



Rules of the Game

Sitting Volleyball

Casebook

2019 Edition

Compiled and Prepared

by the World ParaVolley Referee Commission

Preface

Sitting Volleyball is a great game. It has been actively adapted and promoted to be played by people with physical impairments and has developed tremendously as an exciting competitive sport. In the last years changes have provided for increased excitement, speed, explosive action, and a healthy image. The rules and guidelines have evolved to make understanding of the sport simpler and more attractive to a wide range of viewing public.

However, to apply these rules correctly and in a uniform manner on the world stage is also very important for the further development of the game. This Casebook is a collection of plays with Official Rulings approved by both the World ParaVolley Referee Commission and the Sitting Volleyball Rules of the Game Committee, based upon the most up-to-date edition of the Rules. These rulings expand on and clarify the spirit and meaning of the Official Rules and are the official interpretations to be followed during all competitions.


This edition of the Casebook is based upon the 2017-2020 edition of the Rules and the latest rule modifications approved by the World ParaVolley Board of Directors.

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Glyn Archibald

WPV referee commission Chairman



Pierre Farmer

WPV referee commission secretary

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1. PARTICIPANTS

1.1 Before the start of the match, during the official warm-up, the referees checked the numbers of the players of both teams. They noticed that the player #8 was on the team's list but he was not on the court. The coach said that the player will arrive within 40 minutes (during the match). Should the referees allow this player to play?

Ruling:

Permission is granted by the Jury of the match if the identity of the player has been checked previously and the identity card is present. In the case that there is no Jury Member and the referee must take a decision, players not present at the moment of the signature by the captain and the coach before the start of the match should be deleted from the scoresheet.

No Rule, Jury matter

1.2 Before the start of the match, the 2nd referee was checking the team's starting line ups and noticed that team "A" player #8 was on the court. The same player on the team starting line-up had #11. Should the referees allow changing the number on the team's list on the scoresheet?

Ruling: Yes. The referees together with the Jury Member should confirm the name and identity of the player. If he had a wrong number on the team list, he can play, but his number on the team list must be corrected before the start of the match. The referees must record this situation in the remarks section on the scoresheet.

Rule 4.1.3

1.3 During official warm-up near the net, the Libero sits on the court and defends opponent attacks. Is it permitted?

Ruling: Yes. It is not forbidden if this Libero action does not interfere with the opponent's attackers.

Rule 7.2

1.4 During official warm-up near the net, a player of team B blocks team A attackers. Is it permitted?

Ruling: No. Team B players cannot impede players of team A during the official warm-up even if their block is inside their playing space.

Rule 7.2

1.5 The Head of Delegation introduced a team list with 12 players plus 2 liberos. Is it acceptable in official WPV competitions?

Ruling: No, according to WPV Rules a team may consist of a maximum of 12 players internationally classified with a "confirmed" sport class status or a "review" sport class status, including a maximum two players classified as VS2 (minimal impairment). The libero(s) are included within the number of 12 players.

Rule 4.1

2. WEARING FORBIDDEN EQUIPMENT AND OBJECTS

2.1 During the official warm-up before the start of the match players of team A played with different socks of different colour. What is the procedure for the referees in this situation?

Ruling: The referees should immediately inform the Jury Member of their observation. During a match held without a Jury Member the referees should inform the coach of the team that the whole team should play with uniforms of the same colour, including the socks. The players should change any socks of the wrong colour before the start of the match. If the team does not have socks of the same colour, the first referee allows these players to participate in the match but the issue is recorded in the remarks section of the scoresheet.

Rule 4.3.1

2.2 A prosthetic leg, a leg support, a plaster cast for a damaged wrist etc. - are such devices allowed?

Ruling: Some yes - provided that the device will not cause undue risk to the player or the other players or provide an undue advantage.

Rule 4.5.1

2.3 During the official warm-up at the net, the referees noticed that player #5 of team "B" played in specially made thick shorts. Do the referees allow him to play with these shorts?

Ruling: No player is permitted to wear padding on any part of the shorts, long pants or compression. The referees must inform the Jury Member of their observation. If the player does not change his shorts, he can not play in the match.

Rule 4.3

3. TEAM LEADERS

3.1 The coach of team “A” is also a player on the court, but not the captain. In this case only the game captain is authorized to request time outs. Later during the match, the player – coach went out from the court and sat on the bench. At that time, the game captain requested a time out for the team. Should the 2nd referee allow this time out for team A?

Ruling: No. The game captain is authorized to request time outs only in the absence of the coach. In this case the coach was on the bench.

Rules 5.1.2.3; 5.3.2

3.2 The coach (as a player) entered the court. During one of the actions the game captain was seriously injured and was taken off from the court. Who should in this situation nominate the new game captain?

Ruling: Abnormal situation for referees. The coach should normally nominate the game captain, but the coach was in the court like a normal player. The game captain couldn't nominate the game captain because he was seriously injured. There is no such situation in the rules.

According to common sense in this abnormal situation the referees should ask the coach on the court to nominate the new game captain.

Rules 5.1.2.3; 5.3.2; 23.2.3

3.3 What is the proper response by the 1st referee if a game captain constantly questions 1st referee decisions?

Ruling: Beyond the limits of Rule 5.1.2, he/she should warn the game captain with no penalty, as stated in Rule 21.1. If the behaviour continues, the game captain should be sanctioned for rude conduct with a red card (point and service to the opponents).

Rules 5.1.2; 20.1; 20.2; 21.2; 21.3.1

3.4 Is the referee's decision final? May he/she change his/her own decision if the team protests?

Ruling: Yes. On the other hand, the teams are not allowed to protest against referee decisions. The first referee may change any decision of his/her fellow officials or of his/her own. If he/she has made a decision (whistled) and then sees that his/her colleagues (2nd referee, line judges or scorer) have, for instance, made a different decision, if he/she sees that he/she was wrong, he/she may change his/her decision.

The team members should not protest against a referee's decision. If they don't agree, the game captain, and only he/she may ask the first referee for clarification on his/her ruling. If he/she does not agree with the explanation of the 1st referee he/she may choose to protest against such a decision and immediately indicates to the 1st referee that he/she reserves the right to record an official protest, on the score sheet, at the end of the match.

Rules 5.1.2.1; 23.2.4, Guidelines 23.4

3.5 The coach of team "A" was also a starting player in the first set. While the coach is on the court, may the assistant coach request time outs for the team (the captain is asking the 1st referee about it)?

Ruling: In this situation the coach lost his coach's privileges because he became a player. The assistant coach is not authorized to request time outs. Only the game captain can ask about these regular game interruptions.

Should the coach have to leave his/her team for any reason, including a sanction, an assistant coach may assume the coach's functions for the duration of the coach's absence after confirmation by the first referee. In this case the Assistant Coach may call time outs.

Rules 5.1.2.3; 5.3.2

3.6 Is it permitted for a coach to speak to the 2nd referee during the match about the decisions and to protest?

Ruling: According to rule 5.1.2 only the game captain is authorized to speak to the referees to request explanations. The coach does not have the right to request

anything from the members of the refereeing corps, except the regular game interruptions (time-outs and substitutions). But if on the scoreboard the number of used regular game interruptions and/or the score are not indicated or are not correct, he/she may inquire with the scorer when the ball is out of play.

Rules 5.1.2; 5.2.3.4; 21.1; 21.2; 21.3

3.7 May the coach, if injured or disabled, be allowed to use crutches or wheelchair in the free zone to perform his/her duties during the match?

