



WORKSHOP *for* FIPAV

Rome, 11-13 October 2013

Steve Walton

When I play sitting
volleyball,
I feel like a fish *in* water.

Sitting volleyball characteristics

- Athletes with disabilities
- Smaller court and lower net
- Quicker play
- A few—but important—‘special’ rules
- Communication and cooperation between referees is very important

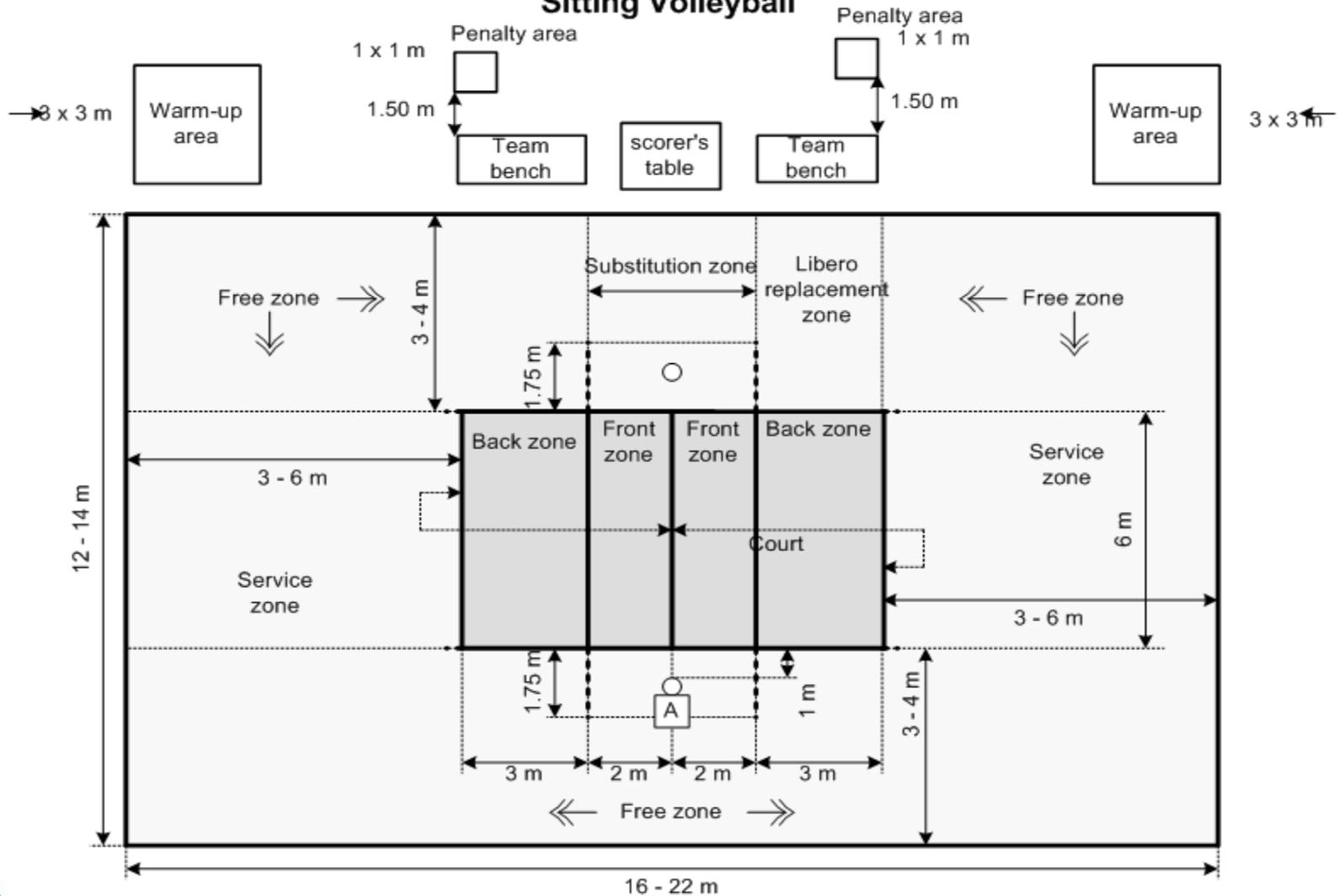
Basic rules

- FIVB rules apply in principle
- some changes for athletes with disabilities
- eligible for official international competitions
 - athletes with a ‘minimum disability’ defined in medical classification are eligible to play

in national competitions

- anyone can play!

