
GAMES OF THE XXXIII OLYMPIAD –
PARIS 2024 VOLLEYBALL COMPETITION

VIDEO CHALLENGE SYSTEM (VCS)
REGULATIONS



PARIS 2024



The FIVB is committed to using new technology to assist the Referees in the decision-making process in order to make the game absolutely fair to the athletes' actions.

In this respect:

1. Teams may request a review of actions which they suspect are faults not identified and, thus, not whistled or signalled by the Referees.
2. Teams are entitled to request “Challenges” as follows:

(a) **during play** (i.e. mid-rally) each time they believe a fault has taken place and is not called by the Referees, (to speed up the process this is to be done by a team member pressing the buzzer placed at the team bench), This challenge can be requested at any moment during the rally even if it is to review the first action of the rally (i.e. service).

or

(b) **at the end of the rally** when they would like to ask a review of the Referees’ decision concerning **the last action of the rally**.

Teams will keep the right to call another “Challenge” if their claim is correct, up to the maximum of two unsuccessful Challenges per set.

3. **Automated ball In/Out Video Challenge System is used**, therefore the Challenge for ball In/Out is no longer available and the decision will be automatically shown as follows:

- a) 1st Referee Tablet – sends all in/out decisions within 1.5m from the line.
- b) Giant Screen – sends in/out decisions within 20cm from the line.
- c) TV – offer in/out decisions <7cm from the line.

A Challenge may be requested for one of the following situations:

- a) **Block Touch** – contact with the ball by the player (i.e. the blocker)
 - i. with the ball going out of play after the block action;
 - ii. with the ball remaining in play (i.e. block contact followed by 3 hits; or no block contact followed by a fourth hit by the team or a double hit by the same player);
 1. Block Touch, or
 2. No Touch
- b) **Net FAULT** – contact with the net between the antennae by the player in the action of playing the ball
 1. Net Fault, or
 2. No Net Fault

- c) **Antenna Touch** – contact with the antenna by the player or by the ball
 - 1. Antenna Touch, or
 - 2. No Touch
- d) **Foot Fault** – a) contact of the server with the playing court (end line included) or the lateral free zone outside the service zone, b) faulty contact of a player with the 3-meter attack line, c) the complete crossing of the centre line by the player’s foot or feet.
 - 1. Foot Fault, or
 - 2. No Fault
- e) **Floor Touch**. Ball touches the court surface - “pancake” – to determine if the ball contacts the court or did not touch the court during the play (mid-rally).
 - 1. Floor Touch, or
 - 2. No Floor Touch
- g) **Last Touch** – to identify during “simultaneous” contacts by opponents above the net, the player who made the final contact with the ball before it went “out”
 - 1. Last touch by, or
 - 2. Decision inconclusive (Referee’s decision remains)

4. Challenges must be requested only through the pre-programmed ETT right after the occurrence of the suspected fault, and this will prompt the 1st Referee to stop the action when the suspected fault occurs during play. Nevertheless, the teams can press the buzzer in order to call immediately the attention of the 1st Referee to stop the rally, then request the Challenge through the ETT.

Otherwise, teams have seven (7) seconds after the rally is over to Challenge exclusively the decisive action which finishes the rally. For the avoidance of doubt: after the rally is over, a suspected fault can only be challenged if it happens during the final action which ends the rally; actions taking place earlier in the rally cannot now be challenged after the rally is over.

- 5. Challenges for faults which cannot be challenged will not be accepted and will be considered in the first instance as incorrect Challenges. Subsequent/repeated requests of this nature could be classified as delays and sanctioned as such.
- 6. Challenges take precedence over all other match actions – e.g. time out or substitution requests, which may be impacted by the result of the Challenge.
- 7. The software will prevent a Challenge being requested seven (7) seconds from the moment a point is inserted into the e-scoresheet system. This is to avoid a challenged claim being made a long time after the completion of the rally (unless in the case of items 13 and 17 below, where this is needed to prevent an unfair situation).
- 8. The Challenge request will be made through two consecutive actions (no matter if it is done after the end the rally or done by pressing the team buzzer during the rally). At first, there will be a single “CHALLENGE” button to press on the tablet. Pressing it will request a Challenge, trigger the Challenge horn, and stop the action; automatically, a new series of buttons will appear, presenting the Challenge options for the team to indicate the suspected fault being challenged. The team must not spend more than seven (7) seconds to indicate their suspected fault. The

two-step procedure is designed to help coaches in pressing the correct button when they indicate the suspected fault being challenged. In case of delay, the Referee may apply a “delay warning”.