Ruling: To stand or walk with crutches or use the wheelchair is not forbidden for the coach.

3.8 During the action, a coach kneels down on one knee and looks to the action. Also, during time out he sits on the floor together with the whole team. Is it acceptable?

Ruling: According to common sense the referees should allow a coach to kneel down in the free zone during the action and also during time outs.

Rule 5.2.3.4

3.9 Several times during one set, the coach of team A crossed the coaches restriction line, went to the side line and gave instructions to the players on the court. The 2nd referee did not react. Was the 2nd referee correct?

Ruling: The coach can direct his team if he stands or walks without crossing the coaches' restriction line. In this situation he is mistaken and the 2nd referee should inform him about it. If the coach repeats this behaviour the 1st referee should sanction him for delay.

Rules 5.2.3.4; 1.3.4

3.10 An assistant coach sits on the end of the bench. Is it acceptable?

Ruling: Yes. WPV Rules indicate that the coach should sit closest to the scorer. Other members of the team may sit anywhere else on the bench (or players may be inside the designated warm-up area.)

Rules 5.2.3.2; 5.3.1

3.11 During a Technical Time-out, the coach nervously pulled one of the woman players. Should referees react to this behaviour?

Ruling: Referees must be very careful in this situation. If they decide that the coach's behaviour is unpermitted aggression towards the player, they must intervene. It is a very difficult situation for the referees. They must intervene if somebody on the playing area behaves unsportsmanlike to another person on the court, even to a teammate.

Rules 20.2.1; 23.3.2.2

4. TEAM STARTING LINE-UP, POSITIONAL AND ROTATIONAL FAULTS

4.1 The server of team “A” is in the service zone. He has a volleyball in his hands and is waiting for the 1st referee to whistle for service. At the moment of the service hit, his buttocks are behind the end line, but his legs are clearly in the court. Team “B” players are in the correct positions on the court. The 1st referee does not stop this action because he decides that the server did not make a mistake. Was the decision correct?

Ruling: The decision of the 1st referee was correct. At the moment of the service hit, the server's buttocks must be behind the end line (in service zone) and server's foot(feet), leg(legs) or hand(s) may touch the court and/or the free zone outside the service area. According to the rules, the positions of players on the court are determined only according to the buttocks' position in contact with the floor.

Rules 12.3; 12.4.3

4.2 The server of team “A” is in the service zone. He has a volleyball in his/her hands and is waiting for the 1st referee to whistle for service. His legs are clearly in the court and buttocks behind the end line (in service zone). At the moment of the service hit, his buttocks had a short loss of contact with the floor. At the same moment the receiving team makes a positional fault. Which team should serve next?

Ruling: If the server's buttocks did not contact the floor at the moment of the service hit, this player made a fault – lifting. At the same moment, the receiving team made a positional fault for which the 2nd referee whistled. In this situation according to rule 12.7.1, the service fault happened first. Team B should be awarded a point and the service.

Rules 7.5.2; 9.3.5; 12.4.3; 12.7.1

4.3 During the service hit of team “A”, the player #9 of the receiving team “B” had both buttocks on the court, but also touched one hand on the floor clearly outside of the sideline. The 2nd referee whistled a positional fault to player #9. The captain of team “B” did not agree with the referees' decision, and argued that the player #9

did not make a fault as he could touch with his hand outside of side line. The 1st referee consulted the 2nd referee about this decision and replayed the last rally.

Ruling: The 2nd referee's decision was wrong. The position of the players on the court is determined only with buttocks. The position of the hands and legs isn't important. According the rules, team "B" did not make a fault.

Rules 7.4; 7.4.3

4.4 The last rally was won by the receiving team "B". After rotation, the player in position 2 (#8) moved to the service zone. After a short discussion inside the team, they decided that next server should be #5, who played during the last rally in position 3 (middle blocker). The player #8 went to position 6 (middle in back zone). The 2nd referee checked it together with the scorer on the scoresheet and noticed that during the last rally, team "B" played in incorrect positions. What is the correct decision of the referees in this situation?

Ruling: If during the last rally, the players of team "B" played in wrong positions, this rally in the end should have been won by team "A". The referees should change their decision and award a point and service to team "A". The team "B" should correct their positions according to the scoresheet.

In this case, the referees considered that team "B" was in positional fault only during the last rally. The scorer determines the exact moment, when the fault was committed, and all points scored subsequently by the team at fault must be cancelled. The team "A"'s points remain valid. If that moment can't be determined no point(s) cancellation takes place, and a point and service to the team "A" is the only sanction.

Rules 7.6.1; 7.7.2; 12.22.2

4.5 How many VS2 (minimal impairment) players may enter the court?

Ruling: The six players on court may include a maximum of one "minimal impairment" (VS2) player. If a Libero is on court, the six players must still fulfil this requirement. The team may include a maximum of two players classified as "minimal impairments" (VS2) in the starting list.

Rules 4.1.1; 15.6.4; 15.9.2

4.6 During the match, the scorer noticed that the wrong player has moved to the service zone. When the server was in position to serve with the ball in hands, the scorer pushed the buzzer and started to wave a hand, indicating that the server was wrong. Was the procedure of the scorer correct?

Ruling: The scorer was not correct. When he/she noticed that the wrong server was preparing for service he/she should have done nothing. Immediately after the service hit the scorer should have pushed the buzzer to inform the 2nd referee that the service order was violated and that the team has made a fault.

Rules 12.6.1.1; 25. 2.2

4.7 During the service hit, some players were sitting with parts of their feet or legs penetrating onto the opponent's court. Neither the 1st nor the 2nd referee whistled for players being outside of the boundary lines of their court, when the opponent server hit the ball for service. Were the referees correct?

Ruling: This is a correct decision by the referees, however they should ensure that the players do not interfere or prevent their opponents from playing the ball.

Rules 1.3.3; 7.4; 24.3.2.1

4.8 During the service hit, a player of the receiving team "B" had his buttocks on the centre line, across the axis of the line. The 2nd referee did not whistle a fault for the team "B" player. Was the decision of the 2nd referee correct?

Ruling: It was a correct decision by the 2nd referee. The entire width of the centre line is considered to belong to both courts equally. The player sat on the line and did not make a mistake. Even if he sits partially on the opponent court, it isn't a fault if the player does not interfere with opponent's play.

Rules 1.3.3; 7.4; 7.5.1; 24.3.2.1

4.9 The centre back row player had a hand on the floor clearly in front of the buttocks of the centre front row player at the time the ball was contacted for service. He had his buttocks behind the buttocks of the centre front player. Is this a legal position for the receiving team?

Ruling: This is a legal position. Only the buttocks which are in contact with the floor are considered when determining whether players make a positional fault.

Rules 7.4.3; 7.4.3.1; 7.5

4.10 After the service hit, the scorer pushed the buzzer and wanted to inform the referees about the rotation fault of team "A". The 2nd referee did not whistle to stop play. The teams proceed with the rally and team "B" won this rally. The 2nd referee together with the scorer checked the score sheet and confirmed that team "A" made a rotation fault. The referees awarded team "B" only a single point. The "B" captain and a coach intervened and pressed the referees for two points. Was the referee correct that he awarded only single point?

Ruling: The referee's decision was correct. In this case when team "A" played an action after a rotation fault, team "B" gets only a single point. It isn't important which team won the playing action, the issue is which team committed the rotation fault.