THE PLAYING AREA Sitting Volleyball



The net and posts

- Net height *rule 2.1.1*
 - 1.15 metres for men
 - 1.05 metres for women
 - may be up to 2 cm higher at the side line
- Net *rule 2.2*
 - 6.50–7.00 metres long
 - 80 centimetres wide
 - antennae are 1.60 m long *rule 2.4*

Team composition

- team: a maximum of 12 players...
 - ...at international level, including a maximum of *two* 'minimal disability' players
rule 4.1.1
- on court: 6 players...
 - ...at international level, including a maximum of *one* 'minimal disability' player
rule 7.3.1
 - ...this *includes* the libero

Players' equipment

- players may wear long pants (trousers)
rule 4.3
 - the whole team should wear the same style
- players may *not* sit on 'thick' material or wear 'extra thick' shorts or pants *rule 4.3*
- bandages may be worn, but anything dangerous is not permitted *rule 4.5.1*

Players' positions

- The positions of players are determined and controlled according to the position of their *buttocks* contacting the ground.

rule 7.4.3

Players' positions

- Hand(s) and leg(s) of players may lie...
 - ...in the free zone at service
 - ...in the opponents' court *rules 11.2.2*
 - ...providing there is no interference with opponents
 - ...in the attack zone for a back row player when completing an attack when the ball is fully above net height *rule 13.2.2.1*
 - ...outside the service zone for the server, including on court *rule 12.4.3*

At the moment of the service hit

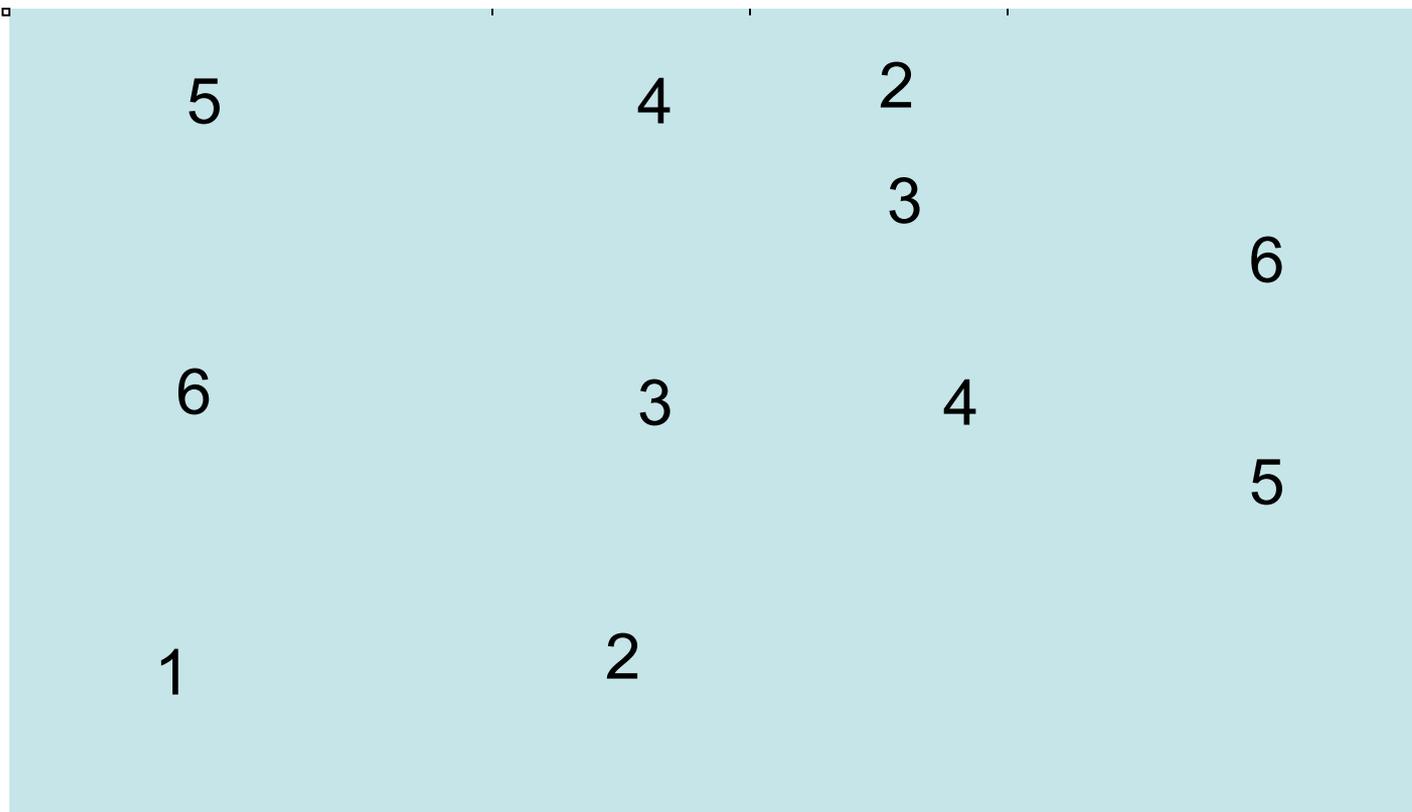
- Each front row player must have at least part of his/her **buttocks** closer to the centre line than the **buttocks** of the corresponding back row player *rule*

