

Rules Interpretation #2 - 4/24/23

Jewelry

The question of what is allowed for jewelry has continued to come up. Remember to review the 051_Critical Rules and Point of Emphasis module in your US23_501 National & Jr. National Referee Training from January. This information gives you a good understanding of what is and is not allowed. USA Volleyball allows jewelry. We do not have any specific measurement of what is considered unsafe. This is up to the official, but we need to be reasonable. We offered as a guideline that hoops are generally too large if another player could snag their finger inside the hoop. Some have interpreted that to mean, "If you can fit your finger in a hoop earring, it is unsafe." This is a good starting point, but all fingers are not the same size. Whose finger are we using as the gauge? The same applies for necklaces. How long is too long? Make your best judgment, but remember to use common sense. We are only concerned if we truly believe the jewelry poses a safety concern during normal play.

Wrong Server

We have seen a number of instances where a team is called for a wrong server, but they are correct once the referee checks the score sheet and gets everyone lined up. Are you familiar with how to check a score sheet? The first thing you need to check is that the lineups were written in correctly. The next thing to check is if the Service Rounds boxes (exit scores) are "lined up" correctly. The team that receives to start the set will always be one service round ahead in exit scores, or if the team that served first is currently serving, the team will be in the same service round as the receiving team's last exit score. See sample.

Service Rounds	1.	4.	5.	4.	7.	4.	9.	4.	1.	4.	1.	4.	Time Outs	Time Outs	X.	4.	4.	6.	1.	4.	1.	4.	1.	4.
	2	5	2	5	2	5	2	5	2	5	2	5	:	:		2	5	2	5	2	5	2	5	2
	3	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	:	:		3	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3

This would not be possible since the serving team on the left already has an exit score in the 4th service round. This means the team on the right should have already had an exit score in the 4th service round. Check your service rounds to make sure they align correctly. Many times, when there seems to be an issue, there is a missing exit score. In the sample below, service round 5 on the right just finished serving. The next server on the left would be...position 5. Same as the last receiving team's service round

Service Rounds	1.	4.	5.	4.	7.	4.	9.	4.	1.	4.	Time Outs	Time Outs	X.	4.	4.	6.	4.	8.	4.	10.	4.	1.	4.
	2	5	2	5	2	5	2	5	2	5	:	:		2	5	2	5	2	5	2	5	2	5
	3	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	:	:		3	6	3	6	3	6	3	6	3	6

Once you have checked the service rounds are correct, make sure the teams are correct. Most of the time they are. Ask the teams to line up on the court in the rotation they think they are in. Verify the order is correct and make sure the score sheet is correct. If the teams are lined up correctly, but the score sheet seems to be wrong, sometimes it is just the score sheet that is incorrect. We may need to adjust the score sheet to what is on the court if both teams are correct on the court. Remember, we do not *always* go by what is on the score sheet. If the score sheet has obvious errors, we must make the best decision with the information that we have available.

When Do We Charge a Sub for a Wrong Lineup Submitted?

We still see many questions about when to charge a substitution when we have an illegal (incorrect) lineup submitted. If we discover an illegal lineup before the set begins, the quick answer is, "Never!" The lineup should not have been accepted in the first place.

When you are checking lineups, the players on the lineup must be the players on the court. A legal lineup means they have 6 different numbers in the starting rotation, and they have 1 or 2 Liberos listed that are not duplicate of any other numbers on the lineup sheet. All numbers on the lineup are on the roster and present on the bench. In other words, the numbers written on the lineup can be put on the court. If this is possible, the team may only make changes by using a sub. It does not matter if a player gets sick or is injured during warm-ups, the team can only change a legal lineup by using a substitution.

In the case where you have a player on the court that is not listed on the lineup but that player IS on the bench, we inform the team/players they need to switch so the players on the court match the players on the lineup. No substitution is used. We put the correct lineup on the court (Rule 7.3.5.2). If they wish to keep the player on the court (that is not listed on the lineup), they must use a substitution (USAV 7.3.5.3).

When it is impossible to put the players on the court that are on the lineup, this is an illegal lineup. This could be due to writing duplicate numbers on the lineup sheet or writing a number on the lineup sheet that does not exist on the roster. When the lineup is illegal, we must change the lineup to get a legal starting lineup on the court and the team is not charged a substitution.

If an illegal lineup is caught immediately after we receive the lineup... Hand the lineup back to the coach and ask them to correct it. They can rearrange the entire lineup. This would be considered as if the lineup had not been submitted.

If this is caught while checking the lineup to start the set:

- 1) Duplicate number in Libero and starting position...
 - a. If they keep the Libero as the number listed, they correct the number in the starting position and are NOT charged a sub.
 - b. If they keep the duplicate number as the starting player, they designate a different number as the Libero. No penalty is assessed.
- 2) Duplicate number in two starting positions...
 - a. They must correct one of the duplicate numbers. They may correct either one, but may only change one of the two duplicate numbers and may not make any other changes to the lineup. This would NOT count as a sub.
 - b. Any other changes to the lineup would have to be a regular sub, and the players on the original lineup would be locked into those positions.
- 3) A player does not exist on the roster
 - If a player is listed on the lineup sheet but does not exist on the roster, the number is corrected, and NO sub is charged to the team (USAV 7.3.5.1).
 - If a player is listed on the lineup sheet but is not present on the bench at an event where rosters are not used, the number is corrected, and NO sub is charged to the team (USAV 7.3.5.1).

If any of these scenarios are caught AFTER the set has started, we now fall under USAV 7.3.5.2 and USAV 7.3.5.4. The penalty will depend on when the error is discovered. If the duplicate or incorrect number is a regular player, the team must use a substitution to record the correct

number on the score sheet. If the duplicate or incorrect number is a Libero, the Libero may be re-designated as long as the team designated only one Libero to begin the set (Rule 19.4).

Illegal Serve but the Opponent Also Has an Illegal Player on the Court

Although it would happen very rarely, if a team has a wrong server at the same time it is discovered the opponent has an illegal player in the set, this would be a double fault. We correct both sides (neither team rotates), put the correct server in the service position, and re-serve the ball. There are no other penalties to either team.

Casebook Addition

Team B designates two Liberos for the first set: 33 and 8. They also write 33 in a starting position. This is not caught before the start of the set. During set 1, the assistant scorer realizes one of the Liberos is wearing 55.

Since the set has started, any Libero(s) listed in the Libero box(es) must be the Libero(s). In this case, 33 and 8 were listed. They MUST be the Liberos. #55 was not listed as a Libero so they must change into a regular jersey and may enter as a regular substitution. Since #33 is listed as a Libero and exists on the roster, the player may only play as a Libero for that match. Remember, designating two Liberos is for the match.

Casebook Corrections

19.04 – If this is caught before the start of the set, the coach may choose which one to correct.

19.11 – The team would NOT lose all points from the first time the illegal Libero entered the match. The penalty depends on which team was serving when the error was discovered.

Men's College – 6 Sub Rule

For many, this may not apply to you. In the men's collegiate game, they use USAV rules. For some divisions, they use some FIVB rules. For substitutions, the DI and DII use the FIVB rule. The rule is basically this. They can use 6 subs total. But, an individual player may only enter the set one time. Starting the set does not count as an entry. They also limit the number of players that can be in one position of the rotation. This means a starting player may be substituted out and then that player can come back in in that same position. The sub that came in for them may not reenter the set. The starter must stay in for the remainder of the set (unless an injury happens where they can't continue to play). If a team tries to sub a 3rd person into a position, this is an illegal sub. For other levels of men's collegiate, they may be using unlimited subs. Know the level you are using and the number of subs that can be taken.