



## 2024 RULES INTERPRETATION NEWSLETTER #2

October 8, 2024

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

### **Rules Inquiry Protocol**

For inquiries related to specific players, teams or competition venues, officials should first contact the coordinator or assignor that is responsible for assigning officials to the match. Questions related to the following are examples that should be directed to the coordinator or assignor:

- Illegal equipment (splints, braces, face masks)
- Jewelry and other adornments
- Monitoring devices (medical monitoring)
- Compliant uniforms (non-contrasting numbers, logos, etc.)
- Competition venue (spectator areas, net attachments, referee stand, video boards)

Coordinators and assignors will direct inquiries to the NCAA Secretary-Rules Editor (SRE). The SRE then determines whether inquiries need to be shared universally and if so, communicates that information through the NCAA Central Hub.

General playing rules questions should be submitted to the NCAA Secretary-Rules Editor through the NCAA Central Hub using the Ask a Rules Question form.

### **Playing the Ball**

#### **Situation 1: Double Hit on First Contact**

Team R's first contact is clearly a double hit. After the first contact, the ball crosses the net to the opponent. The first referee allows play to continue.

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

*The first referee is correct. A double hit on a team's first contact is legal whether it is next contacted by a teammate or crosses the net to the opponent.*

*Rule 14.2.3.1: Successive contacts with various parts of the player's body in a single attempt to play the ball are permitted during blocking, the team's first hit, or the team's second hit if the ball is next contacted by a teammate. Prolonged contact is a fault in these actions.*



## **Situation 2: Back-Row Setter Double Hit and Illegal Attack**

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 top of the net. The ball next crosses the net without being contacted by a teammate. The first referee whistles and signals illegal attack. Is the decision by the first referee correct?

### ***Ruling:***

*The first referee is correct. This is an illegal attack by the Team S back-row setter. When a back-row player in the front zone double hits the ball that is entirely above the top of the net and the ball then crosses the net untouched by a teammate, the correct fault is an illegal attack. The attack-hit fault takes precedence over a ball handling judgment decision.*

## **Challenge Review Procedures**

### **Situation 3: Challenge Review System (CRS) Malfunction**

The CRS system is not working at the start of the match. In set 1 with a score of 8-9, Team S was unable to challenge a decision as the CRS system was still not functioning. Play resumes and after several additional points have been scored, the CRS system becomes available. When the score in set 1 reaches 15-14, Team R requests to challenge a decision. The second referee does not accept the challenge, nor any other challenges for the rest of the match since the CRS system was not available at the start of the match.

### ***Ruling:***

*The second referee's decision is incorrect. When CRS equipment is either (1) not functioning at the start of the match and then becomes available, or (2) functioning at the start of the match and then fails, the correct procedure is to use the CRS equipment whenever it is available. The status of the CRS equipment should be communicated to both teams' head coaches by the second referee at an appropriate time without disrupting match flow.*



## **Situation 4: Challenge – Lack of Video**

The ball is attacked and lands near the Team S end line. The line judge on that end line (LJ1) calls the ball in and the first referee awards a point to Team R. Team S challenges that the ball was out. When reviewing the video, the second referee discovers the camera focused on that end line that was available at the start of the match has malfunctioned and there is no video available to review the call. Other camera angles are available and functional. The second referee informs the Team S coach that no video is available from the end line camera and asks the coach if the review should continue with the remaining available cameras. Are the second referee's actions correct?

