



The following items represent changes to the Rules of the Game for the 2022 – 2023 season of play. Each item will be represented in the following fashion:

- Prior year rule terminology
- Updated rule terminology (changes are notated in red)
- Type of Modification and or Rationale

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Rule 1.4.5 (2021)

For FIVB, World and Official Competitions, the warm-up areas, sized approximately 3 x 3 m, are located in both sides of the bench side corners, outside the free zone.

**Rule 1.4.5 (2022)**

For FIVB, World and Official Competitions, the warm-up areas, sized approximately 3 x 3 m, are located in both sides of the bench side corners, outside the free zone, **where they will not obstruct the view of spectators, or alternatively behind the team bench where the tribune starts above 2.5m from the court surface.**

**Type of Modification:** Completion

Rule 1.4.6 (2021)

A penalty area, sized approximately 1 x 1 m and equipped with two chairs, is located in the control area, outside the prolongation of each endline. They may be limited by a 5 cm wide red line.

**Rule 1.4.6 (2022)**

**To be deleted**

**Type of Modification:** Rule Modification

To eliminate empty chairs in the field of play

Domestically, the penalty area is not established in advance of competition and created only at time of need. Removal of the rule does not impact already established practices

Impacted Rules: 21.3.2.1, 21.3.3.1, 24.3.10 and Definitions

Rule 2.2 (2021)

The net is 1 m wide and 9.50 to 10.0 metres long (with 25 to 50 cm on each side of the side bands), made of 10 cm square black mesh. At its top, a horizontal band, 7 cm wide, made of two-fold white canvas is sewn along its full length. Each extreme ed of the band has a hole, through which passes a cord fastening the band to the posts for keeping its top taut. Within the band a flexible cable fastens the net to the posts and keeps its top taut. At the bottom of the net, there is another horizontal band, 5 cm wide, similar to the top band, through which is threaded a rope. This rope fastens the net to the posts and keeps its lower part taut.



**Rule 2.2 (2022)**

The net is 1 m wide (+/- 3 cm) and 9.50 to 10.0 metres long (with 25 to 50 cm on each side of the side bands), made of 10 cm square black mesh.

At its top, a horizontal band, 7 cm wide, made of two-fold white canvas is sewn along its full length. Each extreme end of the band has a hole, through which passes a cord fastening the band to the posts for keeping its top taut.

Within the band a flexible cable fastens the net to the posts and keeps its top taut.

At the bottom of the net, there is another horizontal band, 5 cm wide, similar to the top band, through which is threaded a rope. This rope fastens the net to the posts and keeps its lower part taut.

**Type of Modification:** Completion

Rule 4.1.1 (2021)

**Volleyball Canada** – For Volleyball Canada, the medical doctor must be a certified medical person

**Rule 4.1.1 (2022)**

**Volleyball Canada** – ~~For Volleyball Canada,~~ the medical doctor must be a certified medical person

**Type of Modification:** Language redundancy

Rule 4.1.2 (2021)

One of the players, other than the Libero, is the team captain, who shall be indicated on the scoresheet.

**Rule 4.1.2 (2022)**

One of the players, ~~other than the Libero,~~ is the team captain, who shall be indicated on the scoresheet.

**Type of Modification:** Impact by the modification of Rule 5

Rule 4.2.2 (2021)

Only the team composition members are permitted to sit on the bench during the match and to participate in the official warm-up session.

**Rule 4.2.2 (2022)**

Only the team composition members are permitted to ~~enter the playing area,~~ to sit on the bench during the match and to participate in the official warm-up session.

**Type of Modification:** Completion



Rule 4.2.3.2 (2021)

During time-outs and technical time-outs: in the free zone behind their court.

**Rule 4.2.3.2 (2022)**

During time-outs ~~and technical time-outs~~: in the free zone behind their court.

**Type of Modification:** Impact by the deletion of rule 15.4.2

Rule 5 (2021)

Both the team captain and the coach are responsible for the conduct and discipline of their team members. The Liberos cannot be either team or game captain.

