**Definition**

18.1.1.1 - The challenge review system (instant replay) is a process whereby video review is used to confirm, reverse or replay specific decisions made by the officiating team.

18.1.1.2 - The second referee may reverse a ruling only if the video review reveals by indisputable evidence that the referee’s ruling was incorrect.

18.1.1.3 – If the second referee determines that the video review is inconclusive, the original decision stands.

18.1.1.4 – All reviews shall be limited to the challengeable action.

18.1.2 Eligibility and Participation

Any member institution or conference may use the CRS, but there is no requirement to do so.

**Equipment, Personnel and Location**

**Personnel** – (18.1.3.1) Instant replay personnel shall consist of a video review technician to operate the review equipment in an efficient and timely manner.

**Equipment** – (18.1.3.2) The type of equipment and number of cameras used for the CRS shall be determined by each conference or member institution.

18.1.3.3 - A monitor must be located at the scorer’s table. The second referee should have direct and easy access to the monitor.

18.1.3.4 Any camera used shall not alter the integrity of the net or interfere with the officials’ performance of their duties.

Challenge Review System-Challenge Cards
The challenge cards must be a minimum of 3” x 5” not to exceed 4” x 6”. The color is jasmine green (pantone color 15-0545). It is recommended that the cards be laminated.

**FAQ's**

**How many cameras are required to use the Challenge Review System?**
The NCAA Women’s Volleyball Rules Committee did not establish a required number or location of cameras for the challenge system.

- The committee recommends using at least three cameras – one in each end zone to capture the sidelines and end lines, and a camera attached to the top of the net.
The net camera must be firmly attached as far outside the antennas as possible so that it does not alter the integrity of the net or interfere with the vision of officials. It is recommended the net camera be on the second referee’s side.

**What else should be provided by the conferences using the Challenge Review System rule?**

- The institution’s assistant scorer will record the necessary information about any challenges, reviews and decisions on the appropriate form provided by the NCAA.
- This form must be given to the second referee after the match.
- The conference officiating staff must record match report details on the NCAA web portal and include information about any challenges, reviews and decisions.

**Can the visiting coach review the monitor prior to the start of the match?**

Prior to the start of the match, the visiting team’s coaching staff may ask the home event management to show them the monitor and view the camera angles.

**If the CRS system becomes inoperable at a televised match, can the television feed be used?**

Yes. If the CRS equipment is not functioning, the second referee can use the television feed for review. The television monitor can also be used if it is in very close proximity to the CRS monitor.

**What if the match is ready to start and event management does not have the challenge cards available?**

In this rare instance, acknowledge verbal challenges from the coach. At the end of the match, notify the conference coordinator.

### Reviewable Decisions and Related Interpretations

**Ball ruled in or out**

18.4.1.1- Ball ruled in or out as defined in Rule 16.2.1 and 16.2.2.

- End line/sideline decisions.
- Ball contacts antenna or not.
- Whether or not ball was played before contacting the floor on pancakes or similar defensive plays

### Related Rule Interpretations

**Scenario 1**

During a rally, there is a pancake attempt by Team R. Instantly after the attempted pancake, the ball careoms off of another Team R player, landing out of bounds. A line judge indicates that the pancake was not successful and signals the ball down; the first referee signals “ball in” and awards the rally to Team S. The Team R coach attempts to challenge that the pancake was successful. The second referee tells the Team R coach that the challenge can be accepted; however if the video shows that the ball did not hit the floor on the pancake
attempt, it also will likely show that the whistle for the unsuccessful pancake would be considered an inadvertent whistle, with no change to the original call. This decision is based on the rare situation where the ball is dead immediately after the pancake attempt, making the decision on the pancake extraneous.

**Ruling:** The second referee’s decision and technique is correct. The challenge can be accepted, but preventing a wasted challenge on this extremely rare situation is good technique. If the coach insists on challenging, and the video replay shows that the pancake was successful but the ball was immediately “dead”, Team S is still awarded the point.

