

Substitution System

SVA National League 2008-9

Introduction:

Based on the results of the successful tests carried out during the 2007 editions of World League and World Grand Prix, the following finalized version of the so-called quick substitution system will be operated in Scotland for season 2008-9 and subsequent seasons.

Goals to Achieve :

1. To reduce the potential for conflicts and delays during the substitution process
2. To reduce the artificial and somewhat mechanical protocol of the previous substitution system and make the game appear more dynamic and exciting.
3. To give more opportunities for the Coach and 2nd Referee to follow their main duties and responsibilities.
4. To encourage the scorer to take a more pro-active role in the substitution process.
5. Reduce the duration of the interruptions for substitution and bring them into line with Libero replacements
6. To maintain the match tempo.

Special Equipment:

1. For special events: Substitution paddles (numbers 1-19); scorer's buzzers; team buzzers (for T/O only).

System Procedures:

1. A team may "request" a substitution while the ball is out of play and before the referee's whistle for service.
2. **In Special events, the "request" for substitution is simply the entrance of the substitute(s) into the substitution zone**, near the scorer's table, **(with the appropriate numbered paddle** corresponding to the player(s) to leave the court) (see point 7 below).

In **National League play** the coach/ game captain will still be able to request substitution but the second referee will take no action until the player steps into the substitution zone (the space between the attack line and the centre line.) At that moment, the second referee will whistle to acknowledge the request. The exchange will take place at the side line as now – but the second referee need not move to the attack line any more to control the process.

3. **In Internationals, the entry of the player to the substitution zone with the numbered paddle, ready to play, is the critical point - no action by the coach or game captain is required.** In internationals, there is no necessity of Coach or game captain to make either a signal or to use the buzzer/ signalling device. (Note: in case of a forced substitution due to injury the coach or indeed the game captain may, of course, make the substitution signal to the second referee who will authorize the substitution in this case.)
4. In internationals and special events, it is the **scorer** who is empowered to acknowledge the substitution request automatically the instant a player or players enters the substitution zone (provided the ball is out of play and before the whistle for service).
5. In this case, the request is **acknowledged and announced** by the **buzzer of the scorer (or whistle of the Second Referee).** Note: in national competitions where the scorer lacks experience or there is no buzzer the authorization and acknowledgement will of necessity be the whistle of the second referee, accompanied in this instance by the **match official's** use of the official hand signal (Signal #5).
6. The substituting player goes immediately to the sideline close to the net post within the substitution zone, to make the paddle-exchange with the player on court. This exchange, and hence the completion of the act of substitution, is authorized only by **an informal hand signal from the Second Referee.**
7. Once a player enters the substitution zone with the numbered paddle, and ***the buzzer/ whistle is sounded, a substitution must be completed.*** Once the buzzer/ whistle sounds, a team which retracts their request for substitution automatically causes a delay, and a delay sanction will be charged against the team. (*Note, however, that players running from the warm up area in an attempt to make a substitution will no longer be an issue for improper request or delay – since there is no official verbal or signalled request, or interpretation by the referees as to whether the Coach or player was obeying the letter of the current rule*)

– only the physical act of entering the substitution zone to prompt the signal/ buzzer requires to be interpreted.)

8. The instant the buzzer/ whistle for substitution sounds, the Second Referee will turn his/ her back to the net post and prepare to control the entry/ exit of the players from this position.

(Note: In national events where a buzzer is not employed, the second referee will have to be aware of the entry of players, but will also be permitted to accept verbal requests from the players provided they have entered the substitution zone).

9. (See also point 2). In Internationals/ Special events, the instant the substitute player(s) enter the substitution zone, with the appropriate numbered paddle(s) the scorer:

- presses the buzzer then
- checks the score sheet to determine if the proposed substitution is legal
- will, if legal, register on the score sheet the number of the substituted player and the score at the substitution
- then s/he will raise both arms to indicate that s/he is ready for the next substitution or rally. (Note: In internationals, there is no longer the necessity for the scorer to raise one hand to signify at the start of the process that the substitution event has been recognized – the pressing of the buzzer carries out that function). There IS a necessity to raise two hands at the end of the process to permit the Referees to continue the match.

10. In Internationals and Special Events, should the substitution be illegal,
- the scorer pushes the buzzer (again) and indicates the illegality of the substitution.
 - the Second Referee will blow the whistle to indicate the illegality of the substitution to the 1st Referee, who gives the team the appropriate delay sanction.
 - the substitution is rejected automatically in this instance.

In National League matches, the scorer must attract the second Referee's attention – in this case the substitution will be rejected and the team will be charged with a delay.

11. In the case of multiple substitutions by the same team, there must be no delay between the entrances of the substitutes into the substitution zone. Each substitute must wait for the **hand signal authorization** from the Second Referee before exchanging places with the corresponding player on the court.

12. When both teams want to substitute in the same interruption, the procedures, where practicable, will be: next team to serve substitutes first, followed by the receiving team.
13. In all cases, the 1st Referee has the right to authorize the next service after having seen the scorer's two-handed "READY" signal at the completion of all team substitutions and both teams are ready to play.
14. The scorers must report the 5th & 6th substitution of each team to the Second Referee, who will pass this information to the team Coach and the First Referee.

Notes :

1. The Substitution paddle numbers are obligatory for special events and should be used in all cases of the full application of the system.
2. The following points should be taken into consideration:
 - The Substitution players should not retard the duty of the ball retriever and quick moppers.
 - For Time Out, the team is obliged to use the buzzer as in rule 15.2.1
3. The time-saving in this procedure lies at the coach-2nd referee interface and not the scorer-2nd referee interface. It therefore overcomes several of our current dilemmas – improper request v. potential delay, improved substitution speed, over-formality – and in so doing reduces the potential for conflict between team and referee and possible spectator confusion. However, its speed relies upon the scorer being aware of events and the second referee retaining control from a new position at the post.

Sandy Steel
 President, FIVB Rules of the Game Commission
 President, SVA Referees Commission

- 15.10.3a The request for substitution is the entrance of the substitute player(s) into the substitution zone when the ball is out of play and before the whistle for service. 1.4.3, 7.3.3, 15.6.3
- 15.10.3.b If that is not the case, the substitution is not granted and the team is sanctioned for a delay. 16.2

- 15.10.3c** The request for substitution is acknowledged and announced by the scorer by use of the buzzer or other sound device (or by the second referee by use of the whistle).
For FIVB World and Official Competitions, numbered paddles are used to facilitate the substitution.
- 25.2.2 During the match, the scorer:
- 25.2.2.1 records the points scored 6.1
- 25.2.2.2 controls the serving order of each team and indicates any error to the referees immediately after the service hit; 12.2
- 25.2.2.3 Is empowered to acknowledge and announce requests for player substitutions by use of the buzzer, controlling their number, and records the time-outs and substitutions, informing the second referee.; 15.1, 15.4.1, 24.2.6, 24.2.7