

# Volleyball BC: Youth Beach Volleyball Rules

## • **ADVICE FOR ATHLETE REFEREES**

- **Make calls as you see them and be loud and decisive in order to stop play.** (PRO TIP: If you wince or if you think to yourself that the contact is bad or a fault, stop play and make the call. It probably is.)
- Be consistent in applying the rules. Call the faults that you see. Do unto others as you would want done for you... (If you would want it called in a game you were playing, you should be calling it.)
- Remember that the referee has a limited influence on the outcome of the match. The athletes playing will make more mistakes than the referee and each call is only worth 1 point. Be confident and you will have success.
- When you are refereeing you must be standing, at the post of your court.
- Be at the court at least 15 minutes prior to the match time (if possible). Start the warmup and match on time.
- Do not allow yourself to be influenced by others. Only each team captain may approach the referee to discuss the match.
- **Seek out a referee supervisor if clarification on rules is needed or to answer ANY question you might have!**

## • **PASSING (1st Contact)**

- **BEACH SERVE RECEIVE RULE (15U and below):** In sets 1 and 2 of a match, up until the technical timeout, the last player to serve for their team (at the moment of service hit by the opposing team) must be positioned closer to the right sideline than their teammate. These court positions must be maintained (for service reception) until the team regains the right to serve.
- **BEACH FIRST CONTACT RULE (15U and below):** Receiving serve or first contact with an overhand motion using the fingers (volleying/setting) is not permitted, regardless of the quality of the contact. The first referee will use the "double contact" signal to indicate this infraction.  
Exception: Hard driven ball.

## • **SETTING:**

- During the action of setting, the ball must be played with one quick motion. The ball may not visibly come to rest in the player's hands.
- A double contact is not necessarily indicated by the spin of the ball, but by the fact that a clear fault (the time difference between the two hands contacting the ball) has occurred.
- **BEACH HAND SETTING RULE (15U and below):** On a team's second hit, contacting the ball more than once with fingers (double contact) in a single attempt to play the ball is not a fault if the ball is next legally contacted by a teammate.
  - *This rule does not apply to attacking. It applies when the set is completed to a teammate.*

## • **ATTACKING** (All actions that send the ball to the opponent, except for serving or blocking, are attacks)

- Using an open-handed finger action to attack ('tip') is a fault.
- Using finger tips that are rigid and together to attack ('poke') is allowed.
- Using an overhand finger pass ('volley') to attack is a fault, unless the trajectory of the ball is perpendicular to the line of the player's shoulders ('square').
  - *The exception is when the player is attempting to set to his or her teammate.*

## • **BLOCKING**

- A block contact counts as a team contact.
- After touching the ball on a block, the same player may execute the next contact after the block

## • **PLAYER AT THE NET**

- Contacting the antenna or net between the antennas during the action of playing a ball is a fault.
- The ball or gust of wind pushing the net into a player is not a fault.
- Athletes may cross under the net if they do not interfere with the opponent's play.

## • **COACHING & PARENT FEEDBACK (12U-18U only)**

- Coaching may only occur during time outs and set intervals. Only athletes may call time outs.
- Parents and coaches can cheer for good plays but no external assistance is allowed during play.
- Coaches (including parents wishing to coach) must have a VBC Outdoor Coach badge to coach during Volleyball BC events. Requirements are listed in the [Volleyball BC 2026 Outdoor Handbook](#).

## • **TIME OUTS & SWITCHING SIDES**

- The 1st & 2nd sets have a 60 second technical time out when the teams' combined scores add to 21.
- Each team is also allowed to take one discretionary 60 second time-out per set.
- Teams switch sides of the court at the following times:
  - Sets to 21 or 25 points = when the combined score adds to a multiple of 7.
  - Sets to 15 points = when the combined score adds to a multiple of 5.