**Rule 5 (2022)**

Both the team captain and the coach are responsible for the conduct and discipline of their team members.

The Liberos ~~cannot~~ can be either team or game captain.

**Type of Modification:** Rule Modification

Allowing the Libero to be either team or game captain.

Impacted Rules: 4.1.2, 5.1.2 and 19.4.2.5

Rule 5.1.2 (2021)

DURING THE MATCH and while on the court, the team captain is the game captain. When the team captain is not on the court, the coach or the team captain must assign another player on the court, but not the Libero, to assume the role of game captain. This game captain maintains his/her responsibilities until he/she is substituted, or the team captain returns to play, or the set ends.

When the ball is out of play, only the game captain is authorized to speak to the referees:

**Rule 5.1.2 (2022)**

DURING THE MATCH and while on the court, the team captain is the game captain. When the team captain is not on the court, the coach or the team captain must assign another player on the court, ~~but not the Libero~~, to assume the role of game captain. This game captain maintains his/her responsibilities until he/she is substituted, or the team captain returns to play, or the set ends.

When the ball is out of play, only the game captain is authorized to speak to the referees:

**Type of Modification:** Impact by the modification of Rule 5



Rule 5.1.2.3 (2021)  
in the absence of the coach to request time-outs and substitutions.

**Rule 5.1.2.3 (2022)**

in the absence of the coach, **unless the team has an assistant coach who has overtaken the coach's functions**, to request time-outs and substitutions.

**Type of Modification:** Clarification to avoid overlapping functions

Rule 5.2.3.4 (2021)  
may, as well as other team members, give instructions to the players on the court. The coach may give these instructions while standing or walking within the free zone in front of his/her team's bench from the extension of the attack line up to the warm-up area, without disturbing or delaying the match.

**Rule 5.2.3.4 (2022)**

may, as well as other team members, give instructions to the players on the court. The coach may give these instructions while standing or walking within the free zone in front of his/her team's bench from the extension of the attack line up to the warm-up area, **if situated in the corner of the Competition Control Area**, without disturbing or delaying the match. **Should the warm-up area be situated behind the team bench, then the coach may move from the extension of the attack line up to the end of his/her team's court, but without obstructing the view of the line judges.**

**Type of Modification:** Clarification impacted by the completion of Rule 1.4.5

Rule 7.2.3 (2021)  
In the case of consecutive official warm-ups, the team that has the first service takes the first turn at the net.

**Rule 7.2.3 (2022)**

In the case of consecutive official warm-ups, the team that has the first service takes the first turn at the net.

**Volleyball Canada – All players should wear playing uniforms for the complete Protocol and warm-up**

**Type of Modification:** Clarification of proper participant requirements thus permitting the Referee Team to effectively complete their pre-match obligations



Rule 7.4.3 (2021)

The positions of players are determined and controlled according to the positions of their feet contacting the ground as follows:

**Rule 7.4.3 (2022)**

The positions of players are determined and controlled according to the positions of their feet contacting the ground (**the last contact with the floor fixes the player's position**) as follows:

**Type of Modification:** Rule modification for clarification

Rule 7.4.3.1 (2021)

each front-row player must have at least a part of his/her foot closer to the centre line than the feet of the corresponding back-row player.

**Rule 7.4.3.1 (2022)**

each **back-row** player must **be level with or** have at least a part of **one** foot **further from** the **centre line** than the **front foot** of the corresponding **front-row** player.

**Type of Modification:** Rule modification

Consideration of the terminology 'further from' instead of 'closer to'

Rule 7.4.3.2 (2021)

each right (left) side player must have at least a part of his/her foot closer to the right (left) side line than the feet of the centre player in that row.

**Rule 7.4.3.2 (2022)**

each right (left) side player **must be level with or** have at least a part of **one** foot closer to the right (left) side line than the feet **further from the right (left) side line** of the **other players** in that row.

