



REGION REF BULLETIN

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We can't judge what we don't see

Volleyball is unique because we officials judge every contact of the ball with every player, in addition to judging contacts with the floor, antennas, net, and even the invisible planes defining the playing space and height of the net.

We can't make those judgements accurately if we don't see those contacts clearly.

While the game continues to get faster as players get more athletic, we must get our eyes in the right place, at the right time,

every time.

Multiple contacts, and even complete rallies, can occur in one second or less. We can't allow those contacts to surprise us, or we'll find ourselves just guessing.

We must practice slowing things down within our minds, watching play develop, and using our intuition to quickly and clearly see every contact before we can even begin to make judgements.

Thank you to Paul Albright, a respected

FIVB International and NCAA official, and former USAV Director of Officials, for teaching me this before his untimely passing in 2022.

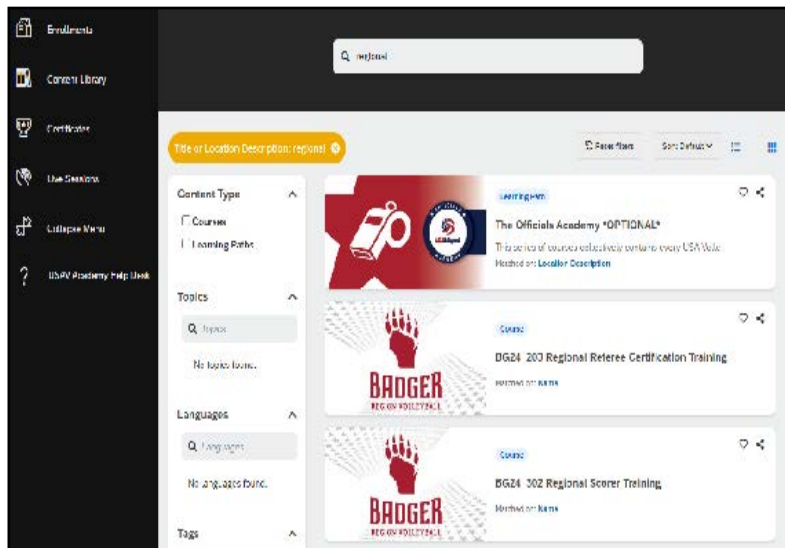
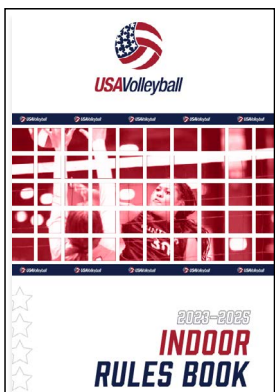
Reprinted for the benefit of Badger Region Volleyball Association referee members with permission from Ron Kolash. Interested in writing for the Badger Region Ref Bulletin, contact Sara Voigt at sara@badgervolleyball.org.

Rulebooks available

New USAV rulebooks (also known as the DCR) are in that are good through the 2023-25 season.

The Badger Region will be disseminating these at the in-person officials meetings and mailing to those who we may miss those events. Please email Sara Voigt (sara@badgervolleyball.org) when you have purchased your annual USAV membership and she will put a rulebook aside for you.

For a link to an online edition of the DCR, please [click here](#).



Online ref-training modules now available in the Academy

All ref training modules are live. To access these modules please go into your training academy and search the appropriate certification training (current certification).

To access:

1. Log into Sports Engine
2. Click on Household
3. Click on View profile

4. Click on View details
5. Click on the blue USA Volleyball Academy at the top
6. Click on content library
7. Click on search and type in first couple letters needed to do search for your certification modules

Have questions? Email sara@badgervolleyball.org.

Register now for the in-person ref meeting

The Badger Region annual in-person officials meetings are coming up. Attending one of these meetings is mandatory for all officials who intend to officiate during the 2023/2024 club volleyball season.

Both meetings will be held at QRG Regional Office 2885 S. Calhoun Road New Berlin. QRG is a Badger Region-partner organization that assists with supplying members with Badger-Region branded items and signage at Badger Region events.

The two options are Noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19, or Noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10.

[Click here](#) to register.

A FACT SHEET FOR Sports Officials



The information in this fact sheet can help you protect athletes from concussions or other serious brain injuries and know what to do if an athlete might have a concussion.

Understand concussion

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or by a hit to the body that causes the head and brain to move quickly back and forth. This fast movement can cause the brain to bounce around or twist in the skull, creating chemical changes in the brain and sometimes stretching and damaging the brain cells.

Help keep athletes safe

As a sports official, you help set the tone for safe play and can help lower an athlete's chances of getting a concussion or other serious injury. When athletes are overly aggressive or make illegal actions, they can increase the risk for concussion for themselves and other athletes. Here are some ways you can keep athletes safe:

- Enforce the rules for fair play, safety, and good sporting behavior.
- Learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of concussions so you can be confident about when an athlete should be removed from a game or competition.
- Stop play whenever there is a concern for the safety of athletes, and remove an athlete from a game or competition if you observe concussion signs or if the athlete reports concussion symptoms.
- Penalize athletes for unsafe actions, such as:
 - Using their head or helmet to contact another athlete.
 - Making illegal contacts or checking, tackling, or colliding with an unprotected athlete.
 - Trying to injure or put another athlete at risk for injury.
- Use correct terminology, such as concussion and brain injury. Avoid words, such as *bell ringers* and *dings* to describe a concussion because these can make light of a serious problem.
- Use pre-season and pre-game meetings to remind coaches to promote a culture of concussion safety with athletes.

