

The 2017-18 season is well underway. Hope everyone is having a great season and continuing to educate players and coaches as well as ourselves on the rules for USA Volleyball competition. Below is the first Rules Interp newsletter for the season. It includes rules that need clarification along with questions that have come my way.

NEW Rules

The head coach does not have to sit in the first chair on the bench. The head coach can sit anywhere on the bench; and anyone can sit in the first chair. This means you **MUST** know who the head coach is. This is the only person who can request a time-out or speak to the referees.

Assistant coaches (and head coaches) may now stand in the warm up area if they choose. The head coach may still request regular game interruptions from the warm-up area. Be aware of his location in case he is trying to get your attention. If you are having difficulty seeing coach requests, encourage them to step toward you to make the request.

Substitution Requests

The only recognized request for a substitution in USAV competition is the player entering the substitution zone. If a coach yells sub, don't just blow your whistle. Look to see if a player is moving toward the substitution zone. Wait for the player to enter the zone and then blow your whistle. If you blow your whistle because you hear the coach yell sub, but a substitute does not enter the zone, it is **NOT** a delay. A substitution request did **NOT** occur. You should not have blown your whistle. This is considered an inadvertent whistle. No penalty on the team. **BUT**, if they continue to yell sub, whether a substitution enters the zone or not, it may be a delay tactic. You could consider a delay sanction if you feel the coach is doing this to delay the match.

Multiple subs: When one team has multiple subs in the same dead ball period, blow your whistle only once. One sub enters the zone at a time and you authorize them one at a time. When both teams have a sub in the same dead ball period, blow your whistle twice. Blow your whistle before administering the subs for one team, and hold the subs for the other team at the sideline. When you complete all subs for the first team, blow your whistle a second time and authorize the sub(s) for the other team. You still acknowledge both team's subs with a separate whistle.

For those who have been looking at the DCR, there are two sections that refer to multiple subs by both teams. Depending on which version you are looking at:

DCR: Page 120 – 121, section 18

Officiating and Scoring Abridged Version (printed) – page 10, section 18

PDF version of DCR, page 96

This states it is not necessary to whistle each team's request separately. **This is incorrect.** USAV uses two separate whistles. The correct technique is listed:

DCR: Page 216, section 7a

Officiating and Scoring Abridged Version (PDF)– page 18, section 7a

PDF version of DCR, page 190

The DCR will be corrected for the next issue.

R2 whistling an antenna fault on serve

Even though it doesn't happen too often, the second referee **DOES** have the authority to whistle when a served ball hits or crosses the plane of the net outside their antenna. Make sure you have a discussion with your partner on this during your pre-match.

Libero CAN be Captain

There is another conflict of information in our DCR regarding the Libero being captain. **USAV 4.1.1b** states that the Libero can NOT be captain. This is incorrect. **USAV 5a** is correct. The Libero CAN be team captain, game captain or both. We will get this cleaned up in the next edition of the DCR.

9.3.3 Assisted hit

Someone pointed out that there is no signal reference to an Assisted Hit call. The signal is a cross between a sub authorization and a catch signal. Start with open hand down near the thigh. (like a sub authorization). Then raise the open hand to shoulder height. (like the end of a catch signal).

14 and Under - Coach can be the Captain

There have been a few instances in the 14 and younger divisions where the coach has acted in place of the game captain. This does NOT mean they can walk across the court to talk to the first referee. The coach acting in place of the game captain is mostly about protest procedure. The coach still needs to go through their game captain to lodge the protest or they must communicate to the R2 and the R2 will present the protest to the R1. Once the protest is accepted by the R1, the R1 gets down off the stand and proceeds with the protest procedures. This is where the coach may talk in place of the game captain during the protest. If you are not familiar with protests, see USAV 5.1.2.1 in the DCR for protest procedures. In rare circumstances, if the R1 feels it necessary to talk directly to the coach even if a protest has not occurred, they should get down off the stand and go talk to the coach in front of their bench.

TEST RULES

For those regions who are using the test rule regarding how many points should be taken away when an illegal player is found on the court or when you have an illegal server during the set, I have put together some scenarios that hopefully explain the situation and what the results should be. See **Test Rule Cases** document. These test rules will be used at all of the national championships except for the following: Open Division at the US Open Adult Championships and the High Performance Championships. If anyone has questions regarding these scenarios, please email vbinterp@usav.org.

Uniforms

We have received many pictures of uniforms this season regarding legality. From number placement and/or design to whether the Libero jersey contrasts with the regular jersey. Continue to be diligent in checking uniforms. Look early. If they have warm-ups on, ask the coach what the Libero is wearing. If it's illegal, work with the team. Ask if they have another uniform. Many times, they do. If you are not sure they are legal, ask a head referee. Don't be afraid to NOT allow the Libero to wear a jersey that is not clearly contrasting.

Uniform Waivers

We have had several requests for uniform waivers this year. Some of you may see players wearing long pants or head coverings. Some may see different style of shorts. (Spandex v gym shorts). By rule, everyone on the team is supposed to be identical. In-Region, please follow what your region rule says. Some regions may already have a waiver in place for these situations. For National competition, they must have a waiver from the USAV Indoor Rules Interpreter in order to participate. This includes any national qualifier or JNC. I have sent several waivers out this season. They should have a printed copy of the waiver with them. If they do not have the waiver, have them contact their region ref chair who will then contact the USAV Indoor Rules Interpreter for the waiver.

Medical Piercing - Waivers

We are seeing a large increase in the number of waiver requests for medical piercings. These piercings are generally in the inner ear that is supposed to help with migraine headaches. The rules commission has decided this is a medical condition and will allow it as long as they have a waiver from the USAV Indoor Rules Interpreter. If they say it is a

medical piercing, ask for their waiver. If they do not have the printed waiver, they need to take it out or not play. Once they show you the waiver, the piercing still needs to be covered. Either band aid or tape will be fine.

Pre-Match procedures

We are seeing many parents and clubs line up on the sidelines to wish their team (mates) good luck as they start a match. This line up must be on the side of their respective club. They cannot extend to the other side of the court into the free zone of the other team. If they want to line up, they need to be on the correct side.

USAV Casebook

USAV keeps a casebook of scenarios that might not be clear in the DCR. This casebook can be found at www.volleyballreftraining.com. Hover over the Rules & Interps option and select **Indoor Rules and Interpretations**. This casebook is updated as often as possible to assist us in conjunction with our DCR.

If anyone has a question, email the USAV Rules Interpreter at vbinterp@usav.org.

Have a great season.

Bill Stanley
USAV Indoor Rules Interpreter