

## **GAME PROCEDURES**

These are the recommended standard procedures to be followed when conducting official USA Volleyball competitions:

### **1. OFFICIALS**

- a. The officials should be certified USA Volleyball referees and scorers.

### **2. UNIFORMS**

- a. All players must wear uniforms prescribed in Rule 4.3.
- b. All non-playing officials must wear the official uniform described in Section 6 of the USA Volleyball Official Guide.

### **3. PRE-MATCH PROCEDURES**

- a. Well ahead of the starting time for the first set of the match, the first referee will call team captains together and conduct a coin toss. During the coin toss, the first referee may designate one team as “heads” and the other team as “tails.” Once tossed, the coin should be caught and the result immediately revealed.
- b. After the coin toss, the first referee will supervise warm-up periods and may request the second referee to time their duration. The serving team will have use of the court for the first five-minute warm-up period if the captains have elected to use separate warm-ups. If the team captains elect to warm up together on the court, the first referee shall allow 10 minutes. For juniors’ competition, the first two minutes are for ball handling on the court, followed by four minutes at the net for the serving team, and four minutes at the net for the receiving team. Note: In the event a team does not choose to use its time on the court, the court shall remain unoccupied.
- c. During the warm-up period, the first referee should verify the legality of each team’s player and Libero uniforms.
- d. At the end of the warm-up period, the first or second referee will walk to the center of the court and blow a whistle to indicate that the warm-up period is over and players are to clear the court.
- e. Referees and other officials take their assigned places.
- f. Teams line up on the end line of their respective team court. When both teams are ready and facing each other, the first referee will blow a whistle and motion for teams to take their positions on their court.
- g. The second referee and scorekeeper will verify that players are on the court in positions listed on the official line-up sheets submitted to the scorer by each team. No corrections may be made unless an error or omission has been made by the scorer prior to the start of play under the provisions of Rules 4.1.3, 7.3.2 and 7.3.4. No other changes may be made in the line-ups to correct an error made by teams in preparing the line-up sheets.

#### 4. START OF THE GAME

- a. As soon as the line-ups are verified and teams are ready, the second referee delivers the game ball to the first server of the match. The whistle is blown and a visual sign is given by the first referee for service to begin. This marks the time the set officially begins.
- b. Prior to the serve, serving team players should halt their movements to allow officials to determine their positions. Continual or distracting movement may be construed as screening. The first referee must be aware of screening during each serve of the match.

#### 5. SUBSTITUTION PROCEDURES

- a. Substitutes should approach the substitution zone and wait to be recognized for entry. When multiple substitutions are requested by the same team during a dead ball period, the players must enter the substitution zone in succession, one pair at a time. Substitutes entering the court and players leaving the court shall touch hands in the substitution zone and wait until entry is authorized by the second referee.

#### 6. END OF THE SET AND START OF THE NEXT SET

- a. A set officially ends when the whistle is blown for the fault resulting in the winning point. The set interval begins when the first referee executes Signal 13, End of Game. Following the whistle indicating the end of a set, the referee will direct the teams to change playing areas and benches immediately using Signal 28, Change of Courts, with the exception of the deciding set. The players proceed to their right until they reach their new bench area with the team on the left of the first referee passing behind the first referee and proceeding directly to the bench.
- b. Two minutes and 30 seconds after the interval begins, the second referee will blow a whistle and teams shall immediately report to the court and line up in their proper positions to start the next set.
- c. When a deciding set will be necessary, the teams follow a different procedure at the end of the set prior to the deciding set. The first referee will release the teams to their respective benches. The captains for each team then immediately meet at the scorer's table, where the first (or second) referee will conduct the coin toss for the deciding set. Once the choice of sides has been determined, the first referee signals the teams to their appropriate team areas, using the procedure specified in 6a above if a change of court is necessary. Procedure for the start of the deciding set is the same as stated in 6b.

#### 7. CHANGE OF TEAM AREAS DURING A DECIDING SET

- a. When teams are required to change team areas during a deciding set of a match (Rule 18.2.2 & USAV 6.3b), the first referee will blow a whistle and show Signal 28, Change of Courts. Teams will change playing areas without delay with player positions remaining the same.
- b. Substitutes and other team personnel will change team areas.
- c. If requested, the second referee will verify that players are in their correct positions on the court.

## 8. AT THE END OF THE MATCH

- a. Following the whistle indicating the end of a match, the players of each team will line up on the end line of their team court.
- b. When both teams are in position, the first referee will blow a whistle and motion for the teams to form a single line and proceed to the center of the court to shake hands with the opponents.
- c. The second referee will ensure that the game ball is returned to the designated area for safekeeping.
- d. Both team captains shall thank the referees.
- e. The first referee will then review the score sheet to verify the final results. Signing the score sheet by the first referee is optional.
- e. Referees will then immediately depart the playing area.