



VOLLEYBALL

RULES REFERENCE

COLLEGIATE OFFICIALS QUICK GUIDE
CURRENT NCAA / MEN'S CODE AS ASSIGNED

CODE & GENDER APPLICATION

Women's NCAA and men's collegiate volleyball may use different governing publications.

Study aid only. Always use the current official rulebook, interpretations, mechanics manual, state or conference adoptions, bulletins and assignment instructions.

THE STORIES BEHIND THE CALLS

REAL OFFICIALS. REAL CONVERSATIONS. REAL IMPACT.

UNDER THE STRIPES NETWORK | VERIFIED JULY 23, 2026

1. Know Which Authority Controls

Topic	Collegiate reference
Rules authority	NCAA sport rulebook, approved interpretations and bulletins.
Mechanics authority	Use the current CCA manual when issued for the sport, plus NCAA coordinator/conference mechanics. CCA is not a separate playing-rules code.
NAIA layer	Most NAIA championship sports use an NCAA rules foundation with NAIA-approved modifications. Check the current NAIA sport manual and host-conference instructions.
Assignment control	The assigner/conference may prescribe crew size, replay availability, timing protocols, uniforms, reports and mechanics without rewriting the playing rule.

Pregame authority check

Topic	Collegiate reference
Code	Confirm NCAA, NAIA or another governing code.
Edition	Confirm rulebook year, interpretations and recent bulletins.
Mechanics	Confirm current manual, crew size, rotations and conference exceptions.
Technology	Confirm clocks, replay/challenge, headsets and approved communication.
Administration	Confirm rosters/lineups, timing personnel, reports and protest procedure.

2. Core Contest Reference

Topic	Collegiate reference
Court	18 x 9 meters; antennae and attack lines define playing restrictions.
Match	Best-of-five is standard; first four sets normally to 25 and deciding set to 15, win by two.
Contacts	Three team hits, excluding a legal block contact.
Libero	Designation, replacements, serving and uniform requirements are code-specific.
Substitutions	Limits and procedures differ from NFHS and may differ across men's/women's collegiate codes.
Challenge	Video challenge availability and protocol depend on competition and approved systems.

High-priority officiating focus

Topic	Collegiate reference
Ball handling	Apply first-contact, second-contact and prolonged-contact standards for the assigned code.
Net / center line	Judge interference, safety and legal penetration rather than contact alone.
Rotation / alignment	Verify lineups, serving order, overlap/alignment and libero status at service contact.
Challenge process	Know request timing, reviewable decisions, unsuccessful-challenge consequence and resumption.

3. Differences and Assignment Notes

Topic	Collegiate reference
Women's NCAA	Use the NCAA women's volleyball rulebook and current interpretations.
Men's college	Confirm whether NCAA men's championship/USA Volleyball-based rules and conference procedures govern.
Net height	Men's and women's net heights differ.
NAIA	Women's volleyball uses the identified collegiate foundation plus NAIA modifications; men's sponsorship may use a different published code.

Postgame self-review

Topic	Collegiate reference
Rule	Which ruling needs a rule/case-book check before the next game?
Mechanic	Did positioning, coverage and communication match the current manual?
Crew	What information improved or delayed the final decision?
Reports	Were ejections, fights, protests, replay issues and unusual incidents reported on time?

Official reference path

Topic	Collegiate reference
NCAA Playing Rules	https://www.ncaa.org/championships/playing-rules/
NCAA Publications	https://www.ncaapublications.com/
NAIA Rules & Policy	https://www.naia.org/membership/legislative-and-policy/
NAIA Sport Resources	https://www.naia.org/membership/resources/coaches-corner/
CCA manuals	Access the current authorized manual through the collegiate officiating/central hub or publisher.