On the other hand, the 2nd referee must stop the game immediately after the scorer pushed the buzzer.

Rules 7.7.1; 7.7.1.1; 25.2.2.2

5. PLAYING THE BALL

5.1 Team A served the volleyball. Player #5 of team “B” had his buttocks on the floor and received the volleyball with his hands near the floor. The volleyball bounced and slightly touched his forehead. Did the player of team “B” make a mistake?

Ruling: The player of team “B” did not commit a fault. During the first hit of the team, the ball may contact various parts of the body consecutively, provided that the contacts occur during one action.

Rules 9.1.1; 9.2.3; 23.3.2.3b

5.2 Can a player legally hit the ball with the palm of one hand facing upwards?

Ruling: The hit must be judged by the quality of the ball contact – i.e. is it a soft or hard rebound or whether or not the ball was caught and/or thrown. The 1st referee must not be too hasty in whistling this play unless he can clearly see that the ball is caught and/or thrown.

Rules 9.2.1; 9.2.2; 9.3.3; 9.3.4

5.3 After a block, can a player hit the ball twice in one action?

Ruling: A blocker has the right to make successive contacts after a block, as long as he/she makes only one action to play the ball. It is possible, however, to whistle a "catch" or "throw" on the first hit if two different phases (first catch, then throw) can be recognized within the action.

Rules 9.2.2; 9.2.3.2; 14.2

5.4 Must the 1st referee whistle for a handling fault if the player is making a spectacular recovery?

Ruling: The referee should consider the principle of “keep the ball flying”. This means, if a player makes a quick movement and a big effort to recover the ball, and during the hit a slight double contact has occurred, he/she must be less severe than in a normal situation.

5.5 The team "A" setter hits the ball above the net, so that at the moment of the contact his/her fingers were in the opponent's space. After the set the ball flew parallel to the net toward an attacker. The blocker of team "B" touched the ball in team "A" space, so that the team "A" player could not execute the attack hit. What should the 1st referee decide?

Ruling: According to Rule 9, each team must play the ball within its own playing area and space (except in the case of Rule 10.1.2). Therefore, since the setter has hit the ball in the opponent's space, the setter committed a fault. The blocker also committed a fault by touching the ball in the opponent's space before the attack hit. However, only the first fault is penalized.

Rule 9

6. LIFTING

6.1 The setter #6 of team “A” passed the ball to player #4, left side attacker. This player, during the attack hit, when the ball was higher than the top of the net, leaned on his hand on the floor and his buttocks lost shortly the contact with the floor. The referees whistled a fault - lifting. Were the referees correct?

Ruling: This was a correct decision of the referees. If the attacker’s buttocks lost contact with the floor during the attack hit, it was a fault. The team “B” won this rally.

Rules 13.3.4; 9.4; 9.3.5

6.2 During one of the actions, player #6, attacker of the team “A” made a fault – lifting, when he spiked the ball. The 2nd referee whistled. Was it correct?

Ruling: Both referees should observe buttocks of the players during actions. Of course, the 1st and the 2nd referee have their own responsibilities. It is the responsibility of the 2nd referee to observe the blocking action. He/she should whistle especially when h/she observes lifting of the blockers. But both referees must help each another. If the 1st referee did not see lifting in the attack action and 2nd referee saw it, the 2nd referee must whistle.

Rules 9.3.5; 24.3.2.8

6.3 Player #5 from team “A” received the ball and passed it to setter #3. The setter stood up and took a few steps to reach the ball. He then sat down on the buttocks and played the ball. The 1st referee did not whistle. Was the 1st referee correct?

Ruling: The 1st referee made a mistake. In sitting volleyball it is forbidden to stand up, raise the body or take steps to reach the ball.

Rules 9.4.2; 23.3.2.3b; 23.3.2.8

6.4 During the match the front row player of team “A” lifted his buttocks as he executed an attack hit. After the attack hit, one of the blockers of team “B” made a **lifting fault**. 1st and 2nd referee whistled for the lifting fault at the same time (1st

referee for attacker and 2nd referee for block). This rally was won by team “B”. Was this decision of 1st referee correct?

Ruling: Yes! Even if rule 13.1.3 states that an attack hit is completed at the moment the ball completely crosses the vertical plane of the net or is touched by an opponent, the attack hit becomes faulty when a player lifts his buttocks at the moment he hits the ball. In this situation the attacker of team “A” made a fault before the blocker of team “B”. This rally was correct won by team “B”.

Rule 13.3.4

6.5 During an attack hit of the team “A” player in position 4, the team “B” blocker in position 2 lifts, but does not touch the ball. The 2nd referee whistles lifting fault to the blocker and team A is awarded the point. Is the referee’s decision correct?

Ruling: Yes. Blocker’s lifting is a fault even if the ball does not contact a blocking player.

Rule 14.6.3

6.6 The ball is travelling towards team “B” after an opponent’s attack hit. In the team “B” back zone the player in position 6 is trying to reach for the ball, lifts his buttocks from the surface and contacts the ball which was entirely higher than the top of the net. The 1st referee whistles a lifting fault to the team and team “A” is awarded a point. Is the 1st referee’s decision correct?

Ruling: Yes. Lifting is permitted in the back zone when a player plays the ball in a defensive action and the contact is made when the ball is not entirely higher than the top of the net.

Rule 9.4.1

6.7 The ball is travelling towards team “A” after an opponent attack hit. In the back zone of team “A”, the player in position 5 is trying to reach for the ball, lifts his buttocks from the surface and contacts the ball while the ball is not entirely higher

than the top of the net. The 1st referee whistles a lifting fault to the team “A” and team “B” is awarded the point. Is the 1st referee’s decision correct?

Ruling: No. The 1st referee is mistaken. Lifting is permitted in the back zone when playing the ball in defensive action and the contact is made when the ball is not entirely higher than the top of the net.

Rule 9.4.1

6.8 After a very strong spike from team “A”’s player #9, the volleyball touched the block and went to the back zone team “B”. Player #3 of the team “B” lost the contact with the floor and played the ball in very spectacular manner. Contact with the ball was below the top of the net. The player touched the ball very lightly. Next player #1 also lifted, lost the contact with the floor and played the ball which was also below the top of the net. Did the player #3 or player #1 made a lifting fault?

Ruling: No. When the players in the back zone lost contact with the floor and did not play the ball which was entirely higher than the top of the net during defensive actions, neither the first nor the second action should be ruled as faults.

It was not a fault in the first and also in the second contact of the team.

Rule 9.4.1

6.9 The ball was travelling towards team “B” after an opponent’s attack hit . In team “B”’s back zone the player #3 lost the contact with the floor and played the ball very lightly. The volleyball was below the top of the net. Next, player #6 who was near the end line kneeled down and played the ball which was below the top of the net. Did the player #3 and #6 made a lifting fault?

Ruling: Player #3 did not make a fault. He played the ball in defensive action and the ball was not entirely higher than the top of the net.

Player #6 played the volleyball in a defensive action when the ball was below the net but he kneeled down. It is forbidden and this player made a fault.

Rule 9.4.1, 9.4.2

6.10 The back-row player of team "A" attacked the ball in the front zone when the ball was entirely higher than the top of the net.

Before the ball crossed the vertical plane of the net the opposite blockers were lifting.

What would be the correct call for referees?