7.4.3.1

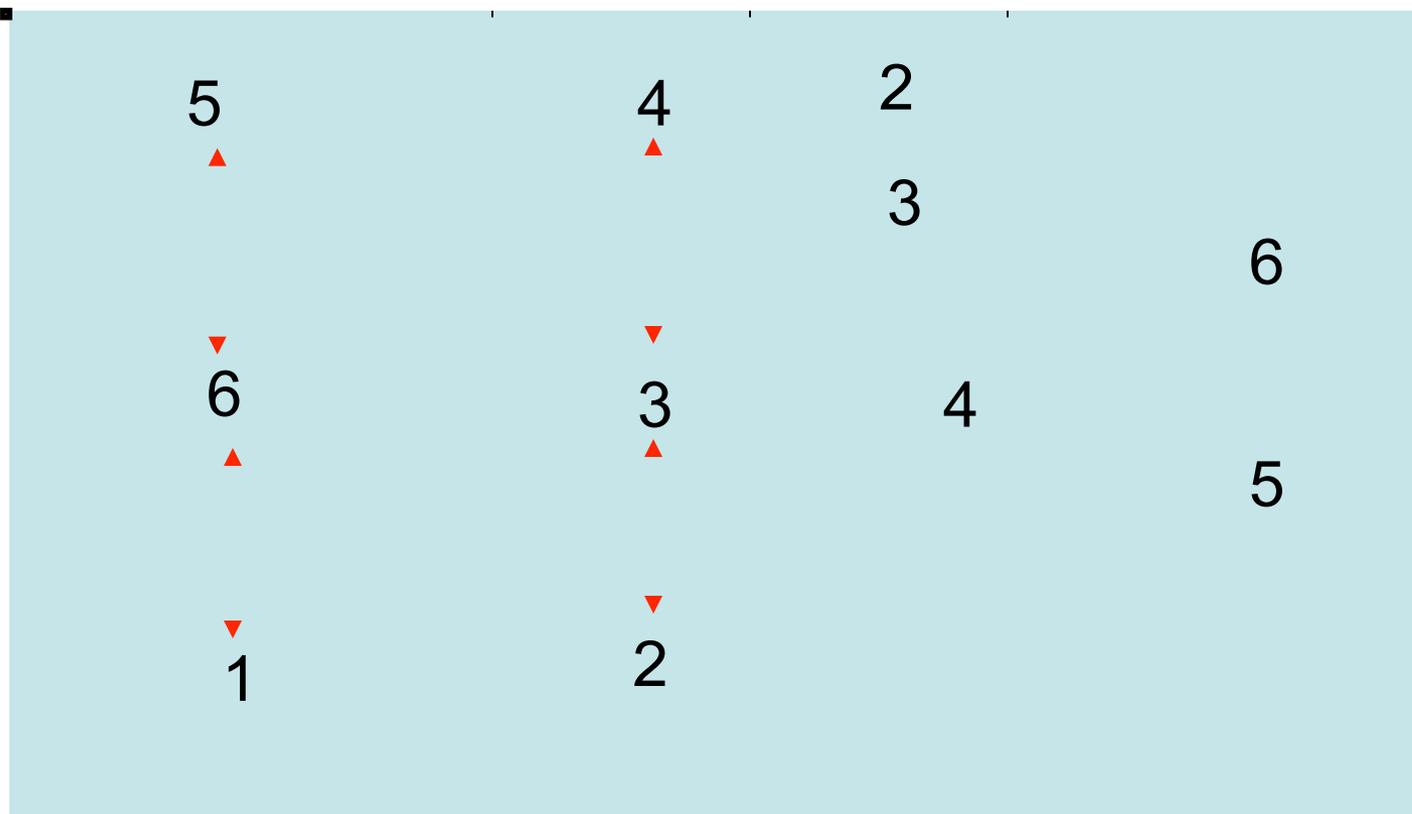
- Each right (left) side player must have at least part of his/her **buttocks** closer to the right (left) side line than the **buttocks** of the centre player in that row *rule*

