

Addendum – Special Olympics Volleyball Rules Modifications of FIVB Rules

SECTION B – COURT AND EQUIPMENT

FIVB Rules will be used except:

FIVB Rule 1.1: The playing court is a rectangle measuring 18 x 9 m, surrounded by a free zone which is a minimum of 3 m wide on all sides.

SOI Rule 1.1: For the Special Olympics World Summer Games, the free zone shall measure a minimum of 5 m from the sidelines and 8 m from the end lines.

FIVB Rule 1.4.2: The service zone is a 9 m wide area behind each end line.

SOI Rule 1.4.2: The service line may be moved closer to the net, but no closer than 4.5 m (14 ft, 9 in). There will be no modifications for the Special Olympics World Summer Games.

FIVB Rule 2.1.1: Placed vertically over the centre line there is a net whose top is set at the height of 2.43 m for men and 2.24 m for women.

SOI Rule 2.1.1: Metric conversions for net height are:
Men's 7 ft 11 $\frac{5}{8}$ in (used also for Coed and Unified ® Men's)
Women's 7 ft 4 $\frac{1}{8}$ in (used also for Unified ® Women's)

FIVB Rule 3.1: [The ball's] circumference is 65-67 cm and its weight is 260-280 g. Its inside pressure shall be 0.30 to 0.325 kg/cm².

SOI Rule 3.1a: Metric conversions for the ball are:
Circumference: 25.6-26.4 in
Weight: 9-10 oz
Pressure: 4.26 to 4.61 psi

SOI Rule 3.1b: A lighter weight, leather, modified volleyball may be used. The size of the ball should be no larger than 81 centimeters (32 inches) in circumference and weigh no more than 226 grams (8 ounces). It should be as close as possible to the regulation-size volleyball. In the Special Olympic World Summer Games, only balls as specified by the FIVB will be used.

SECTION C – RULES OF COMPETITION

FIVB has no rules regarding time limits of sets or matches.

If time is limited SOI rules permit a time limit of 30 minutes per set in competition other than the Special Olympics World Summer Games.

FIVB Rule 4.3: A player's equipment consists of a jersey, shorts, socks (the uniform) and sport shoes.

SOI Rule 4.3: Socks and sport shoes are not part of the uniform.

FIVB Rule 4.3.3: Players' jerseys must be numbered from 1 to 18. For FIVB, World and Official Competitions, players' jerseys must be numbered from 1 to 20.

SOI Rule 4.3.3: Players' jerseys must be numbered in a permanent manner from 1 to 99. For the Special Olympics World Summer Games, the jerseys must be numbered in a permanent manner in accordance with FIVB rules.

FIVB Rule 4.3.3.2: The number must be a minimum of 15cm (6") in height on the chest, and a minimum of 20cm (8") in height on the back.

SOI Rule 4.3.3.2: The number must be a minimum of 10cm (4") in height on the chest, and a minimum of 15cm (6") in height on the back.

FIVB Rule 4.3.4: The team captain must have on his/her jersey a stripe of 8 x 2 cm underlining the number on the chest.

SOI Rule 4.3.4: It is recommended that the captain have a stripe on his/her jersey underlining the number on the chest. Metric conversion for this stripe is 3.15 in x .8 in.

FIVB Rules 5.1.1, 5.2.2, 24.3.3, 25.2.3.3 and 26.2.3.2 require several signatures on the scoresheet both before and after the match.

SOI Rules do not require any signatures before the match. After the match the First Referee, Scorekeeper, and both Coaches sign the scoresheet, including at the Special Olympics World Summer Games.

FIVB Rule 5.2.3.2: During the match, the coach sits on the team bench nearest to the scorer, but may leave it.

SOI Rule 5.2.3.2a: A coach is permitted to assist an athlete to move in position for substitutions.

SOI Rule 5.2.3.2b: A coach is permitted to get up from the bench and move around as long as the coach is not affecting the progress of the set. Coaching from behind the end line is prohibited.

FIVB Rule 5.3.1: The assistant coach sits on the team bench, but has no right to intervene in the match.

SOI Rule 5.3.1: One assistant coach at a time may leave the bench to give instructions to the players on the court.