Ruling: The ball does not have to touch the block for the blockers to be called for lifting. If the blocker lifts his/her buttocks when he/she is playing the ball or participates in a block he/she makes a fault.

In this case the moment the lifting of blockers took place is important. If the blockers lifted after the moment of the attack hit, the lifting is a fault.

In a different case - when the lifting by the blockers is made at the same moment as the back-row attacker hits in the front zone - it must be called as a double-fault and rally should be replayed.

Rules: 9.3.5., 13.1.3., 14.6.3.

7. PENETRATION UNDER THE NET

7.5 After the blocking action, player #6 from team "A" was turning to his own court. During this movement he clearly crossed the centre line and penetrated into the opponents' court. He did not interfere with the play of team "B". The 2nd referee did not whistle. Was the referee correct?

Ruling: It was a correct decision of the 2nd referee since if player #6 did not interfere with the opponent's play he did not make a mistake.

Rules 11.2.2; 24.3.2.1

7.6 During the blocking action, the team "A" blocker penetrated under the net to the opponent's court. His leg touched the attacker of team "B", who failed to hit the ball because of the interference. 2nd referee whistled and indicated a fault to the player of team "A". Was the referees' decision correct?

Ruling: The 2nd referee must whistle a fault by the blocker, because he stopped the attackers' ability to play the ball.

Rule 11.2.2; 24.3.2.1

8. PLAYER AT THE NET

8.7 During one of the actions, the setter #3 of team “B” who played in position 2 on the court, passed the ball and later leaned his back on the net outside of the antenna. He did not interfere with the opponent’s play. Then he returned to the court. The 2nd referee decided that the player made a mistake and whistled. The captain of the team “B” did not agree with this decision. Was the 2nd referee correct?

Ruling: The 2nd referee made a mistake. This contact with the net took place outside of the antenna and did not interfere with the opponent's play. It was not a fault of the player. The 1st referee should replay the rally.

Rules 11.3.1; 11.3.2; 24.3.2.3

8.8 The setter sets the ball high from position 2 to position 4. Meanwhile the opposite blocker touched the top band of the net in position 3. Is this a net fault?

Ruling: No, interfering involves contact with the top band during the action of playing the ball – the opponent was not near the ball so the rally should not be stopped.

Rule 11.3.1

8.9 The setter reached above and beyond the plane of the net to set the ball, so that his/her attacker could make an attack hit. The 1st referee whistled the play as a fault. Is this play illegal?

Ruling: The decision of the 1st referee was correct. Above the top of the net, a player must contact only the part of the ball on his own side (except if blocking).

A similar play under the net is different. Here the play is illegal only if the ball has completely crossed the vertical plane of the net.

Rules 9; 11.2.1

8.10 After a simultaneous contact above the plane of the net, the ball landed outside the court of team “A”. Who gets the next service?

Ruling: If the contact is truly simultaneous by the two opponents, and the ball lands outside of the court, it is the fault of the team on the opposite side. In this case, team "A" gets the point and service.

Rules 9.1.2.2; 9.1.2.3

8.11 Player #6 of the team "A" attacks the ball. After this action, his hand touches the lower part of the net below the top band. Is it a net fault?

Ruling: No. Contrary to the FIVB Rules, WPV Rules permit the net touch below the top of the net band, unless it interferes with the opponent's play. In this situation player #6 does not commit a fault and the referees should allow him to continue his action.

Rules 11.3.1; 11.4.4

8.12 During an action over the net, attacker #5 of the team "A" touches the top band of the net. One moment before that, the blocker #11 of the team "B" touches middle part of the net with his face. The 1st referee whistles an attacker fault. Is the 1st referee correct?

Ruling: The 1st referee is correct. Touching the middle part of the net by a blocker is not a mistake if it did not interfere with the opponent. However, touching the top band of the net between the antennae during an attack hit by attacker #5 is a fault and the referee must whistle this mistake.

Rules 11.3.1 ; 11.4.4

8.13 Team "B"'s setter no 1 passed the ball to his attacker. After this action he leaned his body to the net for stabilizing below the top of the net. Is it an acceptable action of the player?

Ruling: No. According to the WPV Rules all actions of the players which interfere with the opponent's game are faults. When any player supports himself with the net and uses it for stabilizing, it is a fault and should be whistled as a fault.

Rule 11.4.4

8.14 Is physical contact always interference?

Ruling: No. Many contacts actually occur in a match – but the referees should whistle at any player if he/she interferes with or stops the opponent's ability to play.

Rules 11.2.1; 11.2.2

9. SERVICE

9.1 After the service, the ball hit the top of the horizontal band and tore it down. The 1st referee replayed this rally. Was the decision of the 1st referee correct?

Ruling: According to the rules if the ball rips the mesh of the net or tears it down, the rally is cancelled and replayed. In this situation, the decision of the 1st referee was correct.

Rule 10.3.2

9.2 After the whistle for service, the serving team recognized it was the wrong player at service. The correct server then entered the service zone ready to serve. Can this player now serve?

*Ruling: Yes – provided the service is made by the correct player within 8 seconds from the whistle for service. The 1st referee **must** not whistle a second time to authorize the service.*

Rule 12.4.4

9.3 The server got the ball from a ball retriever. The referee whistled to serve. The server saw that the ball was wet and returned it to the ball retriever. When he got a new ball the 1st referee whistled 8 second fault. Was the 1st referee correct?

Ruling: If the player saw that the ball was wet, he should have given a hand signal or indication to the 1st referee and given back the ball to the ball retriever. If he/she did not indicate to the 1st referee, he/she could not have known why the server passed the ball to the ball retriever.

If a captain informs a referee about this situation, the 1st referee can consult with the linesmen or the 2nd referee. After this the 1st referee can change his/her previous decision.

Rules 12.4.4; 23.2.2; 23.2.3

10. ATTACK HIT AND BLOCK

10.1 Team "A" served. Team "B" returned the ball directly in the direction of team "A". The blocker of team "A", during his blocking action, directed the ball clearly in two directions, first forward and after to the side. The 1st referee whistled catch of the ball for the blocker of team "A". Was the decision correct?

Ruling: Correct decision of the 1st referee. If the blocker caught the ball and next threw it, even if in a blocking action, he would commit a fault, and the 1st referee should have this fault whistled.

Rule 9.3.3

10.2 The setter of team "B" passed the ball to player #6 who played in position #5. During the attack hit, the legs of this player were in the attack zone. One buttock was behind the attack line and the other slightly touched it. Half of the ball was higher than the top of the net. The referee whistled an attack fault when the ball touched the blockers of team "A". Was the decision correct?

Ruling: This is an incorrect decision. During the attack hit it is legal for the legs to cross the attack line, but it is illegal for one of the buttocks to touch the attack line (the attack line is part of the front zone). But if the contact of the ball was done on the part of the ball that is not entirely higher than the top of the net, the team did not make a fault.

If the ball is entirely higher than the top of the net and one buttock crosses or touches the attack line it is a fault and the referees should whistle a fault.

Rules 13.2.2; 13.2.3; 13.3.3

10.3 Team "A" blocked legally in the space of team "B". Player #9 of team "B" pushed down one hand of the team "A" blocker and his hand touched the net. Which team made a fault?

Ruling: This is a very difficult decision for the referees.