9. When a team calls a Challenge, the 2nd Referee, or 3rd Referee if applicable, must clarify the nature of the request with the respective coach, then the 1st Referee will immediately confirm to the Challenge Referee the suspected fault being challenged. The examination of the images must be conducted as quickly as possible, but precision of judgement must prevail over speed. The Challenge Referee will then transmit what has been revealed by the examination of the action being challenged directly via the Referee Communication device (headset) to the 1st Referee. As soon as the image of the Challenge is shown in the arena screen, the 1st Referee will announce the final decision and indicate the team winning the point and thus will be serving next.
10. After the result of the Challenge has been transmitted, the match continues, with the score adjusted as necessary.
11. Consequences of successful / unsuccessful Challenges:
 - a. A second unsuccessful Challenge by a team in a set will result in the requesting team being unable to request more Challenges for the remainder of that set.
 - b. This will be indicated to the coach by the 2nd Referee, or 3rd Referee if applicable, (also shows in the ETT) and announced by the announcer or 1st Referee to the public through the PA system.
 - c. In competitions where the tablet technology allows, the number of remaining Challenges by each team will also be part of the information displayed in the venue scoreboards.
12. (a) At the end of any rally, the 1st Referee has the right to request a video review should he/she feel unclear about his/her final decision. The 1st Referee will whistle, make the Challenge signal and will also indicate with both hands that he/she is asking for the video review personally. This action immediately triggers the video review process. The 1st Referee's right to ask for a review is one more way to ensure that the final decision of the awarding of the points to the teams will be fair, will correspond to the effort of the athletes, and will not be impacted by human error. Should the Referee recognise that he/she blew the whistle by mistake, and subsequently shows the replay signal, a video review may be requested by the 1st Referee to confirm to all stakeholders that the replay is the fairest conclusion. Should the 1st Referee not request video verification of the replay, this can also be subject to a team challenge.
(b) Should the 1st Referee complete such a video review, the team losing the point as a result of this process has the right within the same interruption to raise a challenge for a previously suspected fault which went unpunished during the final action which finished the rally.
13. It is important to emphasize that the first fault observed in the sequence of images under review, even if not the specific action being challenged or is not specified in the menu of Challenges, will prevail over any subsequent fault and will form the basis of the 1st Referee's final decision, determining the fair and correct award of the point contested in the rally.
14. Should a team that challenges the final action WIN the rally anyway, the Challenge will automatically be declined (as unnecessary). If the opponent player admits to a contact (e.g. block touch, net fault) after a Challenge has been initiated, the Challenge process will be terminated automatically as being unnecessary, and the challenging team will be awarded the point and next service.
15. Where there is doubt, during the examination of a Challenge request, the Video Challenge team (Challenge Referee and Video Challenge Operator) must use all available TV images to ensure that decisions are made fairly.

16. A Team may request a Challenge only once within the same interruption – i.e. they cannot challenge a second time within the same interruption. However, both teams may request a Challenge within the same interruption.
17. If two teams challenge in the same interruption for actions which happened within a very short time interval - same action-phase - i.e. a completed attack from the attack line is challenged by team A, but team B challenges for a touch on the net by the team A block, which is part of the same action sequence - the whole sequence of that action-phase will be reviewed and the first fault observed, if any, will prevail. A team challenging after the opponent, will have its Challenge accepted (if the Challenge is from the menu of challenges) even though the seven (7) seconds will have elapsed (since the first challenge administration has to be completed before the software allows the new challenge).
18. Even if a team loses the Challenge due to its claimed fault not being the first one observed in a play-action sequence. If the evidence nevertheless demonstrates that the fault occurred, then they will still keep the number of Challenges available. So “Challenge successful” does not automatically mean this team wins the rally.
19. All players must remain on the court for the time needed to assess the video footage. No substitutes / replacement players / liberos or bench personnel may enter the court because the result of the Challenge may have an impact on the need for substitution or replacement.
20. As a general principle, a suspected fault that is NOT CONFIRMED by the video footage, is considered as NOT having occurred and the original Referees' decision remains valid. Where the video evidence is inconclusive, the Referee's decision stands, but the team does not lose its Challenge.
21. In case the Electronic Team Tablet (E.T.T.) fails, the team Head Coach or the Assistant Coach are allowed to make a manual signal and a direct oral request to the Referees.
22. In case there is a general failure in the Challenge System, the 2nd Referee will communicate the teams of the failure, and the match will be officiated normally by the Referees according to the rules of the game (with no Challenge requests). If the Challenge System works again, this will be communicated to the teams, and Challenges will be allowed from that moment on.
23. The result of the Video Challenge Review, as soon as announced by the 1st Referee, is final and non-appealable.
24. Should a team press the buzzer then the Challenge button on the tablet mid-rally, then fail to select from the challenge menu, within the required time limit (7 seconds), the Challenge will automatically fail, the team will lose the rally and the opponents will gain a point.
25. Should a team at the end of the rally press the challenge button but either not choose in time or not choose at all from the Challenge menu, within the time limit (7 seconds), it will lose one of its Challenges.
26. The 1st Referee should be the manager of the whole challenge process and responsible of the last decision. Where there are clear mistakes - e.g. wrong images shown, incorrect interpretation by the Challenge Referee, or new information within the images shown on the giant screen - the 1st Referee should insist on a further review including different angles and image sources.