**Scenario 2**
Team A attacks a ball, and the ball lands near Team B’s sideline. The line judge signals “out”. The Team A coach challenges the call, saying the ball landed “in”. The video review shows the ball was “out”, but it also clearly shows that a Team B player touched the ball before it went out. The second referee signals “touch” and awards Team A the point.

**RULING:** The referee’s decision is incorrect. The coach challenged whether the ball landed in or out, not player touching the ball. Therefore the correct decision is that the original “out” call stands and Team B would be awarded a point.

**Scenario 3**
Team A attacks a ball that lands near Team B’s sideline. The first referee and line judge signal touch by Team B (inferring that the ball landed out of bounds). The Team B coach challenges, stating that there was no touch. The video review shows there was NO touch by Team B, but the ball landed in. The second referee indicates “in” and awards Team A the point.

**RULING:** The referee’s decision is incorrect. The coach challenged whether a Team B player touched the ball, not whether the ball was in or out. Remember, the referee can only review what the coach challenges (touch, in this example), so the in/out decision cannot be reversed. Therefore, the call remains “out” and Team B would be awarded a point.

**Scenario 4**
A Team A attacker tips the ball. A Team B player attempts to make a pancake save. The ball is called down by the referees. The Team B coach challenges the call, saying that the pancake was successful. The video review shows that the pancake was successful and the ball was “up”, but also clearly shows a Team B player committed a net fault on the play. The second referee signals a net fault and awards the ball to Team A.

**RULING:** The referee’s decision is incorrect. The coach challenged the ball contacting the floor not a net fault, so only the pancake can be considered. The correct call would be replay, since the referee’s whistle ended a rally incorrectly.

**Scenario 5**
Team R player #9 is near a non-playing area as she plays the ball, trying to save a teammate’s errant pass. A teammate then passes the ball across the net, where it lands on Team S’s court. The Team S coach challenges that Team R player #9 was not legally within the playing area when she played the ball. The referee accepts the challenge.

**Ruling:** The referee’s decision is correct. Playing a ball while completely off of the playing surface results in an “out” call, and decisions regarding in/out are challengeable.

**Player touching ball**

18.1.4.2 Whether the ball contacted a player, including:

18.1.4.2.1 A ball that may have been contacted by a player before landing outside the court boundary lines.

18.1.4.2.2 A team that may have had four or more ball contacts before returning to the opponents’ court.

**Related Rule Interpretations**

**Scenario 1 (see ball in or out scenarios 2 & 3)**

Team A attacks a ball, and the ball lands near Team B’s sideline. The line judge signals “out”. The Team A coach challenges the call, saying the ball landed “in”. The video review shows the ball was “out”, but it also clearly shows that a Team B player touched the ball just before it went out. The second referee signals “touch” and awards Team A the point.

**RULING:** The referee’s decision is incorrect. The coach challenged whether the ball landed in or out, not player touching the ball. Therefore the correct is that the original “out” call stands and Team B would be awarded a point.

**Scenario 2 (see “ball in or out” scenarios 2 & 3)**

Team A attacks a ball that lands near Team B’s sideline. The first referee and line judge signal touch by Team B (inferring that the ball landed out of bounds). The Team B coach challenges, stating that there was no touch. The video review shows there was NO touch by Team B, but the ball landed in. The second referee indicates “in” and awards Team A the point.

**RULING:** The referee’s decision is incorrect. The coach challenged whether a Team B player touched the ball, not whether the ball was in or out. Remember, the referee can only review what the coach challenges (touch, in this example), so the in/out decision cannot be reversed. Therefore, the call remains “out” and Team B is awarded a point.
Scenario 3

A Team A player attacks a ball that travels near two Team B blockers and then a Team B back-row player before landing out of bounds. The first referee whistles and awards the rally to Team A, and signals touch. Team B coach asks which player touched the ball and the R1 indicates the back-row player. The Team B coach challenges the touch call. The video review shows that the back-row player did NOT touch the ball, but one of the blockers did. The second referee awards the rally to Team A, indicating that the original touch call stands.

