



The following is an analysis of the FIVB Rules of the Game, inclusive of new or adjusted rule text following the Quadrennial concluding with the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. The 2025 – 28 FIVB rulebook accurately reflects these specific changes.

Additionally, an overview of rules being tested, and the current known status of the test will be provided. For rules that are under test status, it is imperative to understand that the final result of the test may move to an affirmative adaptation and implementation, however the rule text itself would not be developed and introduced into the rule book until approval is received at the next FIVB congress at the conclusion of the quadrennial (i.e. post 2028 LA).

Lastly, the U SPORTS decision regarding inclusion of rule text for the 2025 – 26 season of play.

### **2024 FIVB Congress Approvals**

On June 17, 2024 the FIVB publicly announced the following proposals were approved by the Board of Administration and would be put forward to the full Congress for approval. All proposals were accepted at the 38<sup>th</sup> Congress of the FIVB and subsequently published into the 2025 – 28 FIVB Rulebook.

**PROPOSAL#1** /TO ENHANCE FAIR PLAY and as a safety precaution to update the wording of the Screening Rule:

**Rule 12.5.3 Any player of the serving team is forbidden to raise hands above the head during service, until the ball has passed beyond the net.**

The 1st referee is permitted to caution (advise) a team through the game captain if he/ she suspects that it is deliberately screening.

**PROPOSAL #2** / TO ADD CLARIFIED WORDING to the Crossing Space Rule:

10.1.2 The ball, coming from **the first hit of the team**, that has crossed the net plane to the opponent's free zone totally or partly through the external space, may be played back, within the team hits, provided that:

10.1.2.1 the opponent's court is not touched by the player (except Rule 11.2.2.1)

10.1.2.2 the ball, when played back, crosses the net plane again totally or partly through the external space on the same side of the court- **if not it becomes ball out**. The opponent team may not prevent such action

10.1.2.3 the ball. sent to the opponent's free zone totally or partly through the external space, which has come from the **second or third hit of the team**, cannot be played back and will be judged as ball OUT the moment it crosses the net plane.



**PROPOSAL #3** / TO STRENGTHEN THE DEFENCE and provide for longer rallies to adapt the "Rule of Positions":

#### 7.4 POSITIONS

At the moment the ball is hit by the server, each team must be positioned within its own court (except the server).

**The players of the receiving team must be in the rotational order at the service hit.  
The players of the serving team, however, are free to occupy any position at the service hit.**

7.4.4 After the service hit, the players of both teams may move around and occupy any position on their court and the free zone.

### **U SPORTS Implementations in 2025-26**

With respect to the U SPORTS competition environment for the 2025 – 26 season of play, all three rule texts are to be applied by the referee community as written for the entirety of the season of play, including the U SPORTS National Championships.

Of note, rule 12 was implemented and applied in 2024-25. There was a high emphasis on education and working diligently with the athletes and participating teams throughout the exhibition season to ensure that the regular season and playoffs would occur without controversy.

This approach was well received by all participants and proved to be successful. There should be no confusion or concerns from the participants on this rule.

Of note, rule 10 text was implemented and applied in 2024-25. By stopping the rally at the time of the ball crossing the plane of the net, the unnecessary pursuit of the ball which could not be legally returned to the opposition within the team's full complement of hits stopped. This in turn helped to further reduce the potential for confusion, conflict and injury. There were no noted concerns with the implementation or application of this rule. There should be no confusion or concerns from the participants on this rule.

Of note for Rule 7: As with the other two items, this rule text was also implemented and applied for U SPORTS in 2024-25. Teams across the country adapted and utilized the new rule text to varying degrees, but from a refereeing perspective, there was little to no concerns raised about the implementation.

For 2025 – 26, the referees are to apply the rules as written in the published text of the FIVB Rule book (2025 – 28 edition), unless the regulations specifically state otherwise.



## Rules Currently Classified as “Test”

Rules in a testing status often are misinterpreted as the official language for the competition environment and this can easily lead to a state of confusion, misapplication, or misinterpretation amongst the participants.

## Test for New Interpretation of Double Touch in Internal Passes

### Background

Commencing as far back as 2023, the FIVB has been testing modifications to the language of the double contact rule, thus introducing supporting language of an ‘internal pass’.

During the first two weeks of the 2025 VNL the most recent FIVB test phase occurred with the concept that a double contact on the second contact would no longer be a fault. Coaches, players, referees, referee coaches and technical delegates were surveyed and there was overwhelmingly support the continue of the new interpretation.

As a result, a new interpretation of the double contact rule was approved and extended for all 2025 FIVB Senior and Age group world championships. **This interpretation was for FIVB competitions only**; however, several confederations (if not all), national federations, and several leagues have adopted the interpretation.

### Interpretation:

- **No Fault:** When passing the ball between teammates, using an overhand finger action, consecutive contacts with the ball in the hands are allowed, provided they occur during one action.
- **Fault:** When it is clear to see that the player has contacted the ball twice in a **SUCCESSIVE** way.
  - Definition: **Successive contacts:** The ball slips through the player's hands and hits the head, or visibly makes separate successive contacts, this is a double contact, **FAULT**
- **Fault:** Still considering as faults all attack hits made with a “double contact” judged with the “old” interpretation
  - Definition: Completed attack hits made in this way, will be judged as a “double contact” **FAULT**.
  - Definition of a completed attack hit (FIVB 2025-2028 Rules of the Game): Rule 13.1.3: An attack hit is completed at the moment the ball completely crosses the vertical plane of the net or is touched by an opponent.

### Instructions to Referees:

- Referees still must judge overhand finger action for double contact in case the contact results in a completed attack hit.



## **U SPORTS Implementation for 2025 – 26**

With respect to the U SPORTS competition environment for the 2025 – 26 season of play, the test language pertaining to double contacts **is approved and to be applied** by the referee community as written for the entirety of the season of play, including the U SPORTS National Championships.

### **Testing for New Definition of Position Fault in Receiving Team**

#### **Rule 7.4 (Test Language)**

At the moment the ball is ~~hit~~ tossed by the server, each team must be positioned within its own court (except the server). The players of the receiving team must be in the rotational order at the ~~service-hit~~ toss.

The players of the serving team, however, are free to occupy any position at the ~~service-hit~~ toss.

#### **Rule 7.4.4 (Test Language)**

After the ~~service-hit~~ toss, the players of both teams may move around and occupy any position on their court and the free zone.

### **Current Status of the Test**

This Rule test is ongoing with the initial testing period concluding following the 2025 Men's World Championships. As it is an active test, there is no official direction or decision by the FIVB to adopt the language beyond the 2025 World Championship competition calendar. However, it is fully expected that the rule test will be formally assessed, and information will come later in the calendar year regarding its status and results.

## **U SPORTS Implementation**

With respect to the U SPORTS competition environment for the 2025 – 26 season of play, the test language pertaining to positions of the receiving team **is not approved.** The entirety of the season of play, including the U SPORTS National Championships will reflect the language of rule 7.4 / 7.4.4 as written in the 2025-28 FIVB rulebook.