



# BEACH VOLLEYBALL RULES

## RULES

### Net Heights

Girls 7' 4<sup>1/8</sup>" (2.24m)

- Other Specifications: Net 26' to 28' (8-8.5m) long. Antennas are required. Posts and referee stands (which are suggested) should be padded.

### Ball

Light-colored, 9-10 oz. (260-280g) weight, with approx. 26" (66-68cm) circumference, at 2.5 to 3.2 psi (1.75-2.25 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>)

### Court

26'3" x 52'6" (8.0 x 16.0 m) The short diagonal measures 37'1" (11.31m). The court includes its lines: their outside edges are the court boundary.

### Lines

Should be 2" wide and include **adjustable buckles** in all four sides. When possible, the free zone around the court should be marked with banners, etc.

### Spirit of the Game

- Teams play without outside intervention or assistance of any type.
- Spectators, including parents and teammates, are encouraged to cheer, but may not assist at any time (ex: "calling shots" is prohibited).
- Coaches, when present, may cheer the exceptional play, but may only instruct during timeouts, side-changes, and between sets.

### Teams (Players & Coaches)

ATPRE-MATCH MEETING - Two players. The Captain represents the Team to the referees. No Substitutes.

- Coaches may only participate in on-court drills prior to the coin toss and official warm-up.
- During the official timed warm-up, coaches may instruct from the sideline, but may not engage in drills.
- During play, coaches observe from the player area. Instruction only takes place during timeouts, between sets, and (non-disruptively) during side-changes.
- Coaches may not attempt to influence or question the official's judgment at any time.

### Uniforms

- Partners must wear matching color schemed uniforms.
- Players shall have numbers on the uniform
- BOTH Cold weather gear (sweatsuits, etc.) may be allowed. (Guideline temp: "below 65 degrees")



## Match Format

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“Eight Minute” Pre-Match Protocol: coin toss at -8, then warm-up.

- Winner of the coin toss chooses serve, receive or side. The other captain chooses from remaining options. Both captains state service order for the set.
- After the coin toss, the four players (only) share unlimited access to the entire court (Coaches may be on sideline, but not be involved in drills)
- Beach volleyball is played as Match Play, best-of-three sets played to 21, 21, (15). Rally scoring; win by two.
  - Scoring may be modified by Tournament Directors for specific events, (ex: “one set to 28,” or “two sets only to 21, without deciding set”).
  - All matches should utilize the etiquette of pre-match and post-match handshakes at the net between opponents.
  - Unless a referee is present to whistle the start and end of each rally, the players are encouraged to “call the score” before serving.
- SERVICE ORDER: Players alternate terms of service. Officials actively prevent wrong-server faults and may “call out” the correct server when necessary.
- POSITION FAULTS: Players (other than server) must be on court at moment of service (any position on court). Server must initiate from playable area.
- COURT SWITCH After 7 points of play in sets 1 and 2, the teams should switch sides. This is not a time out or water break; players switch, then resume play.
  - Coaches may offer brief instruction during the court switch, but must not delay the match.
  - SCREENING: Serving team must take positions so that the receiving team is able to see EITHER the server OR the flight of the ball.
  - Fair Play: receiving team should use the “raised hand” signal to indicate a potential screen. Serving team should adjust position, without delay
- DELAY: The time between rallies should not exceed 12 seconds. In locations without banners or ball-retrievers, this guideline may be extended.
  - Violations result in Delay Warning, with subsequent occurrences leading to Delay Penalty.
- Each team may call one TIMEOUT per set. Timeouts (including TTO’s) last 60 seconds. 5 seconds to get to the bench, 30 seconds in the bench area and 15 seconds to return to court.
  - Early resumption allowed. (Ref whistles when 15 sec. remain)
  - Teams are reminded that timeouts should be taken near court. (No running off to tents) Shade and water should be provided at team bench areas.
  - Coaches are not allowed to call TOs. They can suggest/direct their teams to do so, but the players on the court must make the TO request.



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- A “Technical Timeout” (TTO) after the 21 point of sets 1 and 2.  
*Interval between sets remains at 2-minutes*
  - Referee offers “first choice for set 2” to the captain of the team that lost the first coin-toss, and confirms “who will serve first for the team in this set”
  - Then offers the other captain the remaining choice and confirms “who will serve first for the team in this set”
  - If there is a deciding (3rd) set, the 1st referee should conduct another coin toss, and offer the same choices.
- Deciding 3rd Set: New coin toss; same choices. Play to 15, win by two. Switch sides on multiples of 5. There is not a Technical Time Out in the deciding set.
- At the end of the match, all players meet at the net near the referee stand to shake hands with each other, then with the officials.

## Warnings & Sanctions

- All delay and misconduct warnings remain in force throughout the **match**.
- Any Delay by a player or coach should result in a Team Delay Warning (Yellow card on wrist).
    - Any further delay by any member of that team, throughout the match, results in Delay Penalty. (Red card on wrist)
    - Multiple Delay Penalties may be assessed within a match.
  - Misconduct by any player or coach should be managed when possible through verbal warning(s).
    - Referees may offer one **FORMAL WARNING** (Yellow Card) per MATCH to a TEAM (player or coach) guilty of misconduct.
    - Subsequent misconduct by ANY player or coach on that team in that MATCH must be sanctioned by **PENALTY** (Red Card: point and serve to opponent)
  - Rude Conduct is immediately sanctioned by Penalty (Red Card). It is not necessary that a Misconduct Warning (Yellow Card) have been issued previously.
    - Players may receive a maximum of TWO Penalties per player per SET. Further misconduct results in **EXPULSION** for the SET. (Set is **DEFAULT-ED**)
    - Coaches may receive a maximum of ONE Penalty per SET. Further misconduct results in the coach being **EXPELLED** for the SET. (no further action)
  - Physical aggression at any time, or **repeated misconduct beyond the limits above**, results in **DISQUALIFICATION** (Red and Yellow Cards held apart)
    - Disqualification of a Player results in that team defaulting the match. Disqualification of a Coach does not involve a penalty point or further consequence.