**Type of Modification:** Rule modification

Allows for more flexibility for players' position at the service hit

Rule 9 (2021)

Each team must play within its own playing area and space (except Rule 10.1.2). The ball may, however, be retrieved from beyond its own free zone.

**Rule 9 (2022)**

Each team must play within its own playing area and space (except Rule 10.1.2). The ball may, however, be retrieved from beyond its own free zone **and over the scoring table in its complete extension.**

**Type of Modification:** Rule modification to allow spectacular actions



Rule 11.2.2.1 (2021)

to touch the opponent's court with a foot (feet) is permitted, provided that some part of the penetrating foot (feet) remains either in contact with or directly above the centre line.

**Rule 11.2.2.1 (2022)**

to touch the opponent's court with a foot (feet) is permitted, provided that some part of the penetrating foot (feet) remains either in contact with or directly above the centre line **and this action does not interfere with the opponent's play.**

**Type of Modification:** Rule Clarification

Rule 11.3.2 (2021)

Players may touch the post, ropes, or any other object outside the antennae, including the net itself, provided that it does not interfere with the play.

**Rule 11.3.2 (2022)**

Players may touch the post, ropes, or any other object outside the antennae, including the net itself, provided that it does not interfere with the play **(except Rule 9.1.3)**

**Type of Modification:** Rule Clarification

Rule 12.5.1 (2021)

The players of the serving team must not prevent their opponent, through individual or collective screening, from seeing the server and the flight path of the ball.

**Rule 12.5.1 (2022)**

The players of the serving team must not prevent their opponent, through individual or collective screening, from seeing the **server service hit** and the flight path of the ball.

**Type of Modification:** Rule Clarification

Rule 12.5.2 (2021)

A player or a group of players of the serving team make(s) a screen by waving arms, jumping, or moving sideways during the execution of the service, or by standing grouped, and in so doing hides both the server and the flight path of the ball until the ball reaches the vertical plane of the net.

**Rule 12.5.2 (2022)**

A player or a group of players of the serving team make(s) a screen by waving arms, jumping, or moving sideways during the execution of the service, or by standing grouped, **in order that both the service hit** and the flight path of the ball **are hidden** until the ball reaches the vertical plane of the net. **Should either be visible to the receiving team this is not a screen.**

**Type of Modification:** Rule Clarification



Rule 14.3 (2021)

**Blocking Within the Opponent's Space**

In blocking, the player may place his/her hands and arms beyond the net, provided that this action does not interfere with the opponent's play. Thus, it is not permitted to touch the ball beyond the net until an opponent has executed an attack hit.

**Rule 14.3 (2022)**

**Blocking Within the Opponent's Space**

In blocking, the player may place his/her hands and arms beyond the net, provided that this action does not interfere with the opponent's play. Thus, it is not permitted to touch the ball beyond the net **before** an opponent has executed an attack hit.

**Type of Modification:** Rule modification impacted by the modification of Rule 14.6.1

Rule 14.6.1 (2021)

The blocker touches the ball in the OPPONENT'S space either before or simultaneously with the opponent's attack hit.

**Rule 14.6.1 (2022)**

The blocker touches the ball in the OPPONENT'S space **before** the opponent's attack hit.

**Type of Modification:** Rule modification

To avoid unnecessary interruption of the flow of the game

Rule 15.2.4 (2021)

No rule text

**Rule 15.2.4 (2022)**

**It is not permitted to request any regular game interruption after having had a request rejected and sanctioned by a delay warning during the same interruption (i.e., before the end of the next completed rally).**

**Type of Modification:** New Rule

Formal inclusion to the Rules of the Game as opposed to a documented practice within the operational Referee Guidelines.

Rule 15.4 (2021)

**Time-outs and Technical Time-outs**

Rule 15.4 (2022)

**Time-outs ~~and Technical Time-outs~~**

**Type of Modification:** Impacted by the deletion of former Rule 15.4.2



Rule 15.4.1 (2021)

Time-out requests must be made by showing the corresponding hand signal when the ball is out of play and before the whistle for service. All requested time-outs last for 30 seconds (U Sports).