Take action for a possible concussion

If you suspect that an athlete might be experiencing concussion symptoms, pull them from play. **When in doubt, get them out.**



An athlete who is allowed to continue playing with a concussion, or who is returned to play too soon, is at risk for a repeat brain injury. This can lead to a longer recovery and poorer health outcomes.

Stay up to date on concussion policies and information

- Review your state, league, and organization's concussion policies. Be aware that concussion policies may vary by location and sport. Most policies state that an athlete cannot return to a game or competition on the same day the possible concussion occurred and cannot return before being cleared by a healthcare provider.
- Take a training course on concussion. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers free concussion training for sports officials at www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP.
- Talk with other sports officials to share strategies that enforce safe and fair play.

GOOD SPORTING BEHAVIOR
MODEL IT. EXPECT IT. ENFORCE IT.



ENFORCE SAFE PLAY. SPORTS OFFICIALS SET THE TONE FOR SAFETY.

Spot a possible concussion

Athletes with one or more of the signs and symptoms listed below after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body may have a concussion or other serious brain injury.

Concussion signs that sports officials, parents, or coaches might observe in athletes:

- Appearing confused, dazed, or stunned
- Looking unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moving clumsily (appearing off-balance or dizzy)
- Being slow to answer questions
- Being unable to remember events before or after the hit, bump, or fall
- Losing consciousness (only occurs in about 10-15% of concussions)
- Showing behavior or personality changes

Concussion symptoms that athletes might feel and report:

- Having a headache
- Feeling nauseated or vomiting
- Experiencing balance problems or dizziness
- Seeing double or having fuzzy vision
- Feeling sensitive to light or noise
- Feeling sluggish
- Feeling mentally foggy
- Having difficulty concentrating or remembering plays
- Being confused about what play it is or what part of the game it is

Signs of a more serious brain injury

Have someone call 9-1-1 if an athlete develops one or more of these danger signs after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body:

- Drowsiness or inability to wake up or inability to stay awake
- Repeated vomiting
- Convulsions or seizures (seizures can include violent, uncontrollable shaking or twitching)
- Unusual behavior, increased confusion, restlessness, or agitation
- Slurred speech, weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination
- One pupil larger than the other
- A headache that gets worse and does not go away

The information provided in this fact sheet or through links to other sites is not a substitute for medical or professional care. Questions about diagnosis and treatment for concussion should be directed to a physician or other healthcare provider.

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To learn more,
go to [cdc.gov/HEADSUP](https://www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP)





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Summary of rule changes for 2023-25

USAV 4.3.3.1a: Uniform numbers must be clearly visible and centered side to side on the front and back of the jersey. Numbers are recommended to be placed on the upper half of the jersey. Numbers may not extend below the player's waist and may not be tucked into the uniform bottom.

USAV 5.1.2.1, added: Judgment decisions are not subject to protest. A protest related to a judgment decision may result in a penalty (red card) being assessed to the coach.

USAV 5.2.3.4: During the match, the coach may give instructions to players on the court 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 and including the warm-up area, without disturbing or delaying the match. The coach must not obstruct the view of the line judges.

USAV 5.3.1: One assistant coach at a time may stand to give instructions to the players on the court but has no right to intervene in the match. During play, the assistant 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 and including the warm-up area, without disturbing or delaying the match. The assistant coach must not obstruct the view of the line judges.

New for 14-and-under age groups:

New USAV 12.4.4a: Once the serving action is initiated, including an underhand serve, if the server tosses the ball and then catches it or allows it to fall to the floor, this is considered a service tossing error, including a ball that touches the server as it falls.

USAV 12.4.4b: After a service tossing error, the referee must authorize the service again (re-serve) and the server must execute it within the next 8 seconds.

Rule 12.5.1: The players of the serving team must not prevent their opponent, through individual or collective screening, from seeing the service hit and the flight path of the ball. Should either be visible to the receiving team, this is not a screen.

USAV 12.5.2: A player or 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 service hit and the flight path of the ball until the ball reaches the vertical plane of the net.

Rule 14.3: 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.

Rule 14.6.1: The blocker touches the ball in the OPPONENT'S space before the opponent's attack hit.

New USAV 19.2d: When two Liberos are used, both Liberos can be in uniforms different from each other and from the rest of the team.

USAV 24.2.7d: During the match, the coach or captain may request verification of the number of team substitutions or time-outs. If incorrect information is provided by the 2nd referee and the team acts directly upon this misinformation resulting in an illegal substitution (per USAV 15.9.1) or an excessive time-out, the referee's error will be corrected with no penalty or sanction assessed to the team. If an illegal (excessive) substitution does not result, the substitution may still be withdrawn prior to the next serve without sanction or penalty

Important dates to know for all officials

Membership season begins: Sept 1st (You can purchase your membership now if you want)

* Modules available: October 1

* Badger Region Champs assigning: Assigning for the 2024 Champs starts Sept 1

* Badger Power League assigning: Assigning for 2024 starts Sept 5

* Badger Region Qualifier/Dale Rohde assigning: Assigning starts Sept 10

* **Badger Region Power League:** Jan 6/7, Feb 10/11, and Apr. 6/7. This will be at sites throughout the state of Wisconsin.

* **Badger Region Qualifier and Dale Rohde:** March 2/3. This will take place at the Madison Expo Center.

* **Badger Region Championships:** March 9/10, March 16/17, and March 23/24. This will take place primarily at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee as well as one or two age groups will be Appleton the first weekend.