The action of player #9 of team "B" was not made by intention:

a/ it is not a fault

b/ the referee does not interrupt the rally

If the attacker's action was made by intention, the referee must interrupt the rally immediately when he saw the touch of the net:

a/ last rally is replayed

b/ player #9 who pushed the opponent's hand to the net is given a penalty with a red card

Rules 11.1.1; 11.4.4; 14.1.1; 14.3, 21.2.1, 21.3.1

10.4 The Team "B" back row setter #14 moved to the front zone and tried to set the ball. The attack of his teammate failed and the ball crossed the net to team "A" directly from the setter where player #6 immediately attacked. After this attack the ball touched team "A" player's hands (#14) higher than the top of the net but approximately 50 cm from the net on his side. The 2nd referee whistled the setter's fault. Was referee decision correct?

Ruling: The 2nd referee made a mistake. If the blockers hands weren't close to the net it was not a block attempt. It was the first touch of team "B". None of the players made a mistake. This rally should be replayed.

Rules 14.1.1; 14.4.1

10.5 The team "B" back row setter #14 moved to the front zone and tried to pass the ball. The attack of his teammate failed and the ball crossed the net to team "A" directly from the setter where player #6 immediately attacked. After this attack the ball was touched by team "A" player's hands #14 close to the net but below the top of it. The ball was partially over the top of the net. The referees did not whistle and decided that the setter did not make a fault. Was the referee's decision correct?

Ruling: It was a correct reaction of the referees. It was not a fault. The back row player would have made a fault if his hands close to the net contacted the ball higher than the top of the net.

Rule 14.1.1

10.6 Team "A" served. Player #8 of team "B" blocked the service reaching beyond the net into the serving team's space and grounded the ball in the opponent's court. The 1st referee awarded a point and service to team "B". The captain of team "A" protested and told the referee that the blocker had made a mistake, because he blocked beyond the net that he could block only in his own space or over the top of the net. He also reserved the right to protest against this referee's decision if the 1st referee wouldn't change it. What should be the correct decision of the 1st referee?

Ruling: According to the sitting volleyball rules, blocking of the service is permitted, even in the opponent space. The 1st referee was correct.

The game captain can reserve the right to protest against referee's decision and must immediately indicate it to the 1st referee. The 1st referee must allow the protest. Immediately after the match, the captain can confirm the protest and ask the referees to write it on the scoresheet. The captain can also resign his right to protest after the match.

Rules 5.1.2.1; 14.5; 23.2.4

10.7 Instead of setting the ball to a teammate, a back row setter, within the front zone, decided to tip the ball across the net. During the hit the ball was completely above the net. Can this ball be blocked by reaching completely over the net?

Ruling: Yes - this was an attack hit by a back row player. As soon as a blocker touches the ball, an illegal attack hit is completed by the back row player.

Rules 13.1.1; 13.1.3; 13.2.2; 13.3.3

10.8 On a second hit, a player sets the ball near the net towards the opponent's court. In the 1st referee's opinion, no player of team "A" could possibly reach the ball. The blocker from team "B" reached across the plane of the net and blocked the ball. What is the correct decision of the 1st referee?

Ruling: Even though it was only the second team hit, if the ball is moving in the direction of the opponent's court, it is an attack hit. Since in the referee's opinion, no player of team "A" could possibly have reached the ball, the block of team "B" was legal.

Rules 13.1.1; 14.3

10.9 A back row player in the front zone spiked the ball which was completely higher than the top of the net for the second hit of the team. The ball rebounded off the net and did not cross to the opponent. Is this a fault?

Ruling: No. Since the ball neither crossed the plane of the net nor was contacted by the blocker, the attack hit was not completed. The rally continues.

Rules 9.1; 13.1.3; 13.2.2; 13.3.3

10.10 Is it legal for a blocker to reach over the net to block an opponent's "setting" action?

Ruling: It is a fault to block a set. However, it is absolutely necessary for the 1st referee to determine the action of the setter. He/she must know whether the set was

- made parallel to the net (blocker's fault) or

- going towards the net without another player able to complete an attack, thus making it an attack hit (no fault).

Rules 14.1.1; 14.3

10.11 Can an attacker hit the ball coming from the reception of his/her teammate with both hands using a blocking action, directing the ball to the other side of the net?

Ruling: It is a legal play, provided it is not a double contact or a catch or a throw. The contact must be on the player's own side of the net, however – not the opponent's.

10.12 The ball made multiple contacts with the head and hands of several blockers. Should this be permitted?

Ruling: Provided it is a blocking action and not separate actions, this counts as one block contact. After the block, a team is allowed three more ball contacts.

Rules 9.1; 14.2; 14.4.1

10.13 The contact with the ball by a blocker was lower than the top of the net, although part of his hand was above the net. Is this a block?

Ruling: Yes – having part of the body above the net is decisive; after this block the team would therefore have three more hits.

Rules 9.1; 14.1.1; 14.4.1

10.14 There is an illegal attack hit by a back row player and an attempted Libero block - which occurs first?

Ruling: The attack hit becomes a fault at the moment the ball totally crosses the plane of the net or is touched by the opponent's block. The attempt of the Libero to block is an action made before the completion of the opponent's attack hit and is therefore the first fault.

Rule 19.3.1.3

10.15. After the attack hit of team "B" a ball touched the blockers of team "A" and went to the side partly over the antenna to the free zone of team "B". A player of team "A" played it back to his side of the net. The 1st referee whistled fault "out" for team "A". Was the decision of the 1st referee correct?

Ruling: No. The ball passed over the antenna into the opponent's free zone partially through the external space. Therefore, it was legal for team "A" to return the ball to its own court through the external space on the same side of the court.

Rules: 10.1.2.; 10.1.2.2.

11. SUBSTITUTIONS

11.1 A player entered the substitution zone and stood near the sideline. His coach noticed that the player did not take the substitution paddle. He gave it to him very quickly without any delay. The 2nd referee allowed this substitution and the referees did not sanction delay. Was it a correct reaction from the referees?

Ruling: If the coach gave the paddle without any delay, in the spirit of the game, the referees were correct.

Rule 15.10

11.2 A player of team “B” entered the substitution zone with paddle #5 and stood at the sideline. At this moment the coach noticed that the player took the wrong paddle – he should have taken #8. He gave him the paddle #8 and took away #5 which delayed the exchange. The referees did not accept it and sanctioned team “B” with a delay warning. Were the referees correct?

Ruling: The referees were correct. The player entered the substitution zone with the wrong paddle and later changed it with some delay. It was clearly a delay and referees correctly rejected the substitution. The decision to sanction was also correct.

Rules 16.1.1; 16.2; 15.10.3

11.3 Two substitute players entered the substitution zone. After the request was recognized and acknowledged by the scorer, the coach decided to make only one substitution. What is the procedure for the 2nd referee?

Ruling: This is legal as long as this does not cause a delay. Therefore the 2nd referee simply carries out a single substitution.

Rules 15.10.2; 15.10.3a; 15.10.4; 16.1

11.4 One substitute player entered the substitution zone while another one was just leaving the warm-up area to try to enter the substitution zone. How many substitutions should be allowed under the current rules?

Ruling: The moment of the request is the entrance of the substitute player(s) into the substitution zone. In this case the 2nd referee should grant only the one for the player who actually entered the substitution zone. The second request should be rejected as improper.

