

NCAA Tips for Volleyball Statistics

Review the stats manual and watch instructional videos online at:
<http://www.ncaa.org/championships/statistics/ncaa-statisticians-manual-and-resources>

Some general reminders to review before heading into the volleyball season:

ACE

- An ace should come when a served ball is mishandled. Not when the serve reception is good but the setter doesn't get off a good set. Second hit errors on the receiving team do not count as aces for the team that served, unless the serve reception was unplayable and the second attempt was merely a desperation attempt.
- For every ace, the opponent **MUST** have a reception error. Only **ONE** error per ace.

ASSIST

- In order to receive a setting assist, the ball must go down for the kill. You can never have more assists than kills.
- Rarely do the total assists equal the total kills, since kills are registered on balls that are put back down on the opponent's side from overpasses, etc.
- In order to receive a setting assist, the ball must have been attacked, not blocked.

ATTACK

- An attack is awarded off a tipped ball -- it doesn't have to be a hard-hit attack in order to count. Attack is the term used for the strategic hit, not the power used on the play. Any ball played over the net in an attempt to score a point should be considered an attack.
- Desperation hits or those simply to keep the ball alive count as free balls and no attack is awarded and no dig is given to the opponent.
- When a player hits into a block, they are charged with an attack error and the player who went up for the block receives a block solo (if alone on the play) or block assist (if he/she went up with another player, regardless of whether one or both players touched the ball on the block).

BLOCK

- A block is never awarded unless play stops and a point is awarded. A block is **NOT** awarded on a touch!
- A blocking attempt in which a player blocks the ball out of bounds, does **NOT** result in a blocking error – that action counts as a kill for the opponent.
- A blocking error is a call made by an official that ends play. Check out the stats manual for the list of situations that constitute a blocking error. (Note: A kill is awarded to the attacking team when a blocking error is charged to the defending team.)
- A solo block is awarded if one player went up for the block.
- Block assists are awarded if two or more players go up for the block, even if only one makes contact with the ball.
- Blocks can **NEVER** total more than the opponent's hitting errors.

DIG

- A dig is never awarded when a team brings up a ball that remains on their side of the net via a blocking action (commonly called a cover or continue in Stat Crew, or a "putback") – only on an attacked ball.
- A dig can result from bringing up a tipped ball, not just a hard-hit attack.
- A serve reception does not count as a dig.
- In the situation where a player digs the ball and the next player kills the ball, award the player who dug the ball the dig and the assist.
- Team A's digs **CANNOT** total more than the opponent's total attacks minus their kills and errors. Those are the **ONLY** balls that can be dug.

KILL –

- A kill is awarded on an attack that goes down for a point.

STATS TIPS

- If you only have one person to do your team's stats, have them sit next to the person doing the opposing team's stats – frequent checks are then possible to make sure that an attack is awarded a dig, an ace is awarded a reception error, etc. Sitting on your team bench may be more familiar, but the purpose in being there to stat the match is to do the job correctly. The box score **must** balance at the end of the match, and it's a lot harder to go back afterward and try to make corrections.
- One team's blocks will also be reflected in the opponent's hitting errors – typically fewer since attack errors are also balls that are hit out of bounds, into the net, etc.;
- Aces must equal the opponent's serve reception errors;
- Don't give two players a reception error on the same serve. It must go to one person or the team;
- Digs cannot be more than the total attacks that did not go down for kills or errors.
- Generally speaking, if your team ranks among the nation's leaders in categories that count for points, you should have a team that is over .500 – as you are one of the elite teams with such high numbers.
- Rarely do teams rank among the leaders in both blocks and digs. Either the team is blocking the ball down at the net for a point (and is awarded a block) or the team is digging up an attacked ball (for a dig).
- Be aware that often coaches count many more blocks for their player performance purposes than are actual statistical blocks. A block **MUST** be off an attacked ball and **MUST** go down for a point. Using bench stats is very often not an accurate way to maintain volleyball stats.
- To do a rough addition of how the box score will balance out, if Team A def. Team B 25-21, 25-23, 25-20. Team A has 75 points, so you'd add up Team A's kills, service aces, Team B's attack errors, service errors and ball handling errors and the numbers should be very close. Team B finished with 64 points, and you'd add up their kills, service aces and to that total add in Team A's attack errors, service errors and ball handling errors. There are often a few points that don't go down on the box score – bad sets, miscommunication errors in which a player is not awarded an attack error when no one is there to hit the set, etc. but you **CANNOT** end up with more statistical points than a team finishes with on the scoring.