**Volleyball Canada** - All time-outs that are requested last for 60 seconds. The players are to remain off the court for the 60 seconds. There are no technical time-outs.

Rule 15.4.1 (2022)

Time-out requests must be made by showing the corresponding hand signal when the ball is out of play and before the whistle for service. All requested time-outs last for 30 seconds (U Sports).

**Volleyball Canada** - All time-outs that are requested last for 60 seconds. The players are to remain off the court for the 60 seconds. ~~There are no technical time-outs.~~

**Type of Modification:** Rule Clarification

Rule 15.4.2 (2021)

In the deciding (5<sup>th</sup>) set, there are no ‘Technical Time-outs’; only two time-outs of 60 seconds duration may be requested by each team.

**Rule 15.4.2 (2022)**

~~To be deleted~~

**Type of Modification:** Impacted by the deletion of former Rule 15.4.2

Rule 15.4.3 (2021)

During all time-outs (including Technical Time-outs), the players in play must go to the free zone near their bench.

**Rule 15.4.3 (2022) (Move to Rule 15.4.2)**

During all time-outs, ~~(including Technical Time-outs)~~, the players in play must go to the free zone near their bench.

**Type of Modification:** Impacted by the deletion of former Rules 15.4.2 and 15.4.3  
Re-ordered and adjusted

Rule 15.7 (2021)

**Exceptional Substitutions**

A player (except the Libero) who cannot continue playing due to injury or illness should be substituted legally. If this is not possible, the team is entitled to make an EXCEPTIONAL substitution, beyond the limits of Rule 15.6.



An exceptional substitution means that any player who is not on the court at the time of the injury/illness, except the Libero, second Libero or their regular replacement player, may be substituted into the game for the injured/ill player. The substituted injured/ill player is not allowed to re-enter the match.

An exceptional substitution cannot be counted in any case as a regular substitution but should be recorded on the score sheet as part of the total of substitutions in the set and the match.

### **Rule 15.7 (2022)** **Exceptional Substitutions**

A player (except the Libero) who cannot continue playing due to **injury, illness or expulsion/disqualification** should be substituted legally. If this is not possible, the team is entitled to make an EXCEPTIONAL substitution, beyond the limits of Rule 15.6.

An exceptional substitution means that any player who is not on the court at the time of the injury/illness/**expulsion/disqualification**, except the Libero, second Libero or their regular replacement player, may be substituted into the game for the injured/ill player. The substituted injured/ill/**expelled/disqualified** player is not allowed to re-enter the match.

An exceptional substitution cannot be counted in any case as a regular substitution but should be recorded on the score sheet as part of the total of substitutions in the set and the match.

**Type of Modification:** Impacted by the modification of Rule 15.8

### **Rule 15.8 (2021)** **Substitution for Expulsion or Disqualification**

An EXPELLED or DISQUALIFIED player must be substituted immediately through a legal substitution. If this is not possible, the team is declared INCOMPLETE.

### **Rule 15.8 (2022)** **Substitution for Expulsion or Disqualification**

An EXPELLED or DISQUALIFIED player must be substituted immediately through a legal substitution. **If this is not possible, the team has the right to do an exceptional substitution.** If this is not possible, the team is declared INCOMPLETE.

**Type of Modification:** Rule modification  
To avoid a team losing a set because of this reason and, an even worse scenario, that both teams could be declared incomplete at the same time

Impacted Rules: 15.7 and 15.11.1.3



Rule 15.10.3b (2021)

If the player is not ready, the substitution is not granted, and the team is sanctioned for a delay

**Rule 15.10.3b (2022)**

If the player is not ready **in the moment of the request**, the substitution is not granted, and the team is sanctioned for a delay

**Type of Modification:** Completion

Rule 15.10.3c (2021)

The request for substitution is acknowledged and announced by the Scorer or 2nd referee, by use of the buzzer or whistle respectively. The 2nd referee authorizes the substitution.