**RULING:** The second referee’s decision is correct. The second referee’s responsibility is to confirm whether or not a Team B player touched the ball. When video is reviewed to determine if there was a touch, the challenge is not limited to only look at a certain player or position.

**Associated Technique:** When a “touch” call is challenged, as you accept the challenge, confirm, “Coach, you are challenging that no one on your team touched the ball before it went out of bounds.”

Scenario 4

Team A attacks the ball into the tape and/or block and the ball returns to Team A’s side. The first referee whistles and indicates four hits on Team A. Team A’s coach challenges, saying Team B’s block touched the attack. Video review shows there was a touch by a Team B blocker. The second referee signals replay.

**RULING:** The referee’s decision is correct. Since the second referee’s whistle ended a rally incorrectly, a replay is directed.

Scenario 5

Team A attacks the ball into the tape and/or block and the ball returns to Team A’s side where it is played again by Team A. The referees allow play to continue for several volleys, ending with the ball landing on Team B’s court. Team B coach challenges, saying Team B’s block did NOT touch the attacked ball, and Team A should have been called for four hits. The video review shows there was not a touch by the Team B blockers. The second referee awards a point to Team B.

**RULING:** The second referee’s decision was correct. The rally should have ended after Team A’s fourth contact.

Scenario 6

The referees whistle and signal a touch on Team B after an attack by Team A. The Team B coach asks “who touched the ball”, and the second referee replies “the back-row player”. The coach
challenges the touch decision. The video review shows the back-row player did not touch the ball, but the Team B blocker did. The second referee confirms that Team B did touch the ball, and the original decision stands.

**Ruling:** The ruling is correct. The challenge is whether or not a Team B player touched the ball – not whether a specific player touched it. The referees should look for a touch/ no touch during the challengeable action.

**Scenario 7**

Team R overpasses the ball toward Team A’s court. Player A3 raises one hand higher than the top of the net in an attempt to play the ball. The ball brushes A3’s raised hand and then A3 contacts the ball with her other hand. Other Team A players then set the ball and attack it; the ball lands on Team B’s court. The Team B coach challenges that Team A had 4 hits. The referee accepts the challenge.

**Ruling:** Before accepting or denying the challenge, the second referee should ask the coach if she/he is challenging whether or not A3 touched the ball. That challenge will be accepted. If the coach is asking the referee to determine if A3 was a blocker or attacker, that judgment is not challengeable.

**Scenario 8**

Multiple Team B players (including player #2) are scrambling to save a ball coming from Team A. The ball rebounds off of an arm that is in the area of the save, and then player B2 sends the ball across the net, where it lands on Team A’s court. The Team A coach wants to challenge that Team B player B2 hit the ball twice. The second referee denies the challenge.

**Ruling:** The second referee’s decision is correct. In general, a team may not challenge any action that would result in a double contact.

**Scenario 9**

Team B back-row setter #8 is jumping to save a teammate’s overpass; the ball is entirely above the top of the net and in the plane of the net. The Team A middle blocker attacks the ball, and it lands out of bounds on Team B’s side. The referees whistle and signal a back-row block on team B8. The Team B coach challenges saying that Team B’s back-row player #8 did not touched the ball before it landed out of bounds. The referee accepts the challenge.

**Ruling:** The referees’ decision is not correct. The coach cannot challenge a back-row block fault.

**Player touching the net**
18.1.4.3 Whether a net fault occurred, as defined in Rules 15.2.1-15.2.3

Related Rule Interpretations

Scenario 1 (see scenario 4 “ball ruled in or out)

A Team A attacker tips the ball. A Team B player attempts to make a pancake save. The ball is called down by the referees. The Team B coach challenges the call, saying that the pancake was successful. The video review shows that the pancake was successful and the ball was up, but also clearly shows a Team B player committed a net fault on the play. The second referee signals a net fault and awards the ball to Team A.

**RULING:** The referee’s decision is incorrect. The coach challenged the ball contacted the floor not a net fault, so only the pancake can be considered. The correct call would be replay, since the referee’s whistle ended a rally incorrectly.

