



REPORT OF THE  
NCAA WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL RULES COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 5-7, 2022, ANNUAL MEETING VIDEOCONFERENCE

ACTION ITEMS.

**1. Legislative items.**

- **None.**

**2. Nonlegislative items.** The NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules Committee approved the following rules change proposals for the 2022 and 2023 seasons. The committee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) for the following items:

**a. Coaches (Rule 5.2.4.3).**

(1) Recommendation. 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.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) 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.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**b. Jewelry (Rule 7.2.2).**

(1) Recommendation. All jewelry must be removed, except small secured articles like post or stud piercings. Articles of jewelry below the chin are not permitted.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) 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.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**c. Reviewable Decisions (Rule 18.1.4.7 New).**

(1) Recommendation. 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.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) 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.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

**d. Challenge Review System Procedures (Rule 18.1.5.1 New).**

(1) Recommendation. 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.

(2) Effective date. Immediately.

(3) 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.

(4) Estimated budget impact. None.

(5) Student-athlete impact. None.

#### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome, introductions and announcements.** The chair of the Women's Volleyball Rules Committee welcomed the committee and invited guests and thanked them for their time.
2. **Review meeting schedule, agenda, committee operations manual and NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel directive.** The meeting schedule and agenda were reviewed. The Women's Volleyball Rules Committee also reviewed the operations manual, which included the NCAA conflict of interest policy, guidance for committee members regarding meeting reports, notes and email, voting procedures, principles for rules writing, and experimental playing rules guidelines. The Women's Volleyball Rules Committee was reminded of the directive of the PROP from 2014. This directive encourages all rules committees to strongly consider providing at least a one-year delay for Division II and Division III institutions before implementing any rules changes that have financial or facility implications.
3. **Review and approval of 2021 annual meeting report and December 1, 2021, videoconference report.** The Women's Volleyball Rules Committee reviewed and approved the reports as written.
4. **USA Volleyball report.** The Women's Volleyball Rules Committee received an update on the USA Volleyball and FIVB rules process, as well as an overview of the USA Volleyball Rules Commission and its upcoming meeting in February. It was noted that fan behavior is a point of emphasis for USA Volleyball.
5. **Professional Association of Volleyball Officials (PAVO) report.** The Women's Volleyball Rules Committee heard a report from PAVO, which included membership numbers and certifications for 2021. There were 3,326 PAVO members in 2021, which was an increase of approximately 500 members from 2020. In addition, there were 1,368 referee certifications in 2021. Approximately 1,800 PAVO members attended one of the 32 in-person clinics conducted across the country last summer. The association also provided support to the NCAA women's volleyball secretary-rules editor and national coordinator of officials by compiling and maintaining Challenge Review System (CRS) data and providing video and photography support for volleycasts that are posted on the Central Hub for officials. Finally, the Women's Volleyball Rules Committee heard an overview of the PAVO Convention, which was held in Columbus, Ohio, in December in conjunction with the NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship.
6. **National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) report.** The Women's Volleyball Rules Committee heard a report from the NFHS on the rules proposals that will be considered by the NFHS Volleyball Rules Committee later this month. It was noted that girls' volleyball is the most popular team sport for high school girls with 462,559 participants. Boys volleyball is the fastest growing sport at the high school level, and there are 88 high schools nationally that offer beach volleyball.

7. **National coordinator of officials report.** The Women's Volleyball Rules Committee heard a report from the national coordinator of officials, which included an overview of selections for the 64 referees and 64 line judges working the NCAA Division I Championship. An overview of official's selections for the NCAA Division II Championship was also provided.
8. **Secretary-rules editor report.** The Women's Volleyball Rules Committee heard a report from the secretary-rules editor, which included an overview of actions, interpretations and waivers for the 2021 season. A summary was also provided of major rules proposals and survey items.
9. **NCAA injury surveillance data and report.** The Women's Volleyball Rules Committee reviewed women's volleyball injury data provided by the Datalys Center in conjunction with the NCAA's Injury Surveillance Program and the NCAA Sport Science Institute.
10. **Review of 2021 rules survey.** The Women's Volleyball Rules Committee reviewed the 2021 rules survey results in conjunction with discussion on the corresponding rules change proposals. It was noted that the response rate was low (44% of head coaches).
11. **Review of 2021 Challenge Review System (CRS) data and experimental rule data.** The Women's Volleyball Rules Committee reviewed CRS data from the 2019 and 2021 seasons, as well as CRS data from institutions that used the experimental rule during the 2021 season. It was noted that the data from the experimental rule was virtually the same as the data collected from those who didn't use the experimental rule. The average number of challenges per match was 2.63 for non-experimental, and 2.65 for experimental. The average length of challenges was one minute, 26 seconds for non-experimental and one minute, 27 seconds for experimental. The majority of challenges continue to be ball contacting a player and a ball ruled in or out.
12. **Review of rules proposals and discussion items.** The Women's Volleyball Rules Committee reviewed and considered 39 rules proposals and approved four major rules changes for the 2022 and 2023 women's volleyball seasons, as noted above in the Action Items section of this report. In addition, the Women's Volleyball Rules Committee approved an experimental rule for the spring 2022 season to allow double contacts on the first or second contact if the ball is being played to a teammate.
13. **Future videoconference and meeting dates.** The Women's Volleyball Rules Committee scheduled its 2023 annual meeting for January 4-6, 2023. Videoconferences for 2022 will be scheduled for September 7, October 5, November 2 and December 7 at 11 a.m. Eastern time. The Women's Volleyball Rules Committee scheduled a videoconference for Thursday, February 10, at 11 a.m. Eastern time to review the comment period results.
14. **Selection of committee chair.** The Women's Volleyball Rules Committee re-elected Lyndsey Oates, University of Northern Colorado, as chair for the 2022-23 academic year.

**15. Other business.** Outgoing committee member Nicholas Ojea was recognized and thanked for his service.

**16. Adjournment.** The Women's Volleyball Rules Committee adjourned at 1:35 p.m. Eastern time on Thursday, January 6.

*Committee Chair:* Lyndsey Oates, University of Northern Colorado, Big Sky Conference  
*Staff Liaison(s):* Rachel Seewald, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules Committee January 5-7, 2022, Annual Meeting Videoconference	
<b>Attendees:</b>	
John Cook, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.	
Tiffany McCampbell, Colorado School of Mines.	
Darrin McClure, Union University.	
Lyndsey Oates, University of Northern Colorado.	
Nicholas Ojea, Grand Canyon University.	
Anne Pufahl, secretary-rules editor.	
Frederico Santos, University of North Carolina-Asheville.	
Megan Silver-Droesch, Eastern Connecticut State University.	
Ben Somera, Wesleyan University-Connecticut.	
<b>Absentees:</b>	
None.	
<b>Guests in Attendance:</b>	
Lindsey Atkinson, National Federation of State High School Associations.	
Bill Stanley, USA Volleyball.	
Steve Thorpe, national coordinator of officials.	
Julie Voeck, Professional Association of Volleyball Officials.	
<b>NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:</b>	
Rachel Seewald.	
<b>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</b>	
Greg Johnson and Bri Rigney.	