Where applicable, numbered paddles are used to facilitate the substitution (including when electronic devices are used).

**Rule 15.10.3c (2022)**

The request for substitution is acknowledged and announced by the Scorer or 2nd referee, by use of the buzzer or whistle respectively. The 2nd referee authorizes the substitution.

Where applicable, numbered paddles are used to facilitate the substitution (**except when electronic device are used to transmit the data to the scorer**).

Rule 15.11.1.3 (2021)

for a second substitution by the same team during the same interruption (i.e., before the end of the next completed rally), except in the case of injury/illness of a player in play.

**Rule 15.11.1.3 (2022)**

for a second substitution by the same team during the same interruption (i.e., before the end of the next completed rally), except in the case of injury/illness/**expulsion/disqualification** of a player in play.

**Type of Modification:** Impacted by the modification of Rule 15.8

Rule 19.2 (2021)

**Equipment**

The Libero player(s) must wear a uniform (or jacket/bib for the re-designated Libero) which has a different dominant colour from any colour of the rest of the team. The uniform must clearly contrast with the rest of the team. The Libero uniforms must be numbered list the rest of the team.

**Volleyball Canada** - The Libero must wear a uniform which has a different dominant colour from any dominant colour of the team jersey.



Rule 19.2 (2022)

**Equipment**

The Libero player(s) must wear a uniform (or jacket/bib for the re-designated Libero) which has a different dominant colour from any colour of the rest of the team. The uniform must clearly contrast with the rest of the team. **Both Liberos can be in uniforms different from each other and from the rest of the team.**

**Volleyball Canada** - The Libero must wear a uniform which has a different dominant colour from any dominant colour of the team jersey.

**Type of Modification:** Rule Clarification

Rule 19.4.2.5 (2021)

If the coach requests the team captain to be re-designated as the new Libero, this will be permitted - but the team captain must in this case relinquish all leadership privileges.

**Rule 19.4.2.5 (2022)**

If the coach requests the team captain to be re-designated as the new Libero, this will be permitted ~~-but the team captain must in this case relinquish all leadership privileges.~~

**Type of Modification:** Impacted by the modification of Rule 15

Rule 21.3.2.1 (2021)

A team member who is sanctioned by expulsion shall not play for the rest of the set, must be substituted legally and immediately if on court and must remain seated in the penalty area with no other consequences.

An expelled coach loses his/her right to intervene in the set and must remain seated in the penalty area.

**Rule 21.3.2.1 (2022)**

A team member who is sanctioned by expulsion shall not **participate** for the rest of the set, must **go to the team's dressing room until the completion of the ongoing set** with no other consequences.

An expelled coach loses his/her right to intervene in the set and must **go to the team's dressing room until the completion of the ongoing set.**

**Volleyball Canada** – in the absence of a team dressing room, an expelled or disqualified participant must leave the Competition Control Area which includes any viewing spaces (spectator seating, viewing boxes, or any area overseeing the playing area).

**Type of Modification:** Impacted by the deletion of Rule 1.4.6



Rule 21.3.3.1 (2021)

A team member who is sanctioned by disqualification must be substituted legally and immediately if on court and must leave the Competition Control Area for the rest of the match with no other consequences.

Leaving the Competition Control Area includes any viewing spaces (spectator seating, viewing boxes, or any area overseeing the playing area). The disqualified participant is not allowed to return to the Competition Area following the conclusion of the match.

**Rule 21.3.3.1 (2022)**

A team member who is sanctioned by disqualification must be substituted legally/**exceptionally** and immediately if on court and must **go to the team's dressing room** for the rest of the match with no other consequences.

**Volleyball Canada** – in the absence of a team dressing room, an expelled or disqualified participant must leave the Competition Control Area which includes any viewing spaces (spectator seating, viewing boxes, or any area overseeing the playing area).

