

CYA VOLLEYBALL RULES

I. INTRODUCTION

- a. From 7/8th House and up, including high school and boys teams, all teams play with default rules with no modifications, as listed in this document. The only variation throughout the age/skill groups is the calls made at the referee's discretion, mostly in terms of doubles, lifts, etc. Referees are instructed to provide warnings as necessary and move onto official calls throughout the individual games and the overall season. Referees have been encouraged to make the best judgment calls they can, given the skill level of the player and teams in general.
- b. For 2nd-4th grade teams, little to no calls will be made for contact with net, carries, doubles, etc. – but warnings to promote good play is encouraged!
- c. Elementary school / 5/6th division rule modifications are marked in red
- d. Please reach out to Jenny Jung (ntosm925@gmail.com), CYA Volleyball Referee Coordinator, for any questions or clarifications! 😊

II. MATCH FORMAT

- a. Play until the end of the allotted time (even if in middle of a set)
- b. Each set to 25 points, win by 2. Continue playing sets up to 25 points until game time is up.
 - i. Set/game point warning at 24 points will be provided by ref.
 - ii. 2-minute warning and/or last serve warning will be provided by ref.
- c. Switch sides after first set; no need after second and subsequent sets
- d. Rally scoring
- e. 10-minute warm-up (generally: 4 min of passing, 4 min of hitting, 2 min of serving)
 - i. 10-minute begins at the game start time listed on the schedule – refs will keep time, regardless of preparedness by the players/coaches

III. ROTATION

- a. 6 players on court; minimum requirement of 4
 - i. If a team has 3 or less players, it is a forfeit. If the other team has extra players, the extra player(s) can join the other side and teams can scrimmage.
- b. Rotate players clockwise on side-out/new serve (see diagram in Appendix I below)
- c. Based on coach preference and team skill level, advanced rotations (ex. 5-1, 6-2, etc.) can be used.
- d. Teams can use continuous rotation (no substitutions; see Appendix I below) OR substitutions
 - i. Substitution must be called by players/coaches in between points – AFTER the previous point has ended and BEFORE the next serve is called.
 - ii. If a player/coach calls for a substitution AFTER the next serve is called, the substitution must wait until the point is over.

IV. **LIBERO GUIDELINES (liberos are OPTIONAL, but if used, follow these guidelines)**

- a. The libero must be designated at the start of a set. The libero should be wearing a jersey/shirt of a different color than the rest of the team.
- b. The libero is allowed to replace any player in the back row. As such, once on the court, they are limited to normal back row player rules (ex. no hitting in front of the 10-foot line, no blocking, etc.) and normal rotation after rallies/side-outs.
- c. Libero replacements are not considered substitutions and are unlimited.
- d. All replacements can only take place while the ball is out of play and before the whistle for service. Player and libero can switch anywhere between the 10-foot line and the back line.
- e. Generally, the easiest way to utilize a libero would be to pick ONE position (usually, but not always, middle hitter) and whenever a player of that position comes into Position 1 (server position) on the court, a libero replacement can take place.
 - i. Two options at this point: (1) the middle hitter can serve and be replaced by the libero after the middle hitter loses their service; or (2) the libero serves on the middle's behalf.
- f. Once the libero serves on behalf of a certain player, the libero can only serve for that specific player and no one else during that set in the match.
 - i. This does not necessarily mean liberos can only replace a specific player and that player only. Liberos can replace more than 1 player – liberos can, and usually do, replace both middle hitters (or another position, such as outside hitters) as they rotate into the back row. But the limitation is that they can only serve on behalf of a single player. Liberos cannot circumvent the serving rule and serve on behalf of multiple players.
 1. Ex. if the libero served in replacement of Jane the Middle Hitter, the libero cannot then serve in replacement of Mary the other Middle Hitter. The libero can only act as a defensive replacement in the back row for Mary after Mary's own service ends.

V. **GENERAL RULES OF PLAY**

- a. Flagrant/egregious rule violations will be called, regardless of division.
- b. The ball can be played off the ceiling (or the court divider DIRECTLY ALIGNED with the net) if the ball remains on their side and they have touches left.
- c. The ball is out of play when:
 - i. The ball contacts the ceiling/structure above the opponent's side
 - ii. The ball contacts any part of the ceiling/structure and then lands on the opponent's side
 - iii. The ball goes through any ceiling/structures/beams and then lands on the opponent's side (no ball contact with ceiling structures necessary)
 - iv. The ball contacts any walls/court dividers