### ***Ruling:***

*The second referee's actions are correct. When a camera that was available when the match started is not working (or no video is available from a camera) after a challenge has been accepted, the second referee should inform the coach about the malfunction and ask if the review should continue. If the coach decides to withdraw the challenge, the review is cancelled and the team retains that challenge.*

*Rule 18.1.5.9: If the referee is informed after accepting a challenge that a camera(s) that was available prior to the challenge has a mechanical failure, the referee will inform the challenging coach of the failure, and allow the coach to decide to continue with the challenge using the available cameras, or withdraw the challenge.*

## **Situation 5: Video That May Be Used for Challenge Review**

Team S attacks the ball across the net. The ball lands, and the first referee calls the ball out and awards a point to Team R. Team S challenges that the Team R libero touched the ball before it landed out of bounds. The camera angles available to the second referee from the challenge review system (CRS) do not provide evidence that the Team R libero touched the ball. During the review, the first referee informs the second referee that there is video available from the match broadcast on the videoboard that confirms the libero touched the ball before it landed out of bounds. The second referee reviews the match broadcast video on a separate monitor at the score table and confirms the libero touched the ball. The second referee reverses the original decision, and the first referee awards the point to Team S. Are the referees' actions correct?

### ***Ruling:***

*The referees' actions are correct. In addition to the CRS system, referees may use broadcast video feed during the review process from the videoboard or another monitor already available at the score table (i.e. time out coordinator's monitor). Recording devices (i.e. tablets, camera phones) that are not part of the broadcast or CRS system may not be used for review.*



## **Situation 6: Challenge – What is included in the bundle?**

Team R#3 is very near the net and sets the ball to R#5 who attacks the ball, which lands near the end line of Team S. The first referee signals the ball in and awards a point and serve to Team R. Team S wants to challenge that the ball landed out. During the review, the second referee reviews the in/out decision and also checks whether there was a net fault as part of the bundle. The second referee determines that R#5 did not contact the net during the attack hit, but notices that R#3 touched the net as the ball was set to R#5 before the ball was attacked. The second referee confirms the initial decision that the ball was in and does not consider the net contact by R#3 in the ruling. Is second referee's decision correct?

### ***Ruling:***

*The second referee is correct. The bundle includes the last playing action before the ball crosses the net and the playing actions up to and including the first contact on the other side of the net. In this case, the last playing action before the ball crossed the net was R#5's attack hit. The Team S challenge cannot consider R#3's net contact because that net contact occurred prior to the portion of the play under review and is therefore not part of the bundle.*

*Rule 18.1.4. 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.*

## **Libero Play**

### **Situation 7:**

In set 1, Team S designated two liberos, #7 and #9. In set 2, Team S designates #9 as a libero and lists #7 as a regular player in the lineup. The second referee does not allow #7 to play as a regular play since #7 played as a libero in set 1. Is the second referee's decision correct?

### ***Ruling:***

*The second referee is incorrect. Players designated as a libero are limited to play as a libero only for that set, but may play as a regular player in other sets. Player #7 is allowed to play as a libero in set 1 and a regular player in set 2. Rule 10.1.1.3: Any player designated as a libero cannot play as a regular player in that set.*



# VOLLEYBALL

## Electronic Tablets

### Situation 8:

Electronic tablets have been placed on the first referee stand and on the net pole in front of the second referee. The tablets are linked to the scorer's computerized scoring system to provide referees with lineups, substitutions and timeouts used by each team. Throughout the match, the referees use the tablets to monitor match information. Are the referees' actions correct?

### ***Ruling:***

*The referees are correct. Electronic tablets that provide match information to the referees are allowed on the net post and the referee stand for use by the referees during the match.*

## Uniforms

### Situation 9:

Some of Team R players' uniform bottoms contain the team logo and others do not contain the team logo. The referees determine this combination of uniform bottoms is legal. Is the referee's decision correct?

### ***Ruling:***

*The referees are correct. Teams may wear a combination of uniform bottoms where some have team logos and some do not.*

### Situation 10:

Several team members are wearing passing sleeves. One team member is wearing white passing sleeves while the remaining teammates are wearing red passing sleeves. Are these passing sleeves compliant within the NCAA uniform rules?

### ***Ruling:***

*Yes, passing sleeves are not part of the uniform. Not all team members are required to wear passing sleeves, and a team's passing sleeves may vary in color.*