

Competition Rules

Chapter

3



USA Volleyball

Open Volleyball Championships

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DOMESTIC COMPETITION REGULATIONS

The 2008-2009 USA Volleyball Domestic Competition Regulations will be in effect throughout the season and for the 2000 USA Open Volleyball Championships (see: <http://volleyball.teamusa.org/content/index/2495> to download the Domestic Competition Regulations). Participants, coaches and team representatives in the USA Open Volleyball Championships are subject to and must obey ALL rules, regulations and policies of USA Volleyball herein or otherwise written.

PROTEST OF PLAYING RULES / DUE PROCESS AND APPEALS

Protests of the playing rules during a set / match shall be handled by a committee of 1-3 members, each of whom must be a certified USA National referee or scorekeeper, depending on the nature of the protest. The committee shall consist of the following:

1. Committee Chair: The National Rules Interpreter or designee (Head Referee for the Event)
2. The Assistant Vice President for Referees or Scorekeepers, or their designee
3. A representative of the Championship Committee.

All rulings of this committee are final and not subject to appeal. All protests will be settled at the time they are lodged. No match will be allowed to proceed until the protest is settled. Protests can ONLY be related to the rules of play. Judgment calls are NOT subject to protest.

The following are examples of what may be protested:

- misinterpretation of a playing rule
- failure of the first referee to apply the correct Rule to a given situation
- failure to apply the correct penalty / sanction for a given fault

Due Process & Appeals: USAV Bylaws (Article XI) and USAV Operating Code (Article X) govern protests, appeals, due process and ancillary procedures. Both of these documents are published in the USA Volleyball Guidebook. Protests, appeals and due process for this Event are specifically governed by these documents. Protests and appeals at this championship event are a simple one or two-step process.

TEAM UNIFORMS

Team players shall wear uniforms that are in full compliance with the United States Volleyball Domestic Competition Regulations (**see Rule 4.3**). If two or more sets of uniforms are used, players will be required to wear the **same** number for each set of shirts. Shirt numbers must be clearly visible for identification by scorekeepers, members of the All-tournament selection committee and spectators. The numbers “0” and “00” are unacceptable and will not be permitted. Team members shall be in proper uniform when warming up. All Libero shirts shall be numbered. If an individual competes in a position other than Libero as well, his / her number must be the same.

Please note that **Rule 4.3.3.1 and 4.3.3.2** will be strictly enforced. This rule specifies that numbers must be of contrasting color (to the jersey) with no smaller than 6-inch numbers on the back and 4-inch numbers on the front of the jersey. Please note that numbers must be **centered** on the front and back of the jersey as specified in **Rule 4.3.3.2**. Color combinations for numbers such as purple/black, dark green/black, navy/black, white/light yellow or navy/maroon are not distinctive enough to comply with **Rule 4.3.3.1b**. Once competition has begun, all requests for number changes will be subject to a \$50 charge per number change.

Rule USAV 4.3.5 states, *“For nationally-sanctioned competition, uniforms must be identical with the exception of the sleeve length and the Libero Player. An exception will be made for a single manufacturer’s logo or trademark on the outside of the jerseys or shorts, provided that the logo or trademark does not exceed 14.6 square cm (2 ¼ square inches)”*. **USAV 4.3** states: *“If undergarments, including but not limited to t-shirts, boxer shorts, tights, leotards, body suits, bicycle shorts, sports bras, etc., are worn in such a manner that they are exposed, they will be considered a part of the uniform. In that case, they must be similar and the same color for any team members who wear such a uniform. Socks and sport shoes are not part of the uniform.”*

Rule USAV 19.2a states, *“The Libero player’s jersey must contrast in color with that of the predominant colors of the jerseys of the other team members. Color combinations such as purple/black, dark green/black, navy/maroon and white/light yellow are not distinctive enough to comply with the rules.”*

HEIGHT OF THE NET

The height of the net is specified in the US Volleyball Domestic Competition Regulations (see **Rule 2.1**).

LEVEL OF PLAY	FEMALE	MALE
Open, AA, A, BB, B	2.24 m (7'4 1/8")	2.43 m (7'11 5/8")

The height of the net **MAY** vary for specific age groups as follows:

AGE GROUPS	FEMALE / REVERSE CO-ED	MALE / CO-ED
70 years & above	2.13 m (7'0")	2.29 m (7'6")
60 years & above	2.13 m (7'0")	2.38 m (7'9 5/8")
55 years and above	2.19 m (7'2 1/8")	2.38 m (7'9 5/8")
45 years and above	2.19 m (7'2 1/8")	2.43 m (7'11 5/8")

STRUCTURE OF PLAY

Pool play for seeding will precede the championship medal rounds. In some tournaments there may be two (2) round robin pools. The championship round will be a double elimination tournament in the **Gold Flight** only, except for Co-Ed Regular, Co-Ed Reverse and U-Volley. In all other flights including Co-Ed Regular, Co-Ed Reverse and U-Volley, the championship rounds will be single elimination. Every effort will be made to schedule each team for a minimum of six (6) matches. This will be based upon the number of entries in a tournament.

MATCH PROTOCOL

1. For each match, the court will be available for warm-up ten (10) minutes prior to the match time. If a previous match on the same court runs late, then the ten (10) minute warm-up time will begin at the conclusion of that match.
2. Following the captains' meeting with the referees for each match, the warm-up period for the match may consist of five (5) minutes for each team separately on the court, or may be ten (10) minutes jointly in accordance with the current rules of play. Both captains must agree to share the court for 10 minutes; otherwise, 5 minutes for each team will be required. (**NOTE:** *The warm-up period for the Men's & Women's Open Division will be six (6) minutes shared or three (3) minutes for each team separately. See page 165 of the 2008-2009 USA Volleyball Domestic Competition Regulations.*)
3. Matches will not begin before the scheduled match time except as noted in #4 below.
4. The Championship Committee reserves the right to reschedule and / or relocate matches with respect to court and time to expedite competition. Any such changes will be posted in the results area, and every attempt will be made to inform the team representative of the change.
5. Non-deciding sets: rally score to 25 - all sets must be won by a margin of two (2) points
6. Deciding set: rally score to 15 points - must be won by a margin of two (2) points
7. 12 substitutions and a Libero for all tournaments except the OPEN tournament (6 substitutions)
8. The Libero player may be designated for the set and must be indicated on the line-up sheet for each set. In the Open tournament, the Libero player is designated for the entire match.
9. A player's momentum may carry her / him up to but not upon the sideline or end line of an adjacent court following a legal play, play attempt or contact with the ball provided that such action does not, in the opinion of the official(s) on the adjacent court interfere with play on that court.

COACHING

Rule **USAV 5.3.1** limits the activities of assistant coaches during a match (see below):

One assistant coach may leave the bench to give instructions to the players on the court. During play, this assistant coach may give these instructions while standing or walking within the free zone in front of his/her team bench from the extension of the attack line up to the warm-up area, no closer than 1.75 meter (5'10") from the sideline and its extension, without disturbing or delaying the match.

Only one assistant coach may stand at the same time during a set if a team has more than one assistant coach. There is no requirement to designate a "stand-up assistant coach". All assistant coaches are not permitted to talk to the referees or intervene in the match.

Other assistant coaches may give instructions to players on the court while remaining seated on the team bench.

The assistant coach has not right to intervene in the match.

Should the head coach have to leave his/her team, the assistant coach may, at the request of the team captain and with the authorization of the first referee, assume the head coach's functions.