Scenario 2

During a play at the net, a Team A player is whistled for a net fault. The Team A coach challenges, saying “we weren’t in the net”. Video review shows that no Team A player contacted the net, but does show a net fault by a Team B player. The second referee whistles, signals a net fault on Team B and shows the appropriate player number. The first referee awards the rally to Team B.

**RULING:** The referee’s decision is correct. The referees should call the first net fault seen during the action that was challenged.

Scenario 3

During a play at the net, Team A player #5 (outside blocker) is whistled for a net fault. The Team A coach challenges, saying #5 was not in the net. Video review shows that #5 was NOT in the net, but #8 (middle blocker) did contact the net. The second referee reiterates the point to Team B, as the original net fault decision stands.

**Ruling:** The referee’s decision is correct. The challenge is whether or not a Team A player committed a net fault. When challenging or reviewing a net fault decision, a coach or referee does not have to specify the player at fault.

Scenario 4

During a play at the net, a Team A player is whistled for a net fault. The Team A coach challenges, stating that a net fault by the opponent was missed. The video review shows that no Team A player was in the net but a Team B player did commit a net fault. The second referee signals a net fault
on Team B and the first referee awards the point to Team A.

**RULING:** The second referee’s decision is correct as long as the Team B net fault occurred during the action that resulted in the challenge.

**Scenario 5**

The referees whistle a net fault on Team B. The Team B coach challenges the net call (“we weren’t in the net”). Video review shows that neither team contacted the net.

**Ruling:** Since the referee’s whistle ended a rally incorrectly, a replay is directed.

**Scenario 6 (see Player touching the net scenario 2)**

The referees whistle a net on Team B. Team B coach challenges the net call (“we weren’t in the net”). Video review shows that Team B was not in the net, but Team A did contact the net on that play.

**Ruling:** After the review, the second referee whistles, signals net fault on Team A and shows the appropriate player number. The first referee signals point and the second referee mimics the point signal.

**Service foot fault**

18.1.4.4 Whether a service foot fault occurred, as defined in Rule 13.2.2.1.1.

**CRS Procedures**

18.1.5 Procedures

18.1.5.1 A team is limited to three challenges per match.

18.1.5.2 Only one challenge per team is allowed each time the ball is out of play.

18.1.5.3 Only the team that lost the rally may challenge. If the call is reversed as a result of that challenge, the team that lost the review would be able to challenge.

18.1.5.4 Only the head coach must request a challenge. The head coach may request a challenge by holding up the challenge card.

18.1.5.5 A challenge must be requested before the first service after the play in which the challengeable action occurred.
18.1.5.6 A challenge must be accepted by the second referee (see Official’s Mechanics #31) provided it is one of the challengeable actions. If an attempt is made to challenge a non-challengeable action, the challenge shall be denied and a delay sanction may be assessed.

Related Rule Interpretations

Scenario 1

The Team B head coach has been disqualified during the set. The Team B assistant coach (designated on the lineup sheet for set one) wants to challenge a touch call. The second referee denies this request since only the head coach may challenge.

**Ruling:** The second referee is incorrect. If the head coach has been disqualified or has left the team area (becomes ill) an assistant coach (designated on the lineup sheet) may challenge.

Scenario 2

Team B head coach has been disqualified during the set. There are no other coaches designated on the lineup sheet for set one. The second referee allows the playing captain to request a challenge.

**Ruling:** The second referee is correct. If no coach is available the playing captain may assume all duties and responsibilities of a coach. **Associated Technique:** The playing captain does not have to display the challenge card. They must inform the second referee that they want to challenge.

Scenario 3

Team A outside hitter attacks a ball that lands out of bounds. The Team A coach challenges that the ball hit the Team B blocker’s hand. The second referee determines that the blockers did touch the ball and awards the rally to Team A. The Team B coach then challenges that the Team A attacker touched the antenna prior to the ball touching the blocker’s hands. The referee allows the challenge by Team A.

**Ruling:** The referee’s decision is correct. Even though the referee will review the same video clips of that play, the second challenge was regarding a different fault that preceded the one already reviewed, and should therefore be accepted.