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## Playing Actions and Faults

### **Blocks and play above the net**

- Players must contact the ball within their own playing space (follow-through into the opponents playing space after contact is legal).
- It is always illegal to attack a ball that is completely in the opponents' space.
- Blockers may contact a ball in the opponents' space after the attack hit, or if in the referee's judgment the attackers are not attempting to play the ball.
- "Joust" (simultaneous contact above the net) between opponents is legal. Any player may make the next play, as their team's 1st contact.
- The block contact counts as first team contact; either player may make the 2nd team contact.
- A player may block a ball in any direction.
- "Directional" or "snap" blocks are legal unless the ball is caught or thrown. If the blocker clearly catches or throws the ball, the fault must be whistled.
  - As a guideline: the ball may be blocked quickly in one direction, with one motion.

### **Attacks and Tips**

- "Open hand tipping" is prohibited. Referees use "illegal attack" (Diagram 9, Signal 21).
- Knuckles may be used to "poke" the ball, provided that the ball re-bounds (is not caught or thrown).
- Fingertips (including thumb) may be used to "poke" the ball only if those fingertips in contact with the ball are "rigid and together."
- Attacks with finger action (setting over the net) must be made perpendicular to the shoulders - either directly forward or backward.

### **Net Contact**

It is a fault to contact any part of the net between (and including) the antennas, during the action of playing the ball.

- The action of playing the ball includes (but is not limited to) takeoff, hit (or attempt), and landing safely, ready for a new action.



# BEACH VOLLEYBALL RULES

## Play Under the Net, and Interference

- Players may contact any part of the ball until it has passed completely through the plane below the net.
- There is no centerline. Players may contact any part of the opponents' court as long as they do not interfere with the opponents' next play.
- A player who interferes with an opponents' ability to make their next play must be called for the fault.
  - Interference is a FAULT that results in a point, not a replay.
  - Note that this is sometimes a delayed call (the referee must wait to see if the opponents are truly hampered in their next action).
  - Incidental contact between opponents does not constitute interference (bump knees, briefly step on toes, etc.).
  - Interference can occur without physical contact (ex: fallen player under net prevents defender covering short).
  - *Point under the net with your index finger, and say "interference." (This call will generally require explanation.)*

## Pursuit

Is legal in beach volleyball. Only balls which pass "over or outside" an antenna are eligible to be pursued.

- A player may pursue the ball by any route, including under the net and/or through the opponents' court.
- Opponents may not interfere with legal pursuit.
- The ball must be played back on 2nd team contact "over or outside" the same antenna.
- Third team contact must send the ball legally through the crossing space (between the antennas).

## Ball Marks

The ball is "IN" if it lands inside the court, or touches a boundary line. Corner "tie-downs" are not considered boundary lines.

- If the referee is in doubt of a line call, they should immediately initiate a "ball mark protocol". Players may not insist that a ball mark be reviewed.
  - Players cannot: alter the ball mark (or court boundaries), cross under the net to review a mark, or attempt to influence the decision of the officials.
  - The line-judge(s) may assist as the referee inspects the ball mark.
  - The referee must be careful to inspect the correct ball mark, considering ball trajectory, the effect of raised lines, and possible "splash" of soft sand.
    - If the referee determines that the line was moved significantly, during the rally in question, they should fix the line before judging the result.



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## Ball Handling/ Hand Setting

There are two types of ball handling faults: “Catch Balls” and “Double Contact”.

- The ball must be played with one quick motion.
- Balls that significantly move downwards while in the hands, or visibly come to rest, are “Catch Ball” faults (aka: “deep dish,” “held-ball,” or “lift”).
- Clearly distinct and separate contacts of the ball constitute a “Double-Hit.”
  - Spin is not a fault ... but spin may be an indication that a “double-contact” fault has occurred.

## Simultaneous Contact by Teammates

If teammates touch the ball simultaneously it counts as 2 team contacts. Either player may make the 3rd contact.

## Defense

- It is LEGAL for ANY first-team contact **WITHOUT finger action** to strike two or more parts of a player during a single attempt to play the ball. Including:
  - Any style of contact: hands or fists together or apart, heels of hands together or apart, tomahawk, etc. (see finger-action below).
  - All plays without finger action, even if the ball is observed to have been clearly double-contacted.
- First-team-contact **WITH finger action** should be judged just as any setting contact:
  - The referee should call a double-hit if the player uses finger action and the ball contact is a clear double.
  - **EXCEPTION:** If the double contact was in defense of a “hard-driven attack” then the referee should allow play to continue.
    - In judging an attack as “hard-driven,” the referee must consider the following:
      - Speed and trajectory of the ball, as well as the distance between the attacker and defender.
      - The referee must judge the player’s action: “reactive” (double allowed) or “intentional” handset (double-contact called).

## Serve Receive

In serve receive, a double contact is allowed. If finger action is used, the referee will judge the contact as a set.

- It is legal to use techniques such as: hands or fists together or apart, heels of hands together or apart, tomahawk, etc.
- **REMINDER:** It is legal to receive serve “open handed with finger action”, but strict hand-setting judgment must be applied to the contact.