Rules 15.10.3a; 15.10.3b; 15.11.1.3

11.5 A substitution was “requested” by a team, by sending the player into the substitution zone. Because the player was not ready to play (wrong paddle/ no paddle/track suit, etc.), his team was sanctioned with a delay warning and the substitution was rejected. As soon as the delay sanction was applied, the team again requested the substitution. Was it allowed to make this second request during the same interruption?

Ruling: The substitution was not legal and therefore not allowed. As the first request for substitution was rejected, the team was not authorized to request a second consecutive substitution in the same interruption. At least one rally must be completed before there can be another request for substitution by the same team.

Rule 15.3.2

11.6 A player became injured and had to be substituted exceptionally. During the same interruption, the team requested an additional substitution. The 2nd referee accepted the request. Was the 2nd referee’s decision correct to accept the request?

Ruling: Yes, the decision was correct. The first player had to be substituted by an exceptional substitution due to injury. The team still had the right to request a substitution in the same interruption.

Rule 15.7

11.7 A starting player #6 was substituted by #9, then Player #6 was substituted back onto the court. Player #6 then became injured and was not able to continue in the match. On the bench were player #9 and a libero. Who can substitute for player #6?

Ruling: Even though the player cannot be substituted by a legal substitution, he can be substituted exceptionally by any player not on court, except the Libero or his replacement player. This is recorded in the scoresheet but does not count as one of

the six allowed substitutions In this case player #6 can only be substituted exceptionally with player #9.

Rule 15.7

11.8 A player listed on the line-up sheet was injured before the start of the match. Can he be substituted before the match?

Ruling: Yes – but it should be shown formally by the coach’s substitution signal and recorded on the scoresheet as a regular substitution.

Rules 7.3.2; 7.3.4

11.9 After team “B” had used five substitutions, two substitute players entered the substitution zone. What is the proper response of the 2nd referee?

Ruling: The 2nd referee has to remind the coach that only one substitution will be possible and ask the coach which one will be made. Provided there is no delay, the other substitution will be rejected as an improper request which is recorded on the scoresheet.

Rules 15.5; 15.6; 15.11; 16.1

11.10 A substitute player was standing in the substitution zone, ready to enter. However, the player on court initially refused to leave the court. Is this delay? Should the substitution be refused?

Ruling: Yes, it is delay. However, the substitution this time should be allowed.

Where the substitute player is not ready and causes a delay, the correct application of the rule is to reject the substitution and give a sanction to the team for delay. However, it is the player in play that caused this special case, and the substitute player did not cause the delay.

Rules 16.1.1; 23.2.3

11.11 If the line-up sheet does not match the court positions what does the 2nd referee do?

Ruling: The 2nd referee should show the line-up sheet to the coach and ask what he/she wants to do.

If the coach wishes to keep the line-up that is on court, he needs to make legal substitutions at 0:0. This is one of the situations where the coach must give the hand signal to avoid misunderstandings. The 2nd referee also must carry this out formally for public understanding of the situation.

If the coach wishes to keep the line-up that is on the scoresheet, the correct players must take their proper place on court without delay, otherwise there should be a delay sanction.

11.12 After the whistle for service, a substitute player entered the substitution zone. The scorer ignored this, 2nd referee indicated to the player that she could not enter and the game did not stop. After the end of the rally the 2nd referee told the scorer to record an improper request in the score sheet. Was this the right procedure?

Ruling: The 2nd referee was correct. This was a typical case of an improper request, which had to be recorded in the score sheet. If this was a repeated improper request, a delay sanction must have been issued.

Rules 15.11.2; 16.1.4

11.13. During a time-out, players of the team sit near the bench but two of them sit in the substitution zone . The 2nd referee looked to this team without any reaction. Is this the correct position for the players and is the 2nd referee decision correct?

Ruling: No. During time-outs and technical time-outs all players must be in free zone near the bench. If they are in substitution zone - that is forbidden. 2nd referee should politely ask them to go out from substitution zone, closer to their own bench.

Rules: 15.4.2, 24.2.4

12. IMPROPER REQUESTS

12.1 Can a team request a substitution before and after a time out, all taking place in the same interruption in play?

Ruling: No – while two Time outs can be called by the same team in the same interruption, two successive substitution requests are not allowed and the second should be considered as an improper request.

Rules 15.3.1; 15.3.2; 15.10.3a; 15.11.1.3; 25.2.2.6

12.2 The coach of team “A” made a request for a 3rd time-out in the set what was rejected by 2nd referee. What is a proper procedure for the referees in this case?

Ruling: Improper request of team “A”. The 2nd referee must inform the scorer about the improper request of this team and it must be recorded on score sheet. The 2nd referee will inform the 1st referee and also the team coach about this improper request. Any future improper requests for the same team will be sanctioned with delay.

Rules 15.1; 15.11.1.4

12.3 The coach is also the team member #5 on the court. After one rally was completed he asked for a Time-Out from the 2nd referee. Was this request correct?

Ruling: No. The 2nd referee must reject this request and let the scorer record an improper request on the score sheet. Only the game captain has the right to request a time-out in this case. The game captain must be informed about the recorded improper request. The 2nd referee should inform the 1st referee about this.

Rules 5.1.2.3; 5.3.2; 15.11.12

13. INJURIES

13.1 Can a player play with a bleeding arm?

Ruling: A player cannot play if he is bleeding. Referees must use discretion if an injury makes a player bleed. If an immediate medical treatment does not rectify the injury, he/she must be substituted or replaced until the bleeding is stopped and the blood is removed from the player's uniform. A substitute player must be permitted a reasonable time to take off his/her training suit and enter the game without sanctions.

Rules 4.4; 15.5; 15.10.2; 15.10.3a; 17.1.1

14. DELAYS OF THE GAME

14.1 For official WPV tournaments, according to the rules, the organizers prepared buzzers for the teams. The coach of team “A” requested time out with a hand signal, but did not use the buzzer. The second referee authorized it the first time but asked the coach to use the buzzer for the rest of the match. The second time, the coach did not use the buzzer again (he used only the hand signal). The second referee did not authorize this time out. Team “A” started to go to the bench without the referee's permission. What should be an appropriate reaction of the referee?

Ruling: The reaction of the second referee was correct. At the first request he authorized the time out without a buzzer signal and instructed the coach that he had to use this obligatory equipment. In the next situation he did not authorize it. It was also correct. The coach must use the buzzer and the second referee instructed him about it earlier during the match.

If the team went out from the court before referee's whistle for time out and causes delay it would be a delay and would have to be sanctioned.

Rules 15.4.1; 16.1.1; 24.2.4

14.2 Prior to the start of the third set of a match, the 1st referee whistled the teams to enter the court. One team did not react. When they were too slow to respond, the 1st referee issued a delay warning to them. The team then entered the court. Was this the appropriate action by the 1st referee?

Ruling: Yes, the 1st referee acted correctly. The teams must be summoned to take their positions on the court. If they do not react, the 1st referee must issue a delay warning by pointing to the wrist with the yellow card, and this must be recorded on the score sheet. If the team still did not react, a delay penalty, indicated by a red card to the wrist, would have been given. If this also proved to be ineffective, it would have been judged a refusal to play, the team would have been declared to be in default and the match would have been forfeited. In such a case, the score would have been recorded as 0:3 (0:25, 0:25, 0:25). If a team is returning slowly to the court after a time-out, the same procedure should be followed.

Rules 6.4.1; 16.1

15. LIBERO

15.1 The libero of team "A" went out of the court and sat down on the floor in front of the bench. The second referee intervened and asked him to sit on the bench or to go to the warm-up area. Was the second referee correct?