If you have a statistical scoring question about volleyball or a suggestion on how we can further clarify anything in this document, please contact Jenn Rodgers (jroddgers@ncaa.org) or Bonnie Johnson (bjohnson@ncaa.org).

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Single-Game Volleyball Reporting FAQs

Can I submit a XML that only includes the stats for my team?

No. For games against NCAA opponents, a FULL box score must be submitted. XMLs with only half of the stats will NOT be accepted into the NCAA stats system when two NCAA teams are involved. For games against non-NCAA opponents, we prefer a full box score but ask that you provide the opponent's complete team totals at the very least.

My team is hosting a tournament but we will not be able to provide live stats for every match. What should I do?

As stated in the "NCAA Statistics Compilation Guidelines" below, it is the responsibility of the host sports information office to alert the visiting institution(s) in advance of the contest(s) to allow those institutions to make appropriate arrangements if full statistical coverage is not provided.

My team is playing in a tournament and the host has let us know that live stats are not being kept. Our school cannot afford to send an SID. What should I do?

Our preference is that live in-game stats be kept...however, we are realistic that this won't happen all the time. Here are several options for consideration:

- Touch base with the other teams involved to find out if they will be sending an SID that could provide stats for your team's matches.
- Check with area SIDs to see if there are available statisticians or student workers for hire. Consider combining with another tournament team(s) to share the costs.
- Inform your coaching staff if no statistician is available to see if a knowledgeable player or other team personnel can keep track of the stats. If both teams keep stats for themselves, one team will need to obtain copies of the other team's stats in order to create a full, reasonably balanced box score and submit the XML. For matches between two NCAA teams, XMLs with only half of the stats will NOT be accepted into the NCAA stats system.
- Ask that someone film the match in case of discrepancies in bench-kept stats.
- Inform your AD that accurate statistics are expected from the matches, and if traveling a SID or student worker is not funded, it adversely impacts your ability to meet the needs of that sport.

If you feel that none of these options are viable for your team, please contact Jenn (jroddgers@ncaa.org or 317-917-6109) for further suggestions.

My coach doesn't agree with the stats that the host team kept. Can I change them?

No, stats cannot be changed without the consent of the host team. Please refer to the "Changing Official Statistics" policy below for a full explanation.

Highlights from the NCAA Statistics Policies

To see the full list of policies, please go to: <http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/stats/ForSIDs/Policies.pdf>

NCAA STATISTICS COMPILATION GUIDELINES

All statistics reported to the NCAA should be compiled by the host institution press box/row statistics staff during the contest. Any exceptions to these guidelines must clearly be documented with rationale provided, explaining why in-contest statistics were not available. Numbers compiled by a coaching staff or other university/college personnel using game film after the fact will not be considered "official" NCAA statistics.

This does not preclude a conference or institution from making after-the-contest changes to press box/row numbers. This is consistent with existing NCAA statistics policies involving corrections to any statistics after a contest. Any changes to press box/row numbers must be obvious errors such as misidentified players and this should not be interpreted as a way for press box/row statistics to later be "updated" by coaching films.

Judgment calls made by the official statistician are NOT subject to change once the contest statistics have been ruled final unless a sport's official rules of the game specify different deadlines (e.g., 24 hours for baseball or softball).

Home statisticians are encouraged to consult with the visiting SID or coaching staff if a particular scoring play or statistical interpretation can better be clarified by understanding the team's intent or philosophy. Ideally, this will allow for any subsequent change in the statistics to be made prior to the team's departure from the facilities.

As a general rule, however, all other statistical changes (e.g., participation) should be made no later than one week after the contest was played.