FIVB Rule 6.3.1: The match is won by the team that wins three sets.

SOI Rule 6.3.1: The match is won by the team that wins two sets out of three (or three sets out of five).

FIVB Rule 7.3.1: There must always be six players per team in play.

SOI Rule 7.3.1: All matches shall start with six players. In competitions other than the Special Olympics World Summer Games, in the event of injury or illness during a match, which causes a team to be reduced to five players, a team may continue tournament competition. At no time can play continue with fewer than five players.

FIVB Rule 8.4.2: The ball is “out” when it touches an object outside the court, the ceiling or a person out of play.

SOI Rule 8.4.2a: A ball shall remain in play if it contacts the ceiling or other overhead objects 4.6 m (15 ft) or more above the playing area.

SOI Rule 8.4.2b: A ball is out of play and a playover directed if it contacts overhead objects or supports less than 4.6 m (15 ft) above the playing area and would have remained playable if the object had not been present.

SOI Rule 8.4.2c: A ball is out of play and a playover directed if the ball comes to rest on an overhead object above the team’s playing area and is still a playable ball.

FIVB Rule 9: Each team must play within its own playing area and space (except Rule 10.1.2). The ball may, however, be retrieved from beyond the free zone.

SOI Rule 9a: The ball may be retrieved from beyond the free zone only when the surface change is 1.25 cm (1/2 in) or less, the secondary surface is lower than the free zone, and the area is free of obstructions.

SOI Rule 9b: If obstructions or other safety concerns prohibit retrieval from beyond the free zone, the player retrieving a ball over a non-playing area must be in contact with the playing surface when contact with the ball is made.

FIVB Rule 9.1.2.1: When two (three) teammates touch the ball simultaneously, it is counted as two (three) hits (with the exception of blocking).

SOI Rule 9.1.2.1: When two or more teammates touch the ball simultaneously, it is counted as one contact. Any player may play the ball next if the simultaneous contact is not the third contact.

FIVB Rule 10.1.2: The ball that has crossed the net plane to the opponent's free zone totally or partly through the external space, may be played back within the team hits.

SOI Rule 10.1.2: A minimum of 2 m (6 ft 6 ¾ in) clearance beyond the court equipment on both sides is required.

FIVB Rules 15.1, 15.6.1, 15.6.2, and 15.6.3 restrict each team to six player substitutions per set, do not allow the substitutes to re-enter the set, and only allow two players per position.

SOI Rule 15.6a: Twelve substitutions are the maximum permitted per team per set.

SOI Rule 15.6b: Unlimited individual entries by a substitute within the team's allowable 12 substitutions are permitted. Each entry must be to the same position in the line-up.

SOI Rule 15.6c: More than one substitute may enter the set in each position.

SECTION D – DIVISIONING

[Use as written]

SECTION E – POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Libero Player

[Change to emphasize that current FIVB rules allow for two Liberos per match]

2. Officiating

- a. Referees shall have the full authority to interpret the rules. For further questions, the Competition Management Team shall be consulted.
- b. Ball handling should be called consistent with the ability level of the higher skilled team.
- c. There shall be at least two line judges. In some competitions there shall be four line judges.
- d. When scorekeepers are used they shall be responsible to tally the score and monitor substitutions and time outs. In the Special Olympics World Summer Games FIVB requirements will prevail.

3. Technical Officials (i.e. Referees) Ratings:

There shall be a minimum requirement for a Technical Official to be considered at each level of competition. Technical Officials with higher ratings are acceptable at each level of competition.

World Games:

Minimum Requirement: National certification or highest equivalent proficiency rating awarded by a Volleyball NGB. FIVB Internationale Arbitre rating preferred.

Regional Games:

Minimum Requirement: National certification, or highest equivalent proficiency rating awarded by a Volleyball NGB.

National Games:

Minimum Requirement: - National certification or equivalent proficiency rating awarded by a Volleyball NGB. Also acceptable is a Junior National or equivalent proficiency rating awarded by a Volleyball NGB.

Competition Below National Games level:

Minimum Requirement: - All Technical Officials shall be certified (any level) by their Volleyball NGB.