7.4.3.2

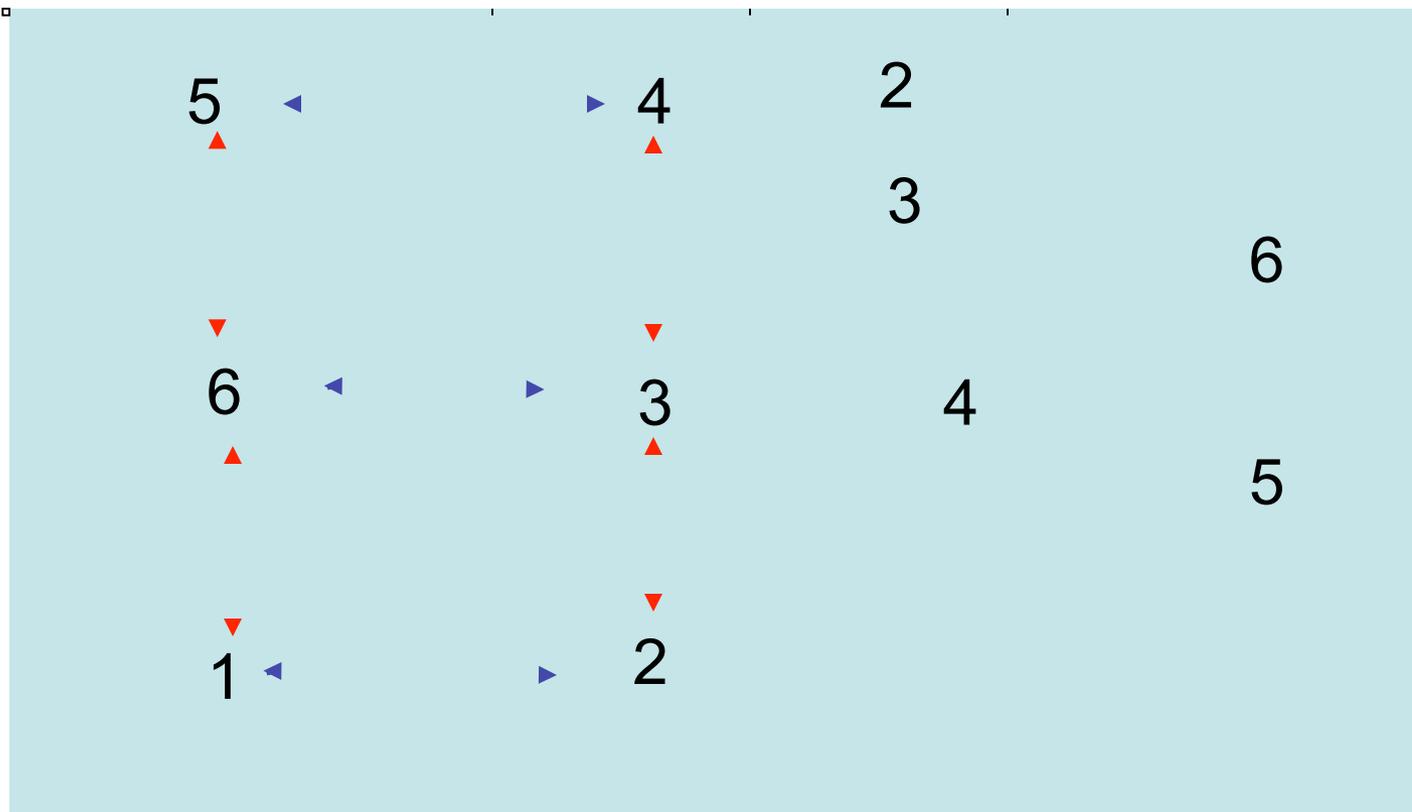
Players' positions at service



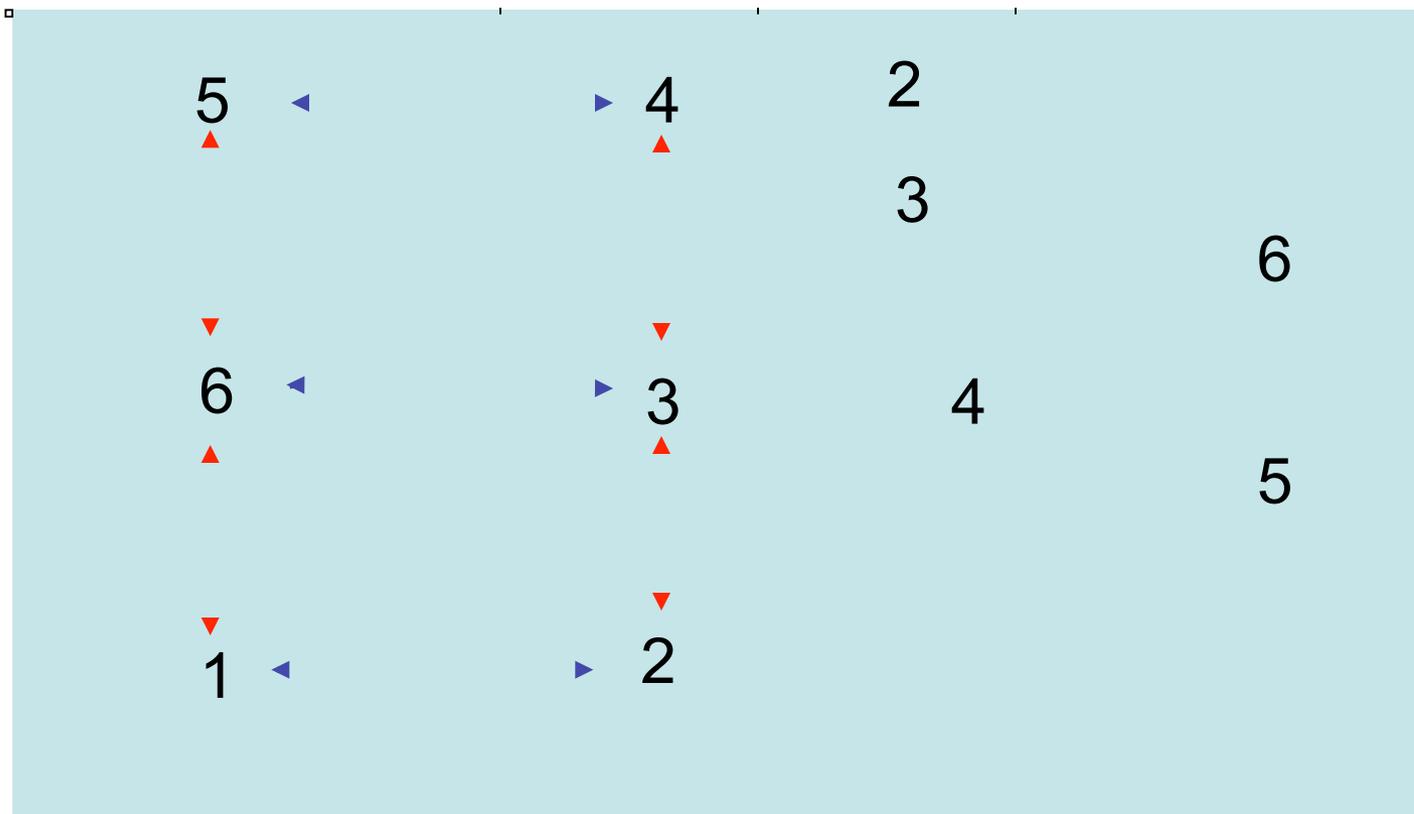
Players' positions at service



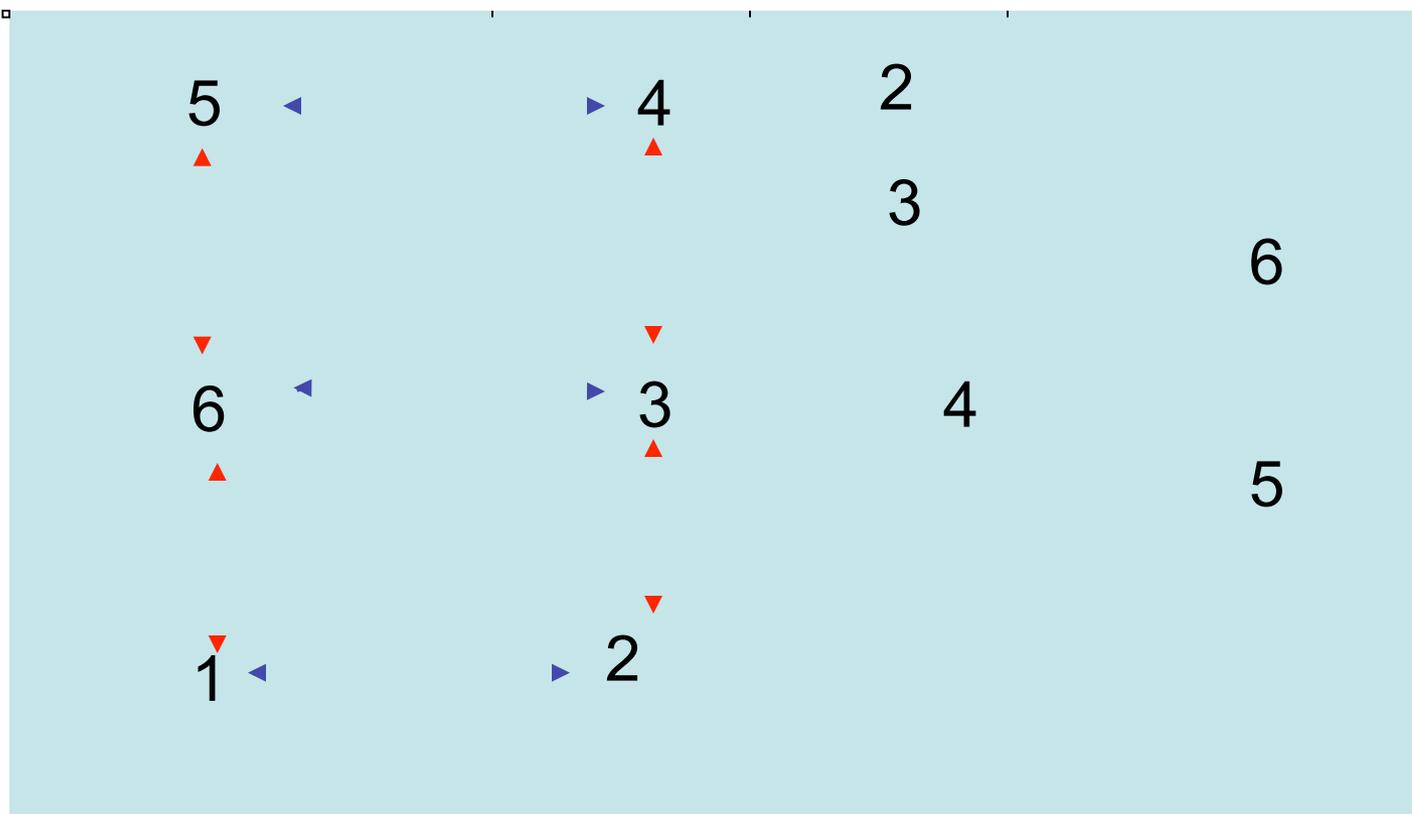
Players' positions at service



Players' positions at service



Players' positions at service



Contact with the court *rule 9.4*

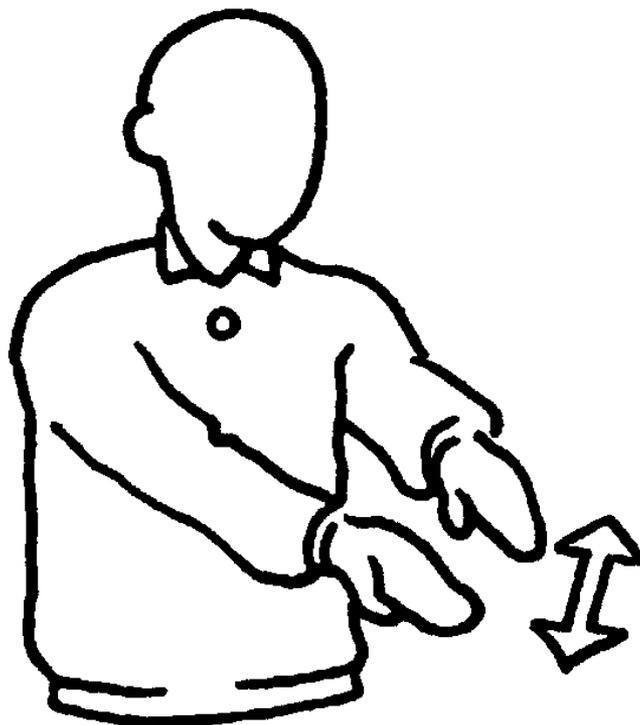
- At all times during playing actions the players must contact the court with some part of the body *between the buttocks and the shoulders rule 9.4.1*
- However, a *short* loss of contact with the court is permitted when playing the ball, unless it is
 - a service hit
 - a block
 - or an attack hit when the ball is completely higher than the top of the net

Contact with the court *rule*

9.4

- To stand up, raise the body or take steps is forbidden. *rule 9.4.2*
- **Both referees** may whistle for lifting
 - R2 focuses on blockers