Ruling: The second referee was correct. The players not taking part in the match must sit on the bench (not in front of the bench) or in the warm-up area.

Rules 4.2.1; 24.2.4

15.2 Can the Libero enter the game without the 2nd referee's permission after checking the line-up before the set?

Ruling: Yes, as long as the 2nd referee has finished checking the line-up of the team. The starting player must be on the court at the time of the line-up check. As soon as the 2nd referee checked the line-up, the Libero may replace the back-row player. The team does not need to start with or use a Libero.

Rules 19.3.2.4; 19.3.2.8; 24.3.1

15.3 The Libero was on the court for player #5 and was expelled from the set. What is the correct process to continue the match?

Ruling: There are 3 cases:

If the team has two Liberos, the coach may replace the sanctioned acting Libero immediately by the second Libero.

If the team has only one Libero, the team may choose:

- to send player #5 back on the court in place of the Libero and play without a Libero for the remainder of the set, and at the time of his choosing the coach re-designates a new Libero from the players not on the court in the moment of re-designation.

-A new re-designated Libero from the players not on the court may immediately and directly replace the expelled acting Libero (who is not allowed to play for the remainder of the match).

Rules 6.4.3; 19.1.1; 19.3.2; 19.3.2.8; 19.4

15.4 While diving after a ball, the only Libero (replacing player #4) injured himself and could no longer play. The coach then decided that he wanted player #4 to become the re-designated Libero. Is this possible?

Ruling: Not immediately. The coach may re-designate a new Libero from one of the players not on the court (replacement player excepted) at the moment of the request for re-designation. If the coach wants player #4 to be the new Libero, #4 at first has to return to court and be substituted legally. Then he/she can be re-designated as new Libero.

Rules 19.1.3; 19.3.2.2; 19.3.2.8; 19.4.2

15.5 The Libero was replaced and immediately sent back to the court (without any rally between the two replacements). Is this permitted?

Ruling: No. This is a typical case for illegal Libero replacement. At the moment of the 2nd replacement the 2nd referee should reject it, and the 1st referee should issue a delay sanction. When there is an assistant scorer, it is his/her duty to check the Libero replacements. In this case, at the moment of the second replacement, he/she should press the buzzer, signalling the fault committed.

Rules 19.3.2.1; 24.2.3

15.6 In reception Libero player played overhead fingers pass when his buttocks were on the attack line and ball was attacked by front row player entirely higher from top of the net. Is there committed any fault?

Ruling: Yes. A player may not complete an attack hit from entirely higher than the top of the net, if the ball is coming from an overhand finger pass by a Libero in his/her front zone. The ball may be freely attacked if the Libero makes the same action from outside his/her front zone.

Rule 19.3.1.4

15.7 During an interruption, player #8, who played in the back zone, went out from the court and the Libero #2 replaced him. After a few seconds the coach realized,

that it had been an unintended replacement and player #8 should stay on the court during the next rally. The Libero went back to the bench and player #8 returned to the court (this event had not yet been recorded on the Libero control sheet). Should these player exchanges be considered as an illegal replacement?

Ruling: According to the rules, Libero replacements must be done after at least one completed rally. This was an obvious mistake by the players #8 and Libero which was corrected immediately, and the replacement was not recorded on the Libero sheet. In this case, this cannot be considered as an illegal replacement.

On the other hand, if the duration between the second player exchanges was too long, the second replacement must be rejected with the consequences of an illegal replacement. This is the 1st referee's responsibility to decide this.

Rule: 19.3.2.1

16. PARTICIPANTS' CONDUCT

16.1 The substitute player #5 stood in front of the team's bench and argued loudly about the first referee's decision. The first referee recognized this as rude conduct and immediately showed a red card to this player. Was the decision of the first referee correct?

Ruling: The decision about rude conduct was correct, but the procedure was wrong. The first referee should call the game captain and tell him, showing red card "I give player #5 a penalty". The game captain must inform team member /in this case #5/, who must stand up, if possible, and raise his hand. At this moment when the player stands up the first referee displays the red card visibly to everybody.

Rules 20.1.2; 21.1; 21.2.1; 21.3.1; 23.3.2.2

16.2 During a very tight match, the result was 24:23 for team A. The first referee decided to give a penalty to two players with red cards: one from team "A" and another from team "B". What should be the procedure in this situation?

Ruling: If the result was 24:23 and 1st referee decided to penalize two players from both teams with red card, the result after these cards should be 25:24. It is not important which player was penalized first. The Scorer should record both cards on the score sheet with a score of 24:23.

Rules 6.2; 21.3.1; 21.6

16.3 The 1st referee warned a player for minor misconduct, going directly to STAGE 2 of the minor misconduct procedures, and showing the player a yellow card, to be recorded on the score sheet. Is this a correct action by the 1st referee?

Ruling: This is a correct action by the referee. Such minor misconducts must be controlled by the 1st referee. The yellow card must therefore be recorded. The 1st referee may give a verbal warning to the team via the game captain (stage 1) if the minor misconduct is of a general nature. Depending of the seriousness of the minor misconduct he/she can always start with stage 2, showing a yellow card directly to the concerned player or team member not on the court through the game captain.

The referee has the authority to go directly to the issuing of sanctions if an offence is of a serious nature.

Rules 21.1; 21.2

16.4 A player was expelled with no prior warning. How should the referee regard a subsequent minor misconduct from any other member of the same team?

Ruling: The 1st referee should normally try to prevent a team from reaching the sanctioning level. However, should a clear case of offensive conduct be committed in the first instance, the referee must expel the player without a previous sanction (red and yellow card showed jointly). After the expulsion, the 1st referee may issue a warning to other team members but once the official warning (yellow card) is given to the team, it may not be given (and yellow card shown) again to any member of the team.

Rule 21

16.5 A player stood up after a successful attack hit (winning a rally) and was celebrating it with two hands up towards the opponent court. Was this acceptable behaviour by the player?

Ruling: Participants must behave respectfully and courteously in the spirit of FAIR PLAY, not only towards the referees, but also towards other officials, the opponents, team-mates and spectators. The first referee may give a verbal warning to the team via the game captain if the minor misconduct is of a general nature (if it was the first time during the match for this team). If the player exceeds this level, then the yellow card (or other card(s) - depends on seriousness of gestures) must be shown and recorded.

Rules 20.2.1; 21.1.

16.6. A player behaved in an unsportsmanlike manner on the court. The 1st referee decided to warn him with a yellow card. He directed the game captain to his/her position and through him punished that player with a warning (yellow card). Was that a correct procedure of the 1st referee?

Ruling: No. According to the Rules when a punished player is on the court, the 1st referee should ask him to his position and show a yellow card. If a punished member of the team is on the bench or warm-up area, the 1st referee should ask the game captain and through him warn the member of the team who was outside the playing court.

Rule: 21.1

16.7. The 2nd referee instructed team “B” to move closer to the team bench during the time-out. The coach started to argue loudly against the referee and disagreed about the players having to move. The 2nd referee informed the 1st referee about the behaviour of the coach. The 1st referee did not react to this remark of the 2nd referee and the match continued. Was the decision correct?

Ruling: The behaviour of the participants should be respectful and courteous, including towards the International Officials. Referees should not ignore this behaviour. The coach should be allowed to express certain normal responses. If the response is judged to be minor misconduct reaching the stage 2 level, the coach should be warned by the 1st referee by use of a yellow card. If repeated, he should be penalized with a red card for rude conduct.

