

January 2019 -- USAV Indoor Rules Interp

Hope all are getting on the court and working on our skills as officials. There have been many things come across my desk so I wanted to share some of those with you.

2 Whistles

We are aware that our current DCR has a misprint. When it talks about both teams having subs during the same dead ball, one section it says to use one whistle and the other section it says to use two whistles. USAV uses two whistles. One for each side. This will be corrected in next year's DCR.

Loose hair is NOT a 'touch'

Many recently may have seen a video of our own Pati Rolf at the World Club Championships where a player pulled their hands down from a block, but her hair flipped up and the ball contacted the loose hair before going out of bounds. FIVB called this a touch. USAV does **NOT** consider loose hair as part of the body and therefore should not be called a touch. This is in line with College, High School and FIVB is now no longer calling this a touch.

Soft Helmets/Headgear

USAV allows soft helmets or bands that are typically worn to help against head injuries. They do not need a waiver from the Rules Interpreter. It is the judgement of the official and/or Tournament Director if they feel the helmet is safe for the player and teammates. USA Volleyball in no way warrants or guarantees the effectiveness of any of these helmets/headgear for the prevention of or protection from any injury, including concussions. If you are unsure, contact the tournament director or have the team send a picture and information to me at vbinterp@usav.org.

Medical Bracelets

We have had a few requests regarding players wanting to wear medical bracelets on their wrist. Per USAV 4.5.1, junior volleyball athletes may not wear jewelry during play. They may be taped or sewn under the uniform.

Medical Piercings

There is a newer medical procedure that is becoming more popular with how to treat migraines. This involves a piercing in the inner ear. Many call this a Daith piecing. Sometimes they are permanent, and others are removable. We have had several requests for players to wear these medical piercings during play. USAV is allowing these to be worn if they obtain a waiver from the USAV Indoor Rules Interpreter. If they do not have the waiver, they need to contact the Rules interpreter right away or remove the piercing to play. FYI, in order to get a waiver, they must submit the following information. Name, jersey #, club name, team name, region. They must also submit a letter from their doctor that prescribed the piercing and they must submit a picture of the piercing with ONLY that piercing. No other earrings in the picture. Once I have all of that, I can grant the waiver.

Uniform Approval Site

USAV launched a page on the Volleyball Ref Training site where clubs may submit their uniform proposals. This can be found at https://volleyballreftraining.com/rules_interpretations_indoor.php |

receive the information and will typically send a form that says the uniform has been approved. There are also instances where they may need a waiver for this season. We have granted numerous waivers due to the new rule regarding contrasting numbers. If you see uniforms at National events that do not meet USAV requirements, you may direct them to the site for assistance.

The site was intended for teams to get an approval before they spend thousands of dollars on uniforms. I can only go by what is sent to me. Sometimes mockups that are sent are not quite the same as the final product. I'm sure you will see approvals that you disagree with. A picture of what they submitted is included on the approval (or waiver). If you feel the uniform(s) that are on the form is different or misrepresented from what is on the court, contact the USA Indoor Rules interpreter. We strongly encourage teams to work with their Region Ref Chairs to get uniform approvals/waivers if the team does not play out of the Region.

Judging Uniforms as Legal or Illegal

We are receiving many inquiries from clubs saying they have been told their uniforms are illegal. They send a picture. Many of these uniforms are in a "grey" area. By letter of the rule, they would be considered illegal. But can we see the number? Can we tell who the libero is? If we can get through the match, then we are good, and they should play. There should be very few circumstances that a team cannot play, or they cannot play with a libero. If in doubt, call a head referee or a Tournament Director over. Work with the team. Direct them to the VRT page to submit their uniforms if needed.

Playing the ball near the edge of the playing area "Sport Court rule" (clarification)

I have been hearing some confusion on interpreting the "sport court" rule. To clarify (Hopefully):

If obstructions or other safety concerns prohibit retrieval from beyond the free zone, the following applies. When a ball is over the playable area, the player playing the ball must either be in contact with the playing surface or if they jump, their last point of contact must be with the playing surface. Where they land does not matter. When the ball is over a non-playable area, the player playing the ball must be in contact with the playing surface when contact is made or if they jump, their last point of contact must be with the playing surface and their first contact with the floor must be with the playing surface.