ***Ruling:***

*Libero S#9 is a wrong server. Any points scored by libero S#9 are canceled, and a point and the serve are awarded to Team R. Libero S#9 may remain on the court in replacement of the player in position 6. If the scorers or the referees recognize the illegal replacement before libero S#9 serves the ball, the replacement should be corrected and a delay sanction assessed.*

#### **Situation 8:**

Libero S#7 is on the court for S#16. At the end of the rally S#16 replaces libero S#7. During the same dead ball, libero S#3 replaces regular player S#5. The second referee allows both replacements.

#### ***Ruling:***

*The second referee is incorrect. The second libero replacement (libero S#3 for regular player S#5) is an illegal replacement. A double libero replacement during the same dead ball is only allowed when a libero is on the court and the second replacement is for the team's next server. If the illegal replacement is identified before the contact of serve, the second replacement should be corrected and a delay sanction assessed. If identified after the contact of serve, libero S#3 is considered an illegal player on the court, and a position fault is called (Rule 10.3.2).*

### **Religious Headwear**

Religious headwear is permitted, including headwear that may not comply with NCAA women's volleyball uniform rules. Teams are not required to obtain a waiver to wear religious headwear.