

Dear Referee Colleague,

Though Referees and Observers should be regularly studying the "Rules of the Game", too many times, we do not take time to read and analyze the rules carefully and especially the:

PHILOSOPHY OF THE RULES AND REFEREEING section which states that:

The essence of a good official lies in the concept of fairness and consistency:

- to be fair to every participant
- to be viewed as fair by the spectators,

This demands a huge element of trust – the referee must be trusted to allow the players to entertain:

- by being *accurate* in his/her judgement;
- by *understanding why the rule is written*;
- by being an *efficient organizer*;
- by allowing the competition to flow and by *directing* it to a conclusion;
- by being an *educator* – using the rules to penalize the unfair and admonish the impolite;
- by *promoting* the game – that is, by *allowing the spectacular* elements in the game to shine and the best players to do what they do best: *entertain* the public.

Finally, we can say that a good referee will use the rules to make the competition a fulfilling experience for *all* concerned.

To those who have read so far, view the Rules which follow as the current state of development of a great game, but keep in mind why these preceding few paragraphs may be of equal importance to you in your position within the sport.

To help you in that process, we have made an analysis of the main differences between the 2013-2016 and 2017-2020 that you will find below. If you carefully compare the FIVB Rules with those of World ParaVolley you will see that there are other minor changes in language which do not affect the rules.

In the first part, you will find changes made to be consistent with the FIVB rules (as World ParaVolley's philosophy is to make only the necessary changes to take into account the reality of the impairments of the athletes).

In the second part, you will find changes that are specific to World ParaVolley Sitting volleyball to take into account the reality of the impairments of the athletes.

Changes are made to make it easier for the public to understand and to increase the level of spectacular play and thus the level of entertainment.

Study well. Do not just read!

Differences between World Paravolley 2017-2020 rules and previous version

(Areas in red are the changes from the last edition)

Changes resulting from changes to the wording of the FIVB rules

3.3 **Five** Ball System

For World ParaVolley World and Official Competitions, as well as Zonal Championships, **five balls shall be used. In this case, six ball retrievers are stationed, one at each corner of the free zone and one behind each referee.**

4.1.1

The Team Manager or Team Journalist may not sit on or behind the bench in the Control Area.

4.2.3.2 During set intervals, players may warm-up using balls within their own free zone. During the extended interval between sets 2 and 3 (if used), players may use their own court as well, if it is not being used for entertainment.

5.2.3.4 **For World ParaVolley World and Official Competitions, as well as Zonal Championships, the coach is restricted to performing his/her function behind the coach's restriction line throughout the entire match.**

7.3.2 Before the start of each set, the coach has to present the starting line-up of his/her team on a line-up sheet or via the electronic device, if used. The sheet is submitted, duly filled in and signed, to the second referee or the scorer – or electronically sent directly to the e-scorer.

7.5.1 ... When a player is on court through illegal substitution, and play restarts, this is counted as a positional fault with the consequences of an illegal substitution.

7.7.1.1 ... If the rotational fault is determined only after the completion of the rally which started with a rotational fault, only a single point is awarded to the opponent, regardless of the result of the rally played.

7.7.1.2 The rotational order of the faulty team must be rectified.

8.3 The ball is "in" if at any moment of its contact with the floor, some part of the ball touches the court, including the boundary lines.

8.4.1 (The ball is out when): all parts of the ball which contact the floor are completely outside the boundary lines.

11.4.4 *Note that World ParaVolley are not adopting the latest FIVB net rule where all touches of the net are a fault.

A player interferes with the opponent's play by (amongst others):

- touching the top band of the net **between the antennae** or the **antenna itself** during his/her action of playing the ball or attempting to play the ball.
- **using the net between the antennae as a support or stabilizing aid** simultaneously with playing the ball
- creating an advantage over the opponent by touching the net
- making actions which hinder an opponent's legitimate attempt to play the ball
- **catching/holding on to the net**

Any player close to the ball as it is played, and who is him/herself trying to play it, is considered in the action of playing the ball, even if no contact is made with it.

However, touching the net outside the antenna is not to be considered a fault (except for Rule 9.1.3).

12.5.2A player or group of players, of the serving team make(s) a screen by waving arms or moving sideways, during the execution of the service, or by sitting grouped, **and in so doing** hides **both** the server and the flight path of the ball **until the ball reaches the vertical plane of the net.**

15.1 For World ParaVolley World and Official Competitions, World ParaVolley may reduce, by one, the number of team and/or Technical Time Outs in accordance with sponsorship, marketing and broadcast agreements.