- d. Any ball contact with basketball structures will be called at the referee's discretion.
 - i. If the ball contacts a basketball structure and would have remained playable if the structure had not been present (especially if a player is below the structure, ready to play the ball), an immediate replay will be called.
 - ii. If the ball contacts a basketball structure and would have not remained playable if the structure had not been present (ex. ball headed toward the wall), the ball is out of play.
- e. If the ball becomes stuck in a ceiling structure = replay/redo
 - i. EXCEPTION: If the ball becomes stuck on a team's third hit = point to the other team (since it would've constituted a fault, regardless of what may happen after the ball came back down)
- f. FRANKLIN MS: contact w/ black speakers hanging off the ceiling = immediate replay
 - i. **REPEALED 5/1/2023. RULE IS NO LONGER IN EFFECT.**
- g. CYA FIELDHOUSE: contact w/ thin metal wire over the volleyball courts = immediate replay

VI. SERVING

- a. Coin toss @ captain's meeting before the match will determine which team serves first. For subsequent sets, serves alternate. (ex. Team A wins coin toss and serves first for Set 1. Then Team B automatically serves first for Set 2. Then Team A automatically serves first for Set 3. And so on. No additional coin tosses required.)
- b. 1 toss & drop allowed for all divisions
 - i. All players are allowed to reattempt an overhand serve after they toss & drop the ball.
 - ii. If the player touches or catches the ball, that is a fault and loss of service/a point to the opposing team immediately.
 - iii. This rule applies to first serve only. First serve is defined as the first serve after they rotate into the serving position.
 - iv. This rule is retriggered once the player completes a full rotation and returns to the server position. This means a player gets multiple "first serves" in a game.
- c. 1 full serve re-do allowed for 2nd-4th and 5/6th HOUSE & SELECT
 - i. Underhand or overhand
 - ii. First serve only – same definition as above
 - iii. If a serve does not put the ball into play (i.e. ball is served into the net, ball is served out, etc.), the player can completely retry their serve one more time
 - iv. This rule can be combined with the toss & drop rule
- d. Unlimited points in one service rotation
 - i. 5/6th HOUSE & SELECT mod.: Maximum of 5 points in one service rotation (If a serve is determined to be a re-do, the serve does not count).
 - ii. 2nd-4th mod.: Maximum of 3 points in one service rotation (If a serve is determined to be a re-do, the serve does not count).

- e. Serve from the back line; foot faults will be called
 - i. 5/6th HOUSE & SELECT mod.: serve anywhere between the 10-foot line and the back line, whether serving underhand or overhand
 - ii. (*goal = serve at back line by the end of season)
- f. Serves hitting the net and going over to the opponent's court is playable
 - i. 5/6th HOUSE mod.: NOT PLAYABLE; immediate replay for any serve
 - ii. 5/6th SELECT: NO MOD. – net serves are PLAYABLE
- g. Serves cannot be blocked or attacked.

VII. COMMON FAULTS (resulting in loss of point)

- a. Net contact
 - i. EXCEPTION: When the ball is driven into the net, causing it to touch an opponent, no fault is committed.
- b. Reaching beyond the net during blocks
 - i. A player may touch the ball beyond the net, as long as the action does not interfere with the opponent's attempt to play the ball. If any interference is observed by the referee, the point will be lost.
- c. Reaching underneath the net into the opponent's court
 - i. Penetration into the opponent's court, beyond the center line, by any part of the body (commonly foot/feet) is permitted, as long as there is no interference or safety hazard to the opponents. If any interference/hazard is observed by the referee, the point will be lost.
 - ii. Penetration into the opponent's court, COMPLETELY beyond the center line by a player's foot/feet is an immediate fault, regardless of interference/hazard (or the lack thereof).
- d. Four hits
 - i. Block does not count as a hit
- e. Carry/lift
 - i. Use of palm is almost always carry/lift (instead, use fists or back of hand...)
- f. Doubles
 - i. Be careful with sets that spin after contact with hands
 - ii. NO DOUBLE CALL for the first touch
- g. Illegal backrow hit
 - i. A backrow player (base position 1, 6, or 5) must stay below the net height when they are in front of the 10-foot line. This means a player does NOT commit a fault if they complete an attack without jumping while standing in front of the 10-foot line.
 - ii. In other words: during play, if a backrow player is standing in front of the 10-foot line, the player may NOT complete an attack while jumping above the net height.
 - iii. Another scenario: During play, a backrow player MAY start their jump attack *behind* the 10-foot line, attack the ball mid-air, and land in *front* of the 10-foot line.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS RULES