Host sports information directors should attempt to obtain adequate statistical staffing to provide all competing institution(s) with complete, full game statistics for every contest, understanding that some institutions may have limited resources and/or finances. If full statistical coverage is not possible, it is the responsibility of the host sports information office to alert the visiting institution(s) in advance of the contest(s) to allow those institutions to make appropriate arrangements.

Statisticians are reminded that NCAA policy does not permit changes to away-game statistics unless approved by the host sports information director. Conference offices also should monitor any statistical changes, especially involving non-conference road contests, to ensure that all have been sanctioned by the home statistician.

It is important to note that this policy applies ONLY to official NCAA statistics and national rankings and does not mean a coaching staff or other personnel cannot compile separate statistics for institutional use. Those compilations also could appear in the institution's press releases and/or on its web site as long as they are not identified as official statistics used by the NCAA.

The NCAA statistics staff reserves the right to review any statistics provided to the national office and may withhold publishing/posting those numbers until their accuracy can be substantiated.

NOTE: These guidelines have been approved and endorsed by the NCAA Statistics and Records Advisory Board, as well as the NCAA statistics staff.

Changing Official Statistics

When an error or discrepancy in the official statistics is discovered after a contest has concluded and the official statistics have been distributed, use the following procedure.

If the sports information director of the home team discovers the error, that SID must alert the visiting team SID of the change within one week. The home SID also must confirm the changes with the visiting SID in writing within 10 days. If applicable, the home SID also must send a copy of the changes to the conference office.

If the visiting SID needs to make a change in the final statistics, he or she must contact the home team's SID within one week after the event. If the home team SID agrees, then the home team SID must confirm the changes to the visiting SID in writing and send a copy to the conference office, if applicable.

If the home team SID disagrees with the change, then the visiting SID must accept the final statistics as listed by the home team. The visiting team SID cannot alter any statistics without the consent of the home team SID. There is no further appeal. However, if the game was televised and/or videotaped, and the dispute involves a non-judgment call, the box score should be corrected if there is indisputable visual evidence. Example: If an official scorer in basketball credited the wrong player with a free throw made and the videotape clearly shows a different player shooting, then the correct player should be credited with the free throw made and attempted. If the dispute is whether there was an assist on a certain play, this is a judgment call and the official box score should stand as is. Another example: In soccer, if a player was given credit for a goal scored but videotape shows clear visual evidence that another player actually scored the goal, then the official box score should be changed to reflect the correction.

In all cases in all sports, if a change is to be made, the SID making the change must inform the other SID within one week after the event or game has been played. In baseball or softball, the official scorer has just 24 hours to make a change on

a judgment call (e.g., hit or error). If the change in baseball or softball is for something other than an official scorer's judgment, then the SID must follow the above procedures and do so within one week.

In Division I football, an SID should follow this same procedure and also must inform the NCAA statistics service of the change by phone or e-mail once both SIDs agree to the change.

"No Contest" Declaration

There is no forfeit of a contest until all participating teams are present and the referee or other appropriate contest official has assumed jurisdiction in accordance with the applicable playing rules. When a team does not appear (e.g., due to weather conditions, accidents, breakdown of vehicles, illness or catastrophic circumstances, shortage of players), a forfeit is not recorded unless the rules of the sport provide that option. An institution shall not, for statistical purposes, declare a forfeit for nonfulfillment of a contest. Such instances shall be considered as "no contest." In circumstances involving institutions from the same conference, the league office has the option to declare a forfeit win and loss for conference-standings purposes only but this does not change an institution's overall won-lost record. The "no contest" declaration came into effect at the start of the 1977-78 season.

If a contest in progress was called because of weather conditions, darkness, power-outage, or the like, the game officials could declare a winner and loser (or tie) in accordance with the rules of the game or they could declare a no contest. If a no contest was declared, all statistics are voided.

Also see *Forfeit Scores* and *Length of Contests*.

Substantiation of Statistics

Filing a statistics report does not ensure automatically a member institution's inclusion in the NCAA's national statistics rankings. The report shall be mathematically accurate. Unusual statistics that cannot be promptly supported will not be included in the rankings. The NCAA shall withhold such reports from the ranking until an appropriate official of the member institution involved submits a satisfactory explanation and substantiation of the statistics.