

# Official USAPA Rule Changes

April 1, 2009

## Differences between the 4/1/09 edition of the USAPA Rule Book and the first printed edition 5/1/08.

The definition of the non-volley zone in 2.B.4 was changed to the same wording as rule 9.A to clarify that the non-volley line is within the zone.

The height of the net post was removed from 2.C.7 because it conflicted with 2.C.4 which specifies the height of the net at the sidelines.

The words in ***bold italics*** were added to the definition of technical foul in 3.X.

Technical Foul – The referee is empowered to add one point to a player's score or a team's score when ***the opponent violates one of the rules calling for a technical foul or***, in the referee's judgment, exhibits other actions that are considered unsportsmanlike behavior.

The words in ***bold italics*** were added to 7.F for clarification purposes. There is no intended change in meaning.

7.F. The ball in play strikes a player or anything the player is wearing or carrying. There is one exception to this rule: if the ball strikes the player's paddle hand below the wrist, the ball is still in play. If the ball strikes a player standing out of bounds ***before a fault has occurred***, that player loses the rally. In doubles, if the serve strikes the receiver's partner, it is a point for the serving team, providing it is not a let serve ***or a fault serve***. This rule also includes balls that appear to be hit out of bounds: during play, if you catch the ball or try to stop it from heading out of bounds, you lose the rally.

The second sentence was added to 9.C. The purpose of the rule change is to state that if a volleying player is about to fall into the zone, the player's partner may not help to keep the volleying player from touching the zone if the partner is also touching the zone.

A fault will be declared if, in the act of volleying the ball, the player's momentum causes the player or anything the player is wearing or carrying to touch the non-volley zone or touch any non-volley line. ***It is a fault if the player's momentum causes the player to touch anything that is touching the non-volley zone including the player's partner.*** It is a fault even if the ball is declared dead before the player touches the non-volley zone.

A comment was added to the end of section 10. This comment was approved and published on the website 12/10/08.

***USAPA Comment. The proper sequence for calling the score is server score, receiver score, then server 1 or server 2.***

A comment was added to 11.B. This comment was approved and published on the website 10/2/08.

***USAPA Comment. A player may take only 1 injury time-out per match. That time-out must be continuous and may be up to 15 minutes.***

Rule 14.D.3 was revised to eliminate the word scorekeeper and everything else in parentheses

14.D.3. Check to ensure that planned support is available (~~*i.e., lines people, scorekeeper, etc.*~~).

Rule 14.H.2 was changed to show that it is the tournament director, not the referee, that may impose a forfeit for the indicated infractions.

14.H.2. ~~A referee~~ ***The Tournament Director*** may impose a forfeit for failure to comply with the tournament or host facility's rules while on the premises, or for improper conduct on the premises between matches, or for abuse of hospitality, locker room, or other rules and procedures.

All occurrences of "lines people" were replaced with "***line judges***" and all occurrences of "lines person" were replaced with "***line judge.***"

The revision history was moved to Appendix A.