

Referees,

Now that we're in the heart of the season, I wanted to drop a few reminders about ball handling judgment since that's our "bread & butter" as referees. :)

First, some of you may have heard about the NCAA women's experimental rule this spring -- basically, a double hit won't be called on the second contact if the ball is set/directed to a teammate. That's for NCAA ONLY, it's an experimental rule, and it's just for this spring (NOT the fall season). Don't bring it into the USAV mix!

So here a few reminders, which I'll also post on our MEMOS page on the website (in the OFFICIALS drop-down menu):

- 1 - Review the USAV Ball Handling Guidelines on page 14 of the rulebook.
- 2 - Review Rules 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 about playing the ball.
- 3 - It's NOT "anything goes." We must call egregious ball handling faults -- in other words, at a minimum, we gotta get the bad ones. ;)
- 4 - With "gray area" calls -- those that some of us call, while others may not -- it might be better to NOT call those in favor of allowing play to continue. So if you really have to decide, "Should I, or shouldn't I?", it's probably better to NOT call it.
- 5 - Give leniency when there's an exceptional effort by a player. Egregious faults still need to be called, but if the player is hustling to save a ball and the resulting contact isn't perfect, you can reward the effort by not whistling, within reason.
- 6 - Open-handed hits from under the ball are LEGAL unless the ball is caught/thrown (think: flipping the ball upward with an underhand wrist snap). It may look funky, but if the ball rebounds quickly, it's probably ok.
- 7 - Watch other referees to see whether your decisions are consistent with what experienced refs are/aren't calling. Talk with each other about calls/no calls.

Hope these quick notes help keep us on track as a cadre!

Thanks,

Brian