



RULES OF THE GAME

During the 31st FIVB Congress in 2008, the FIVB approved the amendment of a number of rules within the game which are to be implemented from 1st January 2009 in all competitions.

VNZ will adopt the majority of the changes made to the FIVB rules with effect from the above date.

This document provides a guide to these amendments and simplifies their interpretation for coaches and players at all levels of the game.

The Rule Changes:

4.1 TEAM COMPOSITION (4.1.1)

Teams have different options regarding the make up of their team:

Option 1: Twelve (12) regular players and two libero's (see below).
=14 listed team members

Option 2: Eleven (11) regular players and one (1) libero (as now).
=12 listed team members

Option 3: Twelve (12) regular players and no libero (remember it is not compulsory to use a libero).
=12 listed team members

Please Note: A team cannot use only one (1) libero and twelve regular players for a total of thirteen (13) listed team members.

FOR 2009 VNZ EVENTS:

- o National Secondary School Championships 2009, teams may chose to use Options 2 and 3 only.
- o National Club Champions 2009, teams may choose any one of all three Options.

5.1 CAPTAIN (5.1.2.3)

In the past a team/game captain could call a time-out or substitution even though the coach was sitting on the bench. Now this power has been taken from the captain, unless the coach has had to leave the court area.

5.3 ASSISTANT COACH (5.3.2)

If the coach needs to leave the court (for any reason) the captain can ask the first referee if the assistant coach can take over the coaching role, for as long as the coach is absent.

11.2 PENETRATION UNDER THE NET (11.2.2.2)

The penetration rule regarding the feet has not changed (it is forbidden for the foot/feet to completely cross the centre line into the opponents court). However, the rules regarding the hand and any other part of the body has. Now a player may touch an opponent's court with their hand/knee/elbow/head/etc., but in doing so the player cannot interfere with the opponent, if they do, it is a fault!

11.3 CONTACT WITH THE NET (11.3.1)

Contact with the net by a player is not a fault unless it interferes with play. Rule 11.4.4 explains how a player "interferes" with play. Rule 11.4.4 states:

- 🏐 touching the top band of the net or the top 80cm of the antenna during his/her action of playing the ball, or
- 🏐 taking support from the net simultaneously with playing the ball, or
- 🏐 creating an advantage over the opponent, or
- 🏐 making actions which hinder an opponent's legitimate attempt to play the ball.

The removal of the phrase "in the action of playing the ball" from the net fault rule has allowed a major evolution in the game designed to keep the ball flying.

Blockers hitting the net on the way up to block, or spikers touching the net below the top band (tape) after the hit would no longer be committing a fault. Neither would setters contacting the mesh of the net as they played the ball.

But hitting/touching the top band (tape) of the net or taking support from the net would be classed as **interfering with play – hence these actions would still be whistled as net faults.**

15.10 SUBSTITUTION PROCEDURE (15.10.3a,b,c)

The coach no longer has to make a request for substitution. The request is assumed at the moment players enter the substitution zone. The request can only be made when the ball is out of play and before the whistle for service (if this is not the case the referee must sanction the team with delay).

The request for substitution is acknowledged by the second referee.

If the coach requests a substitution verbally (remember they do not need to but is not forbidden from doing so) the second referee will do nothing until the player steps into the substitution zone.

The second referee still authorises and controls the substitution, but now from a position between the post and the scorers table – there is no need for the second referee to go to the attack line.

Once the substitution is acknowledged the scorer completes the substitution details on the score sheet.

19. THE LIBERO

If a team chooses to use one/two libero's, they must be recorded on the scoresheet prior to the match.

If using two libero's, before the start of the match the coach must choose one libero to be acting libero (on the court) and one as reserve libero.

The coach has the ability to swap the acting and reserve libero's for any reason, but only once in a match. The scorer records the change in the remarks section of the score sheet.

The starting libero cannot enter play for the remainder of the match.




If the reserve libero is injured or ill, the coach can re-designate the reserve libero with any player not on the court at the time (except for the original libero). The Captain (if off the court) can even relinquish their leadership to become libero if the coach wishes.

21.2 MISCONDUCT LEADING TO SANCTIONS (21.2.3)

Any behaviour towards officials, opponents, team-mates or spectators which is aggressive or threatening can (and should) be sanctioned with disqualification. This means that the team member must leave the playing area for the rest of the match (there are no other consequences). Remember if this occurs the disqualified player must be replaced by a legal substitution.

24 SECOND REFEREE (24.3.2.4)

The second referee now has the ability to decide, whistle and signal:

-  Any attack hit faults by the back row players or the libero.
-  Any completed block by back row players
-  Any attempted block by the libero

RESULTS - SEPARATING TIED TEAMS

Ties and Pools are separated by:

- o Points ratio from all Pool games
- o Sets ratio from all Pool games
- o If two teams are still tied then they will be separated by the result of the game between them.

There are also a number of smaller wording changes that have been made, if you are interested in reading further the rules are available for free download on www.fivb.org