

## FIVB - VIDEO CHALLENGE SYSTEM REGULATIONS

### VIDEO CHALLENGE SYSTEM REGULATIONS – 2025

**The FIVB is committed to using new technology to assist the Referees in their decision-making in order to increase and preserve the integrity of the game.**

**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” **at the end of the rally**, when they can ask for a review of the Referee’s decision concerning **any action that occurred during the rally, including the service**.

Teams will be given a maximum of two challenges per set. If a team challenges and they are correct, it does not lose the challenge. If the challenge is unsuccessful it loses the challenge. If the challenge is inconclusive, the team retains it.

To expedite the review process, the challenge referee will mark any action that could potentially be challenged by a team at the end of the rally. This “bookmark” will help to locate quickly the specific action during the video review.

3. (a) If an automated ball In/Out Video Challenge System is used, then the Challenge for ball In/Out is no longer available and the decision will be automatically shown as follows:
  - a) 1<sup>st</sup> Referee Tablet – sends all in/out decisions within 1.5m from the court lines.
  - b) Giant Screen – sends in/out decisions within 20cm from the line.
  - c) TV – offers in/out decisions <7cm from the line.

(b) if an automated ball In/Out Video Challenge System is not used, then a Challenge may be requested for the following situations:

A Challenge, in this case, may be requested for one of the following situations:

- a) **Ball In/Out** – for side and end lines
  1. Ball In, or
  2. Ball Out
- b) **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 (rebounds from the net band); or a double hit by the same player);
    1. Block Touch, or
    2. No Touch
- c) **Net FAULT** – contact with the net between the antennae by the player during the action of playing the ball
  1. Net Fault, or
  2. No Net Fault

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- d) **Antenna Touch** – contact with the antenna by the player or by the ball
    - 1. Antenna Touch, or
    - 2. No Antenna Touch
  - e) **Foot Fault** – a) contact of the server's foot 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
  - f) **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.
    - 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)
  - h) **Reaching beyond the net** – THE FOLLOWING APPLIES ONLY WHERE THE REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY IS UP AND RUNNING: to determine if a player contacts the ball beyond the plane of the net in the opponent's space, when: setting, blocking by interfering with the opponent's play before the attack hit, or by initiating an attack hit.
    - 1. Faulty Contact beyond the net, or
    - 2. No Faulty contact beyond the net
- 4. Challenges must be requested only through the pre-programmed ETT. Teams have seven (7) seconds after the rally is over to challenge any action which occurred during the rally, including service.
  - 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 challenge 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, at first, there will be a single "CHALLENGE" button to press on the tablet. Pressing it will request a Challenge and trigger the Challenge horn. 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 its suspected fault. The two-step procedure is designed to help coaches to press the correct button when they indicate the suspected fault being challenged. In case of delay, the Referee may apply a "delay warning".

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9. When a team calls a Challenge, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Referee, or 3<sup>rd</sup> Referee if applicable, must clarify the nature of the request as well as specify the moment in the rally when the suspected fault took place — for example, explanations like "net touch during the second attack," "centerline fault following the first pipe," or "block touch in zone 2, not on the final attack," with the respective coach. Then the 1<sup>st</sup> Referee will immediately make the signal accepting the challenge, and 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 1<sup>st</sup> Referee. As soon as the image of the Challenge is shown in the arena screen, the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Referee, or 3<sup>rd</sup> Referee if applicable, (also shows in the ETT) and announced by the announcer or 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Referee has the right to request a video review should they feel unclear about their final decision. The 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Referee to confirm to all stakeholders that the replay is the fairest conclusion. Should the 1<sup>st</sup> Referee not request video verification of the replay, this can also be subject to a team challenge.

(b) Should the 1<sup>st</sup> Referee complete such a video review, the team losing the point because of this process has the right within the same interruption to raise a challenge for a previously suspected fault which went undetected during the rally.

(c) If a rally is interrupted by the Referee's whistle calling a fault, a video challenge review can be requested by either team only if the interruption prevented a team from having a genuine opportunity to play the ball and continue the rally. If the Referee's whistle did not influence the natural outcome of the rally, the play is considered to have ended the moment the ball became out of play. In such cases, the rally will not be replayed, and no challenge request will be accepted.
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 1<sup>st</sup> Referee's final decision, determining the fair and correct award of the point contested in the rally.
14. Should a team that challenges 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, the challenging team will be awarded the point and next service, and the Challenge will be retained.

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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. In this context, the Referees will check not only the video footage available from the challenge system **but also any additional TV footage that can confirm whether a fault occurred**.
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 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 Referee’s 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Referee will communicate to the teams about 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 1<sup>st</sup> Referee, is final and non-appealable.
24. 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.
25. The 1<sup>st</sup> Referee should be the manager of the whole challenge process and responsible for the final 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 1<sup>st</sup> Referee should insist on a further review including different angles and image sources.