 - R1 focuses on attackers

'Lifting' signal



Penetration under the net

- It is permitted to contact the opponents' court with any part of the body *providing that the player does not interfere with the opponents' play* rule 11.2.2

Contact with the net

- contact with the net is not a fault *unless it interferes with the play* rule 11.3.1
- contact with the top band when in the action of playing the ball is a *fault*
- in sitting volleyball (especially for women) be careful of knees, feet and stumps hitting the lower part of the net —this is *not* a fault unless it interferes

Service

- the server's buttocks must be in the service area when the ball is hit *rule 12.4.3*
- the server's hand(s), foot (feet), leg(s) may touch...
 - ...the court
 - ...or the free zone outside the service area
- no lifting of the buttocks *at all* is allowed at the service *rules 12.6.1.3, 9.4.1*

Attack hit

- *all actions* which direct the ball towards the opponents, with the exception of service and block, are considered as attack hits *rule 13.1.1*
- it is *legal* to attack the service (*there is no rule 13.2.4!*)
 - the contact must be on the *attacker's side* of the net *rule 13.3.1*

Attack hit restrictions

- a player cannot lift the buttocks from the floor *at all* when carrying out an attack hit *rules 13.3.4, 9.4.1*
- a back-row player may complete an attack hit at any height *behind the front zone* *rule 13.2.2*
- at the moment of a back-row player's attack hit when the ball is *fully above net height*, the player's *buttocks* must not touch or cross over the attack line *rule 13.2.2.1*
- a back-row player may complete an attack hit from the front zone providing that the ball is *not fully above net height* at the moment of the hit *rule 13.2.3*

Block

- To block an opponent's serve is *permitted*
rule 14.5
- When completing a block, players are not allowed to lift their buttocks from the floor *at all* *rules 14.6.3, 9.4.1*
- This includes a *collective block* (two or three players), even if the player lifting does not contact the ball *rule 14.6.3*

Double fault at the net

- If simultaneous hits by opponents at the net lead to a 'catch', it is a *double fault* and the rally is replayed *rule 9.1.2.3*
- However, a short 'catch' is permitted *when the extended contact does not interrupt the continuity of the play rule 9.1.2.3*
 - Referees: do not whistle too quickly
 - wait for a *brief* time to see if the play continues

The substitution process

- The request for substitution is *the entrance of the substitute player(s) into the substitution zone*, ready to play, during an interruption *rule 15.10.3a*
- Remember that many of the players do not have feet!

Contact details

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