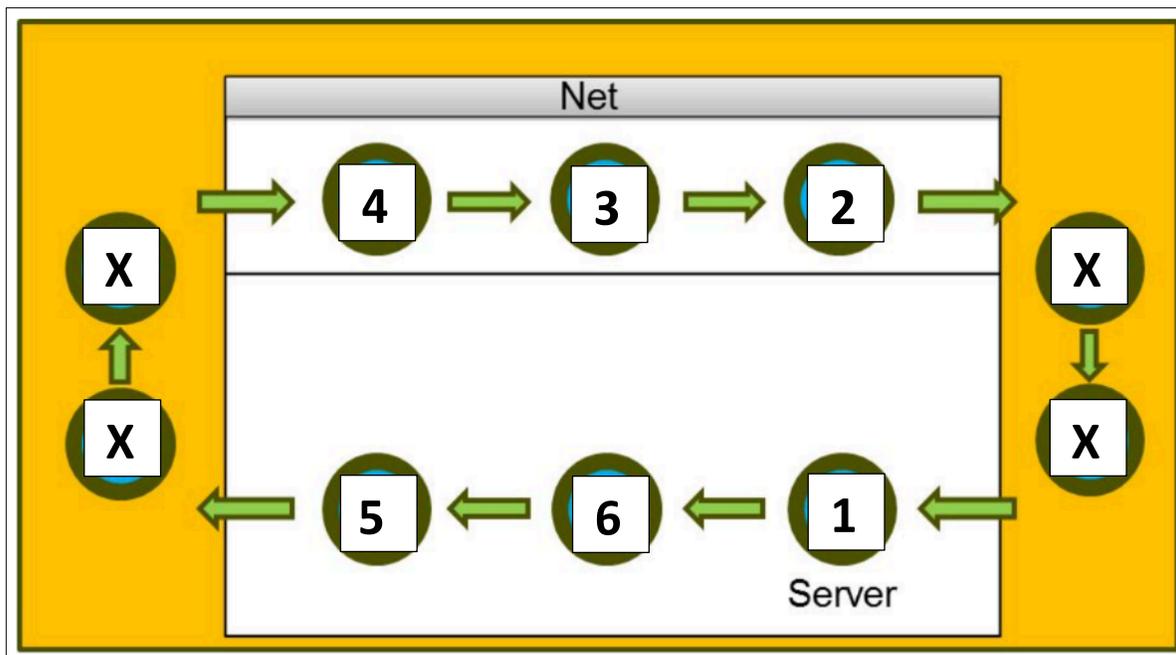
- a. Time outs are limited to 30 seconds. Referees will keep time. Although there are no limits, coaches should aim for 1-2 per game, given the limited amount of game time.
- b. Players should roll balls under the net (instead of throwing it over the net) for safety reasons

IX. COACHES & PARENTS

- a. Parents may not speak to the players on the court; only the coaches should be directing play.
- b. Parents may not speak to the coach or referee in a negative or hostile manner.
- c. Parents should limit communication to coaches to only before or after a match.
- d. Coaches should set a high standard of respect and sportsmanship through their coaching.
- e. Cheering is allowed during the game, except during serves.
- f. Teams should keep cheers positive.

(Continued on next page)

APPENDIX I: Basic Rotation (NOT SUBSTITUTION)
(recommended for Grades 2-6 and at least initially for MS/HS House)



- Coaches should teach court position numbers to players
- Note that while the rotation is clockwise, the court position numbers are not

If there are more than 6 players present, extra players can stand off-court and be in queue to rotate in. When it's time for your team to rotate:

- Player in "5" position moves off-court into the queue, and the player first in line in the off-court queue moves into the "4" position.
OR
- Player in "2" position moves off-court into the queue and the player first in line in the off-court queue moves into the "1" position and becomes the server.
OR
- With 2+ extra players, the team may also choose to rotate in from both sides, which combines both scenarios above.

If your team is NOT using SUBSTITUTIONS and there is an off-court queue in place, this continuous rotation MUST be used. In other words, when it is time to rotate and there are extra players in line in the off-court queue (on either side), a player in the "2" position (and/or "5" position) cannot move to the "1" position (and/or "4" position, respectively). A player cannot bypass the off-court queue – this keeps the player line-up consistent.

The "1" position is ALWAYS the serving position. Our Grades 2-6 players are allowed to serve anywhere from the back line to the 10-foot line, but the server should always return to the "1" position immediately after their serve. Those in grades 5-6 should work to be serving from the back line as the season progresses. Players must make a full rotation (through positions 1-6 and through the line of subs) before they are allowed to enter back to the serving position.