**Type of Modification:** Impacted by the deletion of Rule 1.4.6

Rule 22 (2021)

**Refereeing Corps and Procedures**

Rule 22 (2022)

**Refereeing Team and Procedures**

**Type of Modification:** Completion and modification of title

Rule 22.1 (2021)

**Composition**

The refereeing corps for a match is composed of the following officials:

- the 1st referee
- the 2nd referee
- the scorer
- four (two) line judges

Their location is shown in Diagram 10.

**Volleyball Canada** - For competitions using the Libero rule, an assistant scorer is compulsory to monitor that the Libero replacement is legal.



**Rule 22.1 (2022)**  
**Composition**

The refereeing **team** for a match is composed of the following officials:

- the 1st referee
- the 2nd referee
- **the challenge referee**
- **the reserve referee**
- the scorer
- four (two) line judges

Their location is shown in Diagram 10.

**Volleyball Canada** - For competitions using the Libero rule, an assistant scorer is compulsory to monitor that the Libero replacement is legal.

**Type of Modification:** Completion  
To include the Challenge Referee and Reserve Referee in Refereeing Team

Rule 23.2.2 (2021)  
He/she also controls the work of the ball retrievers, floor wipers and moppers.

**Rule 23.2.2 (2022)**  
He/she also controls the work of the ball retrievers **and quick** moppers.

**Type of Modification:** Clarification

Rule 23.3.2.3c (2021)  
the faults above the net, and the faulty contact of the player with the net, primarily on the attacker's side

**Rule 23.3.2.3c (2022)**  
the faults above the net, and the faulty contact of the player with the net, primarily **(but not exclusively)** on the attacker's side

**Type of Modification:** Completion

Rule 24.2.10 (2021)  
He/she supervises the team members in the penalty areas and reports their misconduct to the 1<sup>st</sup> referee.

Rule 24.2.10 (2022)  
**Text to be deleted**

**Type of Modification:** Impacted by the deletion of Rule 1.4.6



Rule 24.3.2.3 (2021)

The faulty contact of the player with the net primarily on the blocker's side and with the antenna on his/her side of the court.

**Rule 24.3.2.3 (2022)**

The faulty contact of the player with the net primarily (**but not exclusively**) on the blocker's side and with the antenna on his/her side of the court.

**Type of Modification:** Completion

Rule 25 (2021)

Scorer

**Rule 25 (2022)**

**Challenge Referee**

**Type of Modification:** New Rule

To include Challenge Referee in the Official Volleyball Rules

Impacted Rules are re-ordered to Rule 27

Rule 26 (2021)

Assistant Scorer

**Rule 26 (2022)**

**Reserve Referee**

**Type of Modification:** New Rule

To include Reserve Referee in the Official Volleyball Rules

Impacted Rules are re-ordered to Rule 28

Rule 27 (2021)

Line Judges

**Rule 27 (2022)**

**Scorer**

**Type of Modification:** Re-ordered and adjusted by the impact of new Rules 25 and 26

Rule 28 (2021)

Official Signals

**Rule 28 (2022)**

**Assistant Scorer**

**Type of Modification:** Re-ordered and adjusted by the impact of new Rules 25 and 26



Rule 29 (2021)  
Volleyball Canada Blood Policy for Competition

**Rule 29 (2022)**

Line Judges

**Type of Modification:** Re-ordered and adjusted by the impact of new Rules 25 and 26

Rule 30 (2021)  
Volleyball Canada Concussion Policy for Competition

**Rule 30 (2022)**

Official Signals

**Type of Modification:** Re-ordered and adjusted by the impact of new Rules 25 and 26

Rule 31 (2021)  
Text does not exist

**Rule 31 (2022)**

Volleyball Canada Blood Policy for Competition

**Type of Modification:** Re-ordered and adjusted by the impact of new Rules 25 and 26

Rule 32 (2021)  
Text does not exist

**Rule 32 (2022)**

Volleyball Canada Concussion Policy for Competition

**Type of Modification:** Re-ordered and adjusted by the impact of new Rules 25 and 26