

Beach Volleyball Rules test in 2014

1) Block contact

- a. Test to be implemented at all FIVB BVB World Tour tournaments in 2014 (this includes Opens, Grand Slams and Grand Slam Final)
- b. Methodology:
 - i. video analyses comparing relevant data from the current picture of the game against data retrieved from the tests. Data to be analyzed separately by gender;
 - ii. on site report including survey to the various parties.
- c. Time frame:
 - i. report on current picture of the game to be completed by mid-April, with technical analyses reports from the rule test to be completed by end of June / mid-July 2014;
 - ii. comparative analyses report to be submitted to a group of FIVB experts to be nominated from the relevant commissions for final recommendations to the Executive followed by eventual submission to the FIVB Congress in August 2014.
- d. Rules to be applied at the test (difference between existing ruling and ruling to be tested)

Existing ruling		Ruling to be tested	
9.1 TEAM HITS	A hit is any contact with the ball by a player in play. Each team is entitled to a maximum of three hits for returning the ball over the net. If more are used, the team commits the fault of "FOUR HITS".	9.1 TEAM HITS	A hit is any contact with the ball by a player in play. 14.4.1 The team is entitled to a maximum of three hits (in addition to blocking), for returning the ball. If more are used, the team commits the fault of "FOUR HITS".
14.4 BLOCK AND TEAM HITS		14.4 BLOCK AND TEAM HITS	
14.4.1 A blocking contact is counted as a team hit. The blocking team will have only two more hits after a blocking contact.		14.4.1 A block contact is not counted as a team hit. Consequently, after a block contact, a team is entitled to three hits to return the ball.	9.1, 14.4.2
14.4.2 The first hit after the block may be executed by any player, including the one who has touched the ball during the block.		14.4.2 The first hit after the block may be executed by any player, including the one who has touched the ball during the block.	14.4.1

2) First hit of the team

- a. Test to be implemented at the U21 and U23 Beach Volleyball World Championships
- b. Methodology:
 - i. video analyses comparing relevant data from the current picture of the game at this specific are group against data retrieved from the tests. Data to be analyzed separately by gender;

ii. on site report including survey to the various parties.

c. Time frame:

i. report on current picture of the game to be completed by September, with analyses reports from the rule test to be completed by end of November 2014;

ii. comparative analyses report to be submitted to the ROG / IRC joint meeting in January 2015.

d. Rules to be applied at the test (difference between existing ruling and ruling to be tested)

Existing ruling		Ruling to be tested	
9.2	CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HIT	9.2	CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HIT
9.2.1	The ball may touch any part of the body.	9.2.1	The ball may touch any part of the body.
9.2.2	The ball must not be caught or thrown. It can rebound in any direction.	9.2.2	The ball must not be caught and/or thrown. It can rebound in any direction.
	Exceptions:		
9.2.2.1	in defensive action of a hard driven ball. In this case, the ball contact can be extended momentarily overhand with the fingers.		
9.2.2.2	if simultaneous contact with the ball over the net by the two opponents leads to an extended contact.		
9.2.3	The ball may touch various parts of the body, provided that the contacts take place simultaneously.	9.2.3	The ball may touch various parts of the body, provided that the contacts take place simultaneously.
	Exceptions:		Exceptions:
9.2.3.1	at blocking, consecutive contacts may be made by one or more players, provided that they occur during one action;	9.2.3.1	at blocking, consecutive contacts may be made by one or more player(s), provided that the contacts occur during one action;
9.2.3.2	at the first hit of the team, unless it is played overhand using fingers (exception Rule 9.2.2.1), the ball may contact various parts of the body consecutively, provided that the contacts occur during one action.	9.2.3.2	at the first hit of the team, the ball may contact various parts of the body consecutively, provided that the contacts occur during one action.

Note: The first hit includes :

- Reception of service
- Contact from an opponent's attack hit
- Contact after an opponent's block
- Contact after own block