



VNZ
2015 Contact with the Net Rule Change

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Several rule changes were submitted and approved by the 2014 FIVB congress. Most of the changes are minor and don't apply to Volleyball in New Zealand as they involve procedures we don't use. However, the biggest change which will affect us is with Rule 11.3, Contact with the Net.

New Rule Wording (below are only rules which have changed)	Comments
<p>11.3.1 Contact with the net by a player between the antennae, during the action of playing the ball, is a fault. The action of playing the ball includes (among others) take-off, hit (or attempt) and landing</p> <p>11.4.4 A player interferes with play by (amongst others):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Touching the net between the antennae or the antenna itself during his/her action of playing the ball • Using the net between the antennae as a support or stabilizing aid • Creating an unfair 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 <p>Players close to the ball as it is played, or who are trying to play it, are considered in the action of playing the ball, even if no contact is made with the ball.</p> <p>However, touching the net outside the antenna is not to be considered a fault (except for Rule 9.1.3)</p>	<p>Contact with the net previously only applied to the top band of the net, it now includes any part of the net (the band, the mesh below and any part of the antennae)</p> <p>Important to note contact with any part of the net, including the posts and support ropes, <i>outside</i> of the antennae are, as previously, not a fault (except rule 9.1.3 Assisted Hit: "Within the playing area, a player is not permitted to take support from a team-mate or any structure/object in order to hit the ball". i.e. a player may not use the post as a support to play the ball)</p> <p>A player may contact the net if not playing the ball or interfering with play, example: a player jumps and blocks, lands, then turns to continue play and their arm touches the net, they had finished their attempt in playing the ball and where not interfering with play, therefore not a fault.</p> <p>Hair and loose clothing which contacts the net is not considered a fault.</p>

Officially we are still waiting for these changes to be approved by the FIVB Board, this is expected end of February/beginning of March. Once approved, the FIVB will release the updated rule book, case book and referee guidelines. They are also planning on releasing a video showing examples. We will issue an update to this document **only if** there are significant changes, however we are not expecting any.

This change is under **immediate effect** and should be utilised at all levels of Volleyball in New Zealand, especially regional Senior Secondary School leagues as it will be utilised at Senior Secondary School Nationals in Palmerston North at the end of March.

Please contact the Volleyball New Zealand Referee Development Manager, Tim Hulls at rdm@volleyballnz.org.nz with any questions.

