

help us out by breaking the huddle and returning to the court when the horn sounds? If it continues, the result will be a delay sanction/unnecessary delay."

- At the end of each rally, the team huddles up in the middle of the court. This action affects the normal tempo of the match, whether it is the serving or receiving team.

Referee action – First, try a gentle "tweet tweet" whistle toward the team. If it does not respond and continues the behavior, whistle the captain to the stand.

Referee body posture – First time, lean down slightly. If the huddling continues, stay upright.

Referee response – "We need the huddling to be quicker or stop so you're not delaying the match."

- An improper libero replacement occurs after the whistle for service, but before the server contacts the ball.

Referee action – Whistle the captain to the stand (after the rally ends).

Referee body posture – First time, lean down slightly. For further late replacements, stay upright.

Referee response – "That libero exchange needs to happen quicker — let him/her know. The next time will result in a delay sanction/unnecessary delay."

Behavior situations:

- During the rally, (a) a coach overreacts about a ball handling call that was/was not whistled, or (b) there is an assistant coach who approaches the court and screams that a call was missed.

Referee action – Whistle the captain to the stand.

Referee body posture – Upright and authoritative.

Referee response – (a) "Please tell your coach that this card is for him/her and we will not be arguing judgment calls tonight," or (b) "Please let your coach know that his/her assistant can't behave that way and they need to focus on coaching the team." Note: A card may be warranted in both situations!

- At the end of a rally, (a) a teammate approaches and yells at the line judge about a call she disagrees with, or (b) a teammate makes a rude comment directed toward the officials.

Referee action – First, a whistle may be needed to stop the teammate's actions. Then, whistle the captain to the stand.

Referee body posture – Upright and authoritative.

Referee response – "That behavior is unacceptable, plus you're the only one authorized to speak to the referees. If that behavior continues, there will be sanctions."

Note: A card may be warranted in both situations!

Captain-initiated interactions

Plays at/near the net:

- When the ball is passed by a teammate, it enters the vertical plane of the net. The back-row setter (who is also the captain) jumps and sets the ball using two hands. As he or she contacts the ball, the opposing blocker simultaneously touches the ball.

Referee decision – Illegal (back-row) block.

Captain – "I was setting the ball."

Referee response – "Yes, but when the ball enters the plane your opponent can block it. You are a back-row player, the ball was in the plane, you were reaching above the net. That makes you an illegal blocker."

- A ball is passed close to the net, but it remains on the attacking team's side of the net. As the setter makes contact with the ball, a blocker reaches over and blocks the ball.

Referee decision – Illegally reaching over the net.

Captain – "That ball was in the plane."

Referee response – "The ball was still over their playable space and had not entered the plane. Your blocker cannot reach over and block that ball while they have a play on it."

- The ball is overpassed by a team A player and is crossing the net into the opponent's court. As the ball crosses, the team A back-row setter (who is also the captain) approaches the net with his or her arms raised, reaching higher than the top of the net. The setter contacts the ball, without jumping.

Referee decision – Illegal (back-row) block.

Captain – "I didn't jump."

THEY SAID IT

"It is amazing we are having this conversation today on boys' volleyball growth. I think it is all because of those who have championed the sport. There is a lot more emphasis on the boys' game, which hasn't been there in the past. Many years ago, as one of the first Division I-II black men's volleyball coaches, it was one of those things where you want to see more representation from under-represented units. Women's clubs are starting to put boys into their system at younger ages. I think the growth will be exponential."

— Karl France serves as an assistant coach at New York University. He is still an active player in USAV tournaments, in addition to being a USAV official.



BY THE NUMBERS

60,976

Boys' high school volleyball players in the USA.

47

Number of Division I men's volleyball programs.

156

Number of Division II and III men's volleyball programs.

19,000

Number of junior boys' USAV members.

