CHAPTER TWO
PARTICIPANTS

4. TEAMS

4.1 TEAM COMPOSITION

4.1.1 A team may consist of up to 12 players, one coach, one assistant coach, one trainer and one medical doctor. For FIVB World and Official Competitions, the medical doctor must be accredited beforehand by the FIVB. For FIVB and World Competitions for Seniors, a team may consist of a maximum of fourteen (14) players (a maximum of twelve (12) regular players).

**USAV 4.1.1:**

- a. Players are the team members on the team court. Substitutes are team members in uniform who are not in the starting line-up of a set.
- b. A team may consist of a maximum of 15 players and five coaches/staff personnel.

4.1.2 One of the players, other than the Libero, is the team captain, who shall be indicated on the scoresheet.

4.1.3 Only the players recorded on the scoresheet may enter the court and play in the match. Once the coach and the team captain have signed the scoresheet, the recorded players cannot be changed.

**USAV 4.1.3**

- a. The coach and captain do not need to sign the scoresheet before or after the match except for Adult Open Competition.
- b. At least 10 minutes before the start of each match, including tournament play, each team shall submit a roster listing the names and uniform numbers of players eligible to participate in the match. The coach or team captain must sign the roster. A roster may be changed at any time during the...
4.2 LOCATION OF THE TEAM

4.2.1 The players not in play should either sit on their team bench or be in their warm-up area. The coach and other team members sit on the bench, but may temporarily leave it. The benches for the teams are located beside the scorer’s table, outside the free zone.

4.2.2 Only the team members are permitted to sit on the bench during the match and to participate in the warm-up session.

4.2.3 Players not in play may warm up without balls as follows:
   4.2.3.1 during play: in the warm-up areas;
   4.2.3.2 during time-outs and technical time-outs: in the free zone behind their playing court.

4.2.4 During set intervals, players may warm up using balls in the free zone.

4.3 EQUIPMENT

A player’s equipment consists of a jersey, shorts, socks (the uniform) and sport shoes.

4.3.1 If undergarments, including but not limited to T-shirts, boxer shorts, tights, leotards, body suits, bicycle shorts, sports bras, etc., are worn in such a manner that they are exposed, they will be considered a part of the uniform. In that case, they must be similar and the same color for any team members (except the Libero) who wear such a uniform. Socks and sport shoes are not part of the uniform.
4.3.1 The color and the design for the jerseys, shorts and socks must be uniform for the team (except for the Libero). The uniforms must be clean.

**USAV 4.3.1:** The color and design for the jerseys and shorts must be uniform for the team (except for the Libero).

4.3.2 The shoes must be light and pliable with rubber or composite soles without heels.

For Senior FIVB World and Official Competitions, it is forbidden to wear shoes with black marking soles.

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.

**USAV 4.3.3:** The players’ jerseys must be numbered in a permanent manner from 1 to 99. Duplicate numbers are not allowed.

4.3.3.1 The number must be placed on the jersey at the center of the front and of the back. The color and brightness of the numbers must contrast with the color and brightness of the jerseys.

**USAV 4.3.3.1**

a. Uniform numbers must be clearly visible and centered on the chest and back. Each jersey must use the same color and number height for all players except the Libero.

b. **USAV 4.3.3.1b:** Color combinations such as purple/black, dark green/black, navy/black, white/light yellow or navy/maroon are not distinctive enough to comply with the rules.

4.3.3.2 The number must be a minimum of 15 cm (6") in height on the chest and a minimum of 20 cm (8") in height on the back. The stripe forming the numbers shall be a minimum of 2 cm (3/4") in width.
4.3.3.2: The numbers must be a minimum of 10 cm (4”) in height on the chest and a minimum of 15 cm (6”) in height on the back. It is recommended that the numbers be a minimum of 15 cm (6”) in height on the chest and a minimum of 20 cm (8”) on the back.

For FIVB World and Official Competitions, the player’s number shall be repeated on the right leg of the shorts. The number must be 4 to 6 cm in height and the stripe forming the numbers shall be a minimum of 1 cm in width. Jerseys and shorts should comply with FIVB standards.

4.3.4 The team captain must have on his/her jersey a stripe of 8 x 2 cm (3.15” x 8/10”) underlining the number on the chest.

4.3.5 It is forbidden to wear uniforms of a color different from that of the other players (except for the Libero), and/or without official numbers.

4.4 CHANGE OF EQUIPMENT
The first referee may authorize one or more players:
4.4.1 to play barefoot,
For FIVB World and Official Competitions it is forbidden to play barefoot.
4.4.2 to change wet or damaged uniforms between sets
or after substitution, provided that the color, design and number of the new uniform(s) are the same,

4.4.3 to play in training suits in cold weather, provided that they are of the same color and design for the whole team (except for the Libero) and numbered according to Rule 4.3.3.

4.5 FORBIDDEN OBJECTS

4.5.1 It is forbidden to wear objects which may cause injury, or give an artificial advantage to the player.

**USAV 4.5.1:** It is forbidden to wear hats or jewelry. An exception will be made for religious or medical medallions and, for adult competition, a flat band ring worn on the finger. If worn, medallions shall be removed from chains and taped or sewn under the uniform. If a ring, other than a flat band, cannot be removed, it shall be taped in such a manner as not to create a safety hazard. Braces, prosthetic limbs or headgear that may cause an injury or give an artificial advantage to the player must not be worn. If a brace, prosthetic limb or headgear is used, padding or covering may be necessary. Casts, even if padded, are forbidden.

