



A Simplified Guide to Rule Text 2009-2012

To facilitate understanding of the new text, this simple question and answer guide has been prepared to help with understanding the message of the Rules – namely to improve our ability to keep the ball flying and maintain its dynamic image within the world of sport.

Q. Do national League Clubs have to have 14 players in their roster?

A. That would be unreasonable. This is restricted to FIVB and World Events for Seniors, since it is felt that at this stage in the game's development, Clubs may not have enough player resources to accomplish this.

Q. So do I still need to field two Liberos?

A. No, that too is reserved for situations where in an FIVB or World Event for Seniors a team CHOOSES to bring to the tournament more than 12 players (i.e. 13 or 14 players). So if you only have 12 players, you need register NONE, ONE or TWO Liberos within those twelve – it is up to you. But if you bring 13 it becomes compulsory for TWO of them to be Liberos and the same applies to 14 players, of course.

Q. If my setter brushes the mesh of the net while playing the ball, is it a fault?

A. Not any longer. Provided that the setter does not “take support” from the net while simultaneously playing the ball, no fault has been committed. Play on. When this rule was tested, during its application many more net crossings were achieved in those rallies. The setter in this example is judged not to be interfering with play.

Q. What do you mean by “taking support”?

A. If a hand is used on the mesh of the net as leverage to reach and hit the ball, or a player leans into or sits in the mesh of the net simultaneously with playing the ball, this would clearly be unfair. If a player uses the net as a springboard, simultaneously with playing the ball – these are examples of taking support. In essence the player creates an advantage by using the net as a physical support. This is interfering with the play.

Q. If my spiker lands on the centre line, but THEN falls into the net, or falls and puts a hand completely in the opponent court, will this be whistled?

A. It should not be – provided the latter does not “interfere” by preventing the opponent play the ball. As described neither action interferes.

Q. And if she falls so that her body is on the floor in my opponent's court and her feet are in her own court?

A. This is still not a fault unless by her presence, she stops the opponents moving legitimately to hit the ball on their side. Her position COULD present a danger or be classed as INTERFERING. Each situation would have to be viewed on its own merits.

Q. Surely we need a more black-and –white answer than that?

A. Not really when you consider that every contact of a player with the ball requires a judgement call by the referees. By taking away more than 40% of net faults in this way we know that we are creating a more dynamic game with more chances to excite the crowd. That has been our experience of the hundreds of test matches and in real competition. Some federations are already using it, very successfully.

Q. What about if the blocker hits the top band of the net?

A. Fault. No argument.

Q. A blocker hits the mesh of the net with his stomach, or brushes the net by accident on the way up or down?

A. Not a fault.

Q. I play in a lower league and we do not use buzzers – what do we do for substitution?

A. The rules still allow the coach to request substitution, and the second referee can still whistle – but only when the player steps into the substitution zone. The second referee's position also changes – he/she controls the substitution from a position between the post and the scorer's table. Second referee's AUTHORISE and CONTROL; scorers ACKNOWLEDGE and ANNOUNCE and RECORD.

Q. You said that coaches can still request substitution – why?

A. There are injury situations where the coach must still request substitution.

Q. I am not sure if second referees can WHISTLE back line faults – can you clarify?

A. They MUST whistle and signal illegal back court attacks and blocks and Libero faults – except the completed attack from an overhand pass by the Libero in the front zone: this is still only within the responsibilities of the FIRST referee.

Q. What does the scorer do at substitution?

A. If the scorer has a buzzer, as soon as the substitute player steps into the substitution zone (between attack line and scorer's table says the rule) the scorer presses the buzzer to announce the substitution "REQUEST". After the administration is complete, TWO HANDS must be raised to indicate that this is the case. If the substitution is illegal, the buzzer is pressed again, the substitution is rejected, and the team is sanctioned for DELAY.

Q. What are "actions which hinder an opponent's legitimate attempt to play the ball"?

A. Let us take two examples:

1. A player runs after the ball, which because of a poor reception passes outside the antenna. The opponent player sticks out a foot to prevent him reaching the ball. This is a fault.
2. A ball from a reception hits the net. An opponent prevents its natural rebound by pushing his hands at the ball through the net. This is a fault. Both these cases are examples of "Interfering".