Rules: 15.4.2.; 20.2.1.; 21.1.; 21.2.; 24.2.4.

17. THE REFEREES AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES

17.1 Before the whistle for service of team “B”, the first referee did not look at the receiving team “A” and whistled. Right before the whistle, the player #8 of team “A” was injured. The first referee did not see it because he/she only looked at the serving team. The server directed the ball to player #8, who was unable to play the ball. What should the procedure be in this situation?

Ruling:

- 1. Before the whistle for service the first referee must look at both teams and check if they are ready to play. In this case the first referee did not look at the receiving team;*
- 2. The second referee who observes the receiving team during the service hit, must immediately whistle injury if the first referee did not see it;*
- 3. In this situation the rally must be replayed.*

Rule 12.3

17.2 During time outs and technical time outs, the second referee looked at the assistant scorer and waited for the hand signal determining whether the Libero’s position was in or out. The assistant-scorer did not show positions of the Liberos on the court to the second referee. The second referee asked a few times without any results. What should the second referee do during the match and after it in this situation?

Ruling: It is a duty of an assistant scorer to show the positions of the Liberos on the court to the second referee. The second referee should ask him and remind him about his tasks. If there is no result, he should also inform the Jury Member about it during the match and discuss the situation with the Referee Delegate after the match.

Rules 26.2.1.1; 26.2.2.2; 26.2.2.3

17.3 The back-row player #5 of team “B” attacked the ball from position 1. The ball went into the top of the horizontal band of the net approximately 0.5m outside the

antenna, near the second referee. Which referee should whistle this fault: the first or the second?

Ruling: It is a duty of the 2nd referee. According to rule 24.3.2.7, if the ball crosses the net totally or partly outside of the crossing space to the opponent court or contacts the antennae on the second referee side of the court, he/she must whistle a fault.

Rule 24.3.2.7

17.4 The 2nd referee told a coach not to talk with or distract the scorer. Is this a correct action by the 2nd referee?

Ruling: In the spirit of the art of refereeing, if such situations can be resolved by the 2nd referee without formality, this can be done.

Rule 23.3.2.2

17.5 Can a captain make a formal protest on the score sheet if he/she has not notified the referee of his intention during the match?

Ruling: If at the time of any incident, the game captain made no mention of a protest, he/she cannot make a written protest on the score sheet at the end of the match.

Rules 5.1.2.1; 5.1.3.2; 23.2.4

17.6 The assistant coach came to the sideline to assist the players to find a wet spot on the court. The 1st referee called the game captain and told her to tell the assistant coach to stay on the bench. Did the 1st referee make a correct decision?

Ruling: The decision of the 1st referee was correct. The assistant coach is allowed to sit on the bench and may not intervene in the match. Only the coach may walk near the sideline behind the coach's restriction line.

Rules 5.2.3.4; 5.3.1

17.7 The Captain of the team does not speak English. During a very important match he approached the 1st referee a few times together with another player from the court who was a translator and asked about explanation and interpretation of the rules. Should the 1st referee accept this behaviour of both players?

Ruling: No. Only captain can talk with the 1st referee and ask about explanation and interpretation of the rules (during international competition only in English). It was not the referee's problem that the team nominated to this function a player who did not speak English.

Rules 5.12.1; 23.2.4

17.8 During an interruption, the 1st referee used hand gestures from across the court, to explain to the coach of team "B", why he decided to award a point to team "A". Was this conduct of the 1st referee correct?

Ruling: No. The 1st referee should give a verbal explanation only to the game captain, if asked.

Rule 23.2.4

17.9 During the competition, all courts had low quality lines and often the lines were broken or a little rolled up. Referees often stopped the matches and technical personnel repaired the court.

Ruling: These types of lines are problematic for players and all members of the Referee's Corp. All referees must be very careful. If referees see that the line is broken, they should immediately stop the match and repair this line. If the line is a little rolled up but limited to the court, they should continue action and repair the court during closest time-out, technical time-out or interval between the sets. On the other hand if the 1st referee decides that this rolled up line affects his officiating, he should stop the match and let the court line be repaired immediately.

Rules 1.3.2; 23.2.3; 23.3.1.1

18. SPECIAL CASES

18.1 The players stand near the sidelines of the court and prepare to enter the court for presentation before the start of the match. They stand next to the first referee in this order: 8 (captain), 2 (active libero), 12, 1, 10, 6, 3, 7, 9, 5, 11, 4 (second libero). Is this correct? Or should the players stand in numerical order like 8, 2, 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 4 (second libero)?

Ruling: According to the rules, nearest to the first referee should stand the team captain (#8) then next the active libero (#2). The second libero should stand at the end. The positions of the other players are not important and players can freely stand in any numerical order.

18.2 During the match, the player #6 of team "B" is in the service zone and waiting for the first referee to whistle. The first referee notices on the player's forehead a green point from a spectator's laser device. Should the referee whistle for the service in this situation?

Ruling: No. According to this situation, when one of the spectators uses the laser device against a player, the 1st referee should stop the game and, via the 2nd referee, inform the Jury Member about it. The Jury must ask the announcer to inform the fans that they should stop this laser action against the players. The referees can resume the game after a special confirmation from the Technical Delegate or a Jury Member of this match.

Rule 23.2.3

18.3 During the warm-up session before the start of a very important match, water drops fell down from the ceiling to position 4 on the court. The floor was wet in this place. What procedure should the referees take?

Ruling: The match can't start when unforeseen circumstances occur. The referees should immediately inform the Jury Member and organizers about it. They shall decide the measures to be taken to re-establish normal conditions. The referees must wait the decision of the Jury Member before starting the match and if the incident will reoccur in the match inform him/her immediately.

Rules 1.2.1; 17.2; 17.3.1; 23.2.3

18.4 During national championships the referees inspected a competition hall. They noticed that antennae were on the same side of the net. The organizers informed them that they can't change one of them, because the net have special pockets for the antennae only on the same side of the net. What should the referees decide in this situation?

Ruling: According to the rules the antennae should be fastened on the opposite sides of the net (2.4). The referees should ask the organizers to take off one of the antenna from the special pocket and fasten it to the other side of the net. During all competition the referees should help organizers prepare the court according to the rules.

If there is a Jury Member they must inform and wait the decision of the Jury Member before starting the match.

Rule 2.4

18.5 During the fifth set, when the score was 8:6, the teams changed court . At that time the moppers started to mop the floor and the second referee decided to ask the teams to go near their benches. Was the decision of the second referee correct?

Ruling: No, the decision was not correct, during this interruption there is no floor mopping. When the teams change courts in the middle of the fifth set, they must go immediately onto the court. If the moppers start to mop, the referees must stop them and get them off the court immediately. The second referee must check the line-up of both teams and the game must begin.

In this case the second referee committed an error.

Rules 23.2.2; 25.2.2.5

18.6 After the last decision of the first referee in the match, the players of both teams went to the end lines. Referees: first, second and line judges stood near the first referee post. The players shook hands and thanked referees and opponents near the post and near the net. Should the line judges stand near the first and the second referee after the match near the first referee post?

Ruling: According to the WPV Refereeing Guidelines and Instructions only the 1st and 2nd referees stand near the 1st referee post.

Line judges must go to the scorer's table after the match.