Scenario 4

While the second referee is reviewing a challenge by Team B, the Team A trainer brings water to the sideline for the players on the court. The first referee whistles and signals the trainer back to the bench.
Ruling: The first referee is incorrect. The trainer may bring water or towels while the challenge is being reviewed. However, Team A may be at risk of a delay sanction if resumption of the match is delayed by a clean-up of water or liquids on the court.

Scenario 5

While the challenge is being reviewed by the second referee, the spirit squad goes on the home team’s court to cheer. The first referee asks event management to have them stop.

Ruling: The first referee’s decision is correct. The spirit squad may stand up and cheer, but they may not be on the court.

FAQ’s

Can a coach request a challenge at the end of a timeout?
Yes, any time prior to the next authorization for service.

At the end of a set, how long does the coach have to request a challenge?
The challenge must be requested before the first referee signals end of set. If the last play of the set was controversial, the referees should not rush to end the set.

At the end of the match, how long does the coach have to request a challenge?
The challenge must be requested before the first referee begins stepping off the referee platform. If the last play was controversial, the referee should not rush to end the match.

If the head coach is disqualified, can an assistant coach lodge a challenge?
Yes, any individual who is listed as a coach on the first set lineup sheet can lodge a challenge if the head coach is disqualified or not available for other reasons. The second referee should ask who will be the acting “head coach.”

Can a conference coordinator, national coordinator or regional advisor on site review the video with the second referee and help decide the call?
No one but the second referee is allowed to assist in making the decision.

What if the match is ready to start and event management does not have the challenge cards available?
In this rare instance, acknowledge verbal challenges from the coach. At the end of the match, notify the conference coordinator.

Can a team lodge a challenge at the end of the fifth set court switch before play resumes?
Yes, a challenge can be lodged any time before the first referee’s arm is extended to authorize the serve for the next rally. If the outcome of the challenge results in a reversal of the 8th point, teams will remain on the new sides of the court and not switch back to continue play.

*Can a team lodge a challenge at the end of a media timeout?*
Yes, a challenge can be made any time before the first referee’s arm is extended to authorize the serve for the next rally. If the outcome of the challenge results in a reversal of the 15th point, an additional media timeout will not occur when the 15th point is re-scored.

**Challenge scenario that are no longer valid**

**Scenario 1**

Team A attacks a ball near Team B’s sideline. The line judge indicates the ball is out. The Team A coach is looking for his challenge card at approximately the same time the Team B coach is holding up their challenge card. The second referee accepts the Team A challenge.

*RULING:* The second referee is correct. The second referee should always look towards the team that lost the rally first for a challenge. If both teams have their challenge card raised at approximately the same time the team that lost the rally challenge will be accepted.

**Current Interpretation**-Only the team that lost the rally may challenge. If the call is reversed the team that originally won the rally has the right to challenge another action.

**Scenario 2**

During a rally, there is a pancake attempt by Team A; instantly after the attempted pancake, the ball caroms off of another Team A player, landing out of bounds. A line judge indicates that the pancake was not successful and signals the ball down; the R1 awards the rally to Team B based on that information. The Team A coach attempts to challenge that the pancake was successful, but the second referee tells the Team A coach that no challenge is permitted, since immediately after the pancake attempt, the ball went out of bounds off of a Team A player, and Team A would have lost the rally.

*RULING:* The second referee is incorrect. The challenge should have been accepted. If the video replay indicated that the pancake was successful a replay should be directed.

**Current Interpretation**-The second referee tells the coach the challenge can be accepted, however IF the video shows that the ball did not hit the floor on the pancake attempt, it also will
likely be considered an inadvertent whistle with no change to the original call. This decision is based on the rare situation where the ball is dead immediately after the pancake attempt, making the decision on the pancake extraneous. The challenge can be accepted, but preventing a wasted challenge on this extremely rare situation is good technique. If the coach insists on challenging, and the video replay shows the pancake was successful but the ball was immediately “dead”, Team B is still awarded the point.