

2014 and 2015 NCAA Women's Volleyball -- Final Rules Changes

The following rules changes were approved by the NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules Committee and the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel. They will be incorporated into the rules book for the 2014 and 2015 seasons.

| SUBJECT | PAGE | RULE REF. | RULE CHANGE |
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| Playing surface, Free Zone Distance Increased | 12 | 1.1.1 | For facilities constructed after 2016, a free zone of 3 meters (9 feet, 9 inches) is required. Rationale: Increases player safety and lessens the potential for interference with fans. This change may also promote longer rallies with increased free space outside the court. |
| Assessment of Sanctions, Elimination of Expulsion Sanction | 28 | 6.4 | Delete the sanction level of Expulsion (dismissal for the remainder of the current set). A further sanction after a penalty (red card) would result in Disqualification (dismissal for the remainder of the match). Rationale: Places a greater emphasis on sportsmanship by not allowing coaches or players to return after being expelled. |
| Uniform Numbers, Allowance of "0" | 32 | 7.1.2.6 | Shirts may be numbered from "0" through "99". Rationale: Add the number "0" as an allowable number. |
| Rally and Completed Rally, Definition Revised | 35 | 8.1.3.1 | Modify the definition of a rally as follows: <i>Current definition:</i> "A rally is the sequence of playing actions from the moment of the service contact by the server until the ball is out of play. A rally is completed when the playing actions result in a point awarded to either team." <i>New definition:</i> "A rally begins from the moment of the service contact by the server until the ball is out of play. A rally is completed when a point is awarded to either team." Rationale: This will allow a coach the option of substituting when play is stopped to issue a penalty (red card). Prior to this change, if play was stopped to issue a penalty point, it was not considered "playing actions," so the rally was not considered "complete". A substitution would not have been allowed. |
| Standard Protocol, Pre-Match Warm-Up Protocol Adjusted | 38 | 9.1.1.1 | The pre-match warm-up may be protocol (Table 2) may be adjusted by conference policy for the first 20 minutes (until the 40-minute mark on the clock). The adjustment to the current protocol may only be made on a conference level and may not be used for non-conference matches. The NCAA championships will follow the default warm-up protocol (Table 2). Rationale: This change allows conferences to alter their warm-up protocol due to facility space constraints. |

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| Timeout, Length Adjusted | 44 | 11.2.2 | <p>Change the default timeout length from 60 seconds to 75 seconds. A timeout may be less than 75 seconds if both teams are ready for play.</p> <p>Rationale: Allows coaches more time to communicate with their players and matches the recommended length of a media timeout.</p> |
| Media Timeouts, Non-Broadcast Timeout Length Adjusted by Mutual Consent | 44 | 11.2.3.3 | <p>By mutual consent of both coaches, the length of all timeouts may be reduced from the default length of 75 seconds to 60 seconds, or increased to the length of 90 seconds. If both coaches do not agree to the modified length, the default time of 75 seconds will be used.</p> <p>Rationale: Modification to the timeout length to meet the rules change in Rule 11.2.2.</p> |
| Accident or Injury, Substitution Allowed for Injured Libero Replacement | 47 | 11.3.5.1 | <p>Allow coaches the option of replacing the injured libero with the player she came in for and then allow one substitution for the replacement player (only).</p> <p>Rationale: For all other injured players, the coach may substitute any legal substitute. Currently, if play is stopped because the libero is injured, the coach may only return the player that the libero came in for to continue play. This would allow the coach to replace the injured libero with the player she came in for and then allow one substitution for the replacement player.</p> |
| Libero Uniforms, Shorts May Be Different from Teammates | 50 | 12.1.3.3 | <p>It is not required that the libero's shorts be identical to her teammates.</p> <p>Rationale: Allows the libero to be more visible by providing more uniform options.</p> |
| Libero Uniforms, School References Allowed on Jersey Sleeve(s) | 51 | New 12.1.3.1.5 | <p>Allow a single mascot and/or school reference to be placed on the sleeve(s), provided it does not exceed 4"x 4" or 3"x 5".</p> <p>Rationale: Allows for displays of school spirit while keeping the integrity of the solid-colored uniform rule.</p> |
| Player Contact with Net or Antennas, Contact Allowed with Net Outside Antenna | 62 | 15.2.1.2 | <p>Change the current net rule to allow contact with the net outside the antenna provided it does not interfere with the play or is not used as a means of support while playing the ball.</p> <p>Rationale: Allows for more consistency by officials when calling net violations and aligns with USA Volleyball rules.</p> |

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| Officials' Jurisdiction, Arrival Time Adjusted | 67 | 18.1.2 | <p>The jurisdiction of the referees begins with their arrival on the court, which should be at least 40 minutes before the match start time.</p> <p>Rationale: Currently, the official's jurisdiction begins at least 30 minutes before the match start time. This proposal would require officials to be on the court at least 40 minutes before the match start time to conduct the required pre-match protocol.</p> |
| The Scorekeepers, Terminology Modification | 72 | 18.4 | <p>Change terminology from "scorekeeper" to "scorer".</p> <p>Rationale: Align with USA Volleyball and National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) rules language.</p> |