4.5.2 Players may wear glasses or lenses at their own risk.

**USAV 4.5.2:** If a player’s equipment falls to the floor and creates a safety hazard, play is stopped and a delay sanction assessed.

5. TEAM LEADERS

Both the team captain and the coach are responsible for the conduct and discipline of their team members. The Libero cannot be the team captain.

5.1 CAPTAIN

5.1.1 PRIOR TO THE MATCH, the team captain signs the scoresheet and represents his/her team in the toss.
USAV 5.1.1: *The captain does not sign the scoresheet before the match.*

5.1.2 DURING THE MATCH and while on the court, the team captain is the game captain. When the team captain is not on the court, the coach or the team captain must assign another player on the court, but not the Libero, to assume the role of game captain. This game captain maintains his/her responsibilities until he/she is substituted, or the team captain returns to play, or the set ends.

When the ball is out of play, only the game captain is authorized to speak to the referees:

5.1.2.1 to ask for an explanation on the application or interpretation of the Rules, and also to submit the requests or questions of his/her teammates. If the game captain does not agree with the explanation of the first referee, he/she may choose to protest against such decision and immediately indicates to the first referee that he/she reserves the right to record an official protest on the scoresheet at the end of the match;

USAV 5.1.2.1: *If an explanation of an application or interpretation of a rule is not satisfactory to the game captain, he/she must immediately indicate his/her disagreement and file a protest prior to the authorization of the next service. If the disagreement with the referee’s explanation involves the last point of the set, the official protest must be recorded within the first 60 seconds of the timed interval between sets. If the final point of the match is disputed, the protest must be recorded before the referees leave the playing area. (Protest is ruled upon by the Championship Committee)*
either immediately or prior to the start of the next set.) It is advisable to have an assigned Protest Committee available to rule upon a protest as soon as possible prior to the first service following the protest. Such action should preclude playing the match over from the point of protest if the protest is upheld. Protests considered by the first referee (Protest or Tournament Committee) include: a 1) misinterpretation of a playing rule, 2) failure of the first referee to apply the correct rule to a given situation, or 3) failure to charge the correct penalty-sanction for a given fault. Protest facts recorded on the scoresheet include the: 1) score of the set at the time of the protest, 2) players and positions at the time of the protest, 3) player substitutions and team substitutions made up to the protest, 4) team time-outs taken up to the protest, 5) situation that caused the protest, and 6) signatures of the scorer, captains and first referee, indicating the facts are correct.

5.1.2.2 to ask authorization:
   a) to change all or part of the equipment,
   b) to verify the positions of the teams,
   c) to check the floor, the net, the ball, etc.;

**USAV 5.1.2.2:** For nationally sanctioned 14-and-under competition, the coach may act instead of the game captain to perform the functions stated in 5.1.2.1 and 5.1.2.2.

5.1.2.3 in the absence of the coach to request time-outs and substitutions.

5.1.3 AT THE END OF THE MATCH, the team captain:
   5.1.3.1 Thanks the referees and signs the score-
sheet to ratify the outcome;.

5.1.3.2 when it has been notified in due time to the first referee, may confirm and record on the scoresheet an official protest regarding the referee’s application or interpretation of the Rules.

USAV 5.1.3: For junior competition, the coach signs the scoresheet after the match to verify the results.

5.2 COACH

5.2.1 Throughout the match, the coach conducts the play of his/her team from outside the playing court. He/she selects the starting line-ups, their substitutes, and takes time-outs. In these functions his/her contacting official is the second referee.

5.2.2 PRIOR TO THE MATCH, the coach records or checks the names and numbers of his/her players on the scoresheet, and then signs it.

USAV 5.2.2: The coach does not sign the scoresheet before the match.

5.2.3 DURING THE MATCH, the coach:

5.2.3.1 prior to each set, gives the scorer or the second referee the line-up sheet(s) duly filled in and signed;

5.2.3.2 sits on the team bench nearest to the scorer, but may leave it;

5.2.3.3 requests time-outs and substitutions;

5.2.3.4 may, as well as other team members, give instructions to the players on the court. The 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 the warm-up area, without disturbing or delaying the match.
For FIVB World and Official Competitions, the coach is restricted to performing his/her function behind the coach’s restriction line.

**USAV 5.2.3:** During the match the coach is authorized to speak to the referees to verify the positions of the teams.

**USAV 5.2.3.4:** During play, the 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 the warm-up area, no closer to the court than 1.75 m (5’10”) from the sideline and its extension without disturbing or delaying the match. The extension of the attack line is drawn to a distance of 1.75 m (5’10”) from the sideline.

### 5.3 Assistant Coach

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

**USAV 5.3.1:** One assistant coach at a time may leave the bench to give instructions to the players on the court. During play, this 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 the warm-up area, and no closer to the court than 1.75 m (5’10”) from the sideline and its extension, without disturbing or delaying the match. The extension of the attack line is drawn to a distance of 1.75 m (5’10”) from the sideline.

5.3.2 Should the coach have to leave his/her team for any reason including sanction, the assistant coach may, at the request of the game captain, and with the authorization of the first referee, assume the coach’s functions for the duration of the absence.