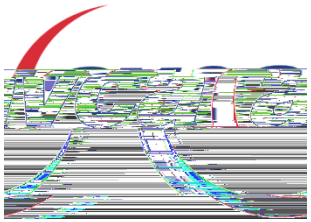
Making Volleyball Statistics Simple

' R Q ¶ W / D It Can Be Done!



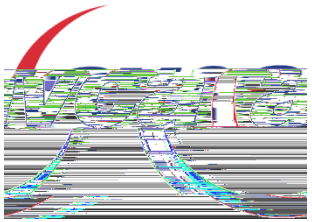
Making Volleyball Statistics Simple

Overview

In the realm of sports, volleyball is considered one of the hardest to keep statistics for. Why is this? Well, it's simple – the game is so fast, it's hard to keep up.

While it's certainly true that volleyball is one of the most upbeat and fast-paced sports in the world, that doesn't mean keeping statistics should be hard.

When keeping volleyball statistics, it's best to observe the following golden rule:

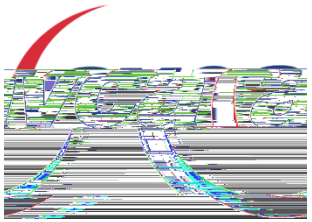


Making Volleyball Statistics Simple

Overview

Take a deep breath and figure out what you just saw!

Follow these simple two rules and everything is downhill from there!



Making Volleyball Statistics Simple

Overview

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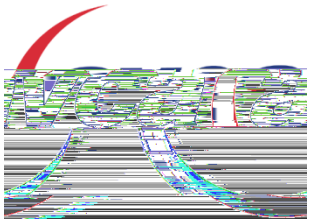
* The Official NCAA detail box score (brief look)

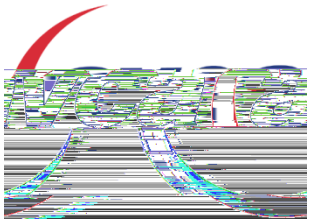
* Six categories of volleyball statistics
    * Attack, Setting, Serving, Passing, Defense, Blocking
        * Definitions, outcomes, stat specifics, pitfalls

* The Automated Scorebook tips

* Questions and answers (hopefully!)



The Official NCAA Detail Box Score



Making Volleyball Statistics Simple

The Official NCAA Detail Box Score

A Brief Look:

* Link:

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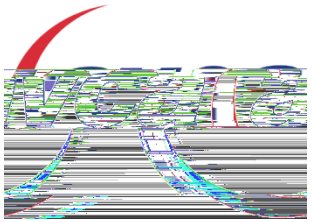
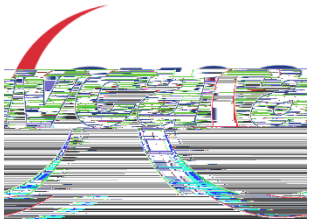
* Six categories of in-game statistics:
    * Attack (kills, errors, total attacks, hitting percentage)
    * Setting (assists, ball handling errors)
    * Serving (service aces, serve attempts)
    * Passing (reception errors, reception attempts)
    * Defense (digs)
    * Blocking (block solos, block assists, blocking errors)
* Misc. statistics
    * Points



Keeping Statistics:

Attacks

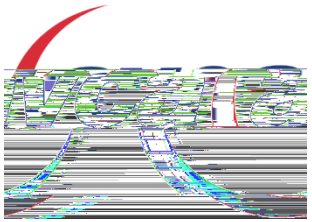


Keeping Statistics: Attacks

Definition: strategic hit by a player with the **intent** of scoring a point

Key point: intent – if the player is not trying to score a point, **THEN THERE IS NO ATTACK** (and, as a result, no dig)

* Three outcomes of an attack:
    * Kill
    * Attack error
    * Ball stays in play (a.k.a. “zero attack”)



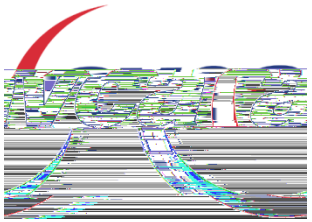
Keeping Statistics: Attacks

What is a kill?

* Answer: an attack that directly leads to a point

What is an attack error?

* Answer: an attack that directly results in a point for the opposing team
* Examples:
    * Ball hit out of bounds
    * Ball hit into the net
    * Ball is blocked and results in a point
    * Four-hit violation
    * Center-line fault
    * Back-row attack
    * Illegal contact
    * Antenna fault
    * 10-foot-line violation

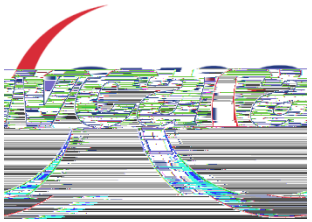


Keeping Statistics: Attacks

What is hitting percentage?

* Answer: (kills – errors)/total attacks: (K-E / TA)
    * Note that if a player has more errors than kills, this will be a negative number
    * Example:

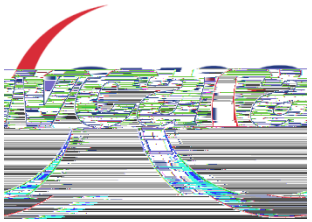
        Sarah Smith has 20 kills, 5 errors and 60 total attacks. Her hitting percentage would be .250 (20-5 = 15; 15/60 = .250)



Keeping Statistics: Attacks

Pitfalls

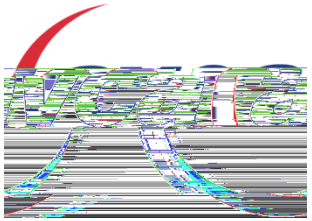
* It is **NOT** an attack if:
    * There is a bad set
    * A player passes ball over the net to keep the ball in play
* Freeballs
    * They're free, **SO DO NOT COUNT THEM AS ANYTHING!**
* Digs to kills
    * If a dig flies over the net and drops for a point, it is a dig **AND** a kill
* Reception attempt to kill
    * Ditto
* Back-row blocks
    * 90-percent of time, it's a setter and it may look like an attack – it is **NOT** – check out the ref's signal
* Kills from overpasses
    * These look like blocks – they're **NOT**. They're kills.



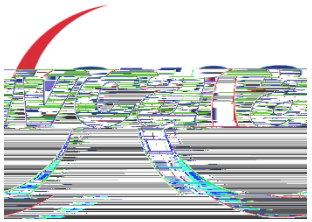
Keeping Statistics: Attacks

You know you've messed up if:

* A team/player has more kills than attacks
* A team/player has more errors than attacks



Keeping Statistics: Setting/Assists



Making Volleyball Statistics Simple

Keeping Statistics: Setting/Assists

What is an assist?

Making Volleyball Statistics Simple

Keeping Statistics: Setting/Assists

Pitfalls

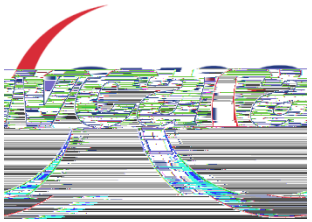
Making Volleyball Statistics Simple

Keeping Statistics: Setting/Assists

You know you've messed up if:

* You have more assists than kills
* You have exactly the same assists as kills (**VERY**