15.2.3 There must be a completed rally between two separate substitution requests by the same team (**Exception: a forced substitution due to injury or expulsion/disqualification 15.5.2, 15.7, 15.8**).

15.10.3a The actual request for substitution **starts at the moment of the entrance of** the substitute player(s) into the substitution zone, ready to play, during an interruption. ...

For World ParaVolley World and Official Competitions, as well as Zonal Championships, numbered paddles are used to facilitate the substitution (including when electronic devices are used).

DEFINITIONS

Re-Designation: This is the act by which a Libero, who cannot continue or is declared by the team "unable to play", has his/her role taken by another player (except the regular replacement player) not on the court at the moment of the re-designation.

Replacement: This is the act by which a regular player leaves the court and either Libero (if more than one) takes his/her place. This can even include Libero for Libero exchanges. The regular player can then replace either Libero. There must be a completed rally between replacements involving any Libero.

Substitution: This is the act by which one regular player leaves the court and another regular player takes his/her place.

Changes to World ParaVolley specific rules that already differ from FIVB rules

(Areas in red are the changes from the last edition)

1.4.5 Warm-up areas ... **are located in both of the bench-side corners, outside the free zone unless otherwise specified by the Technical Delegate.**

2.2 Net structure ... **For World ParaVolley World and Official Competitions, as well as Zonal Championships, the net should be 7 metres in length.**

2.5.1 Posts .. They are a **maximum of 1.25 m** high and preferably adjustable.

For World ParaVolley World and Official Competitions, as well as Zonal Championships, the posts supporting the net are placed at a distance of 1 m outside the side lines and must be padded. Posts should be sunk into the ground unless World ParaVolley homologated free standing, weighted posts are approved for the event.

4.1.1 A team may consist of a maximum of 12 players **Internationally classified with a 'Confirmed' sport class status or a 'Review' sport class status**, including a maximum two players classified as **of "minimal impairment" (*MD/VS2)**, one coach, a maximum of two assistant coaches, one team therapist and one medical doctor.

***Note:** *From 1st January 2018 under the new World ParaVolley classification rules, which are required to be compliant with IPC Regulations, the terms D and MD will become VS1 and VS2 respectively.*

For World ParaVolley World and Official Competitions, as well as Zonal Championships, the medical doctor and team therapist must be part of the official delegation and accredited beforehand by the World ParaVolley Medical Department.

4.3 EQUIPMENT

Players are permitted to wear tight-fitting compression garments under team shorts providing that they are:

- i) no longer than the shorts,
- ii) are of the same colour as the shorts, or white or black or neutral colours, and
- iii) the team members playing in shorts are using the same type/combination.

A compression garment, without padding, may be worn under long pants. Team members playing in long pants must use the same type/combination.

4.5.3 Compression pads (padded injury protection devices e.g. knee and elbow pads) may be worn for protection or support. These devices must be of the same colour as the corresponding part of the uniform. Black, white or neutral colours may also be used, but the same for the whole team.

7.3.1 The six players on court may include a maximum of **one “minimal impairment” player (*MD/VS2)**. If a Libero is on court, the six players must still fulfil this requirement.

***Note:** *From 1st January 2018 under the new World ParaVolley classification rules, which are required to be compliant with IPC Regulations, the terms D and MD will become VS1 and VS2 respectively.*

9.3.5 LIFTING: the part of the player’s body between the buttocks and the shoulders loses contact with the court during a playing action. **Exception Rule 9.4.1**

9.4.1 At all times during playing actions the players must contact the court with some part of the body between the buttocks and shoulders. **Lifting is permitted in the back zone when playing the ball in a defensive action if the contact is made when the ball is not entirely higher than the top of the net.**

Careful! Rule 9.4.2 “To stand up, raise the body or take steps is forbidden” This has not changed and still applies for defensive action in the back court. Players may not kneel, etc. The change in rule is designed to encourage ‘spectacularity’.

Careful! Rule 11.3.1 “Contact with the net by a player is not a fault, unless it interferes with the play.” is not changed (contrary to new rule change by FIVB.) **Note** that Standing Volleyball rule 11.3.1 is the same as current FIVB rule.

14.6.3 The blocker lifts his/her buttocks when he/she is playing the ball or **participates in a block**

(The word “completed” in the expression “participates in completed block” is deleted)

Careful! A *block* does not have to touch the ball to influence the action of the opponent., thus the block does not have to be ‘completed’ , by touching the ball, to be called a fault

27.1 For World ParaVolley World and Official Competitions, as well as Zonal Championships, it is compulsory to have four line judges.

They stand in the free zone at 1 to 2 m from each corner of the court, on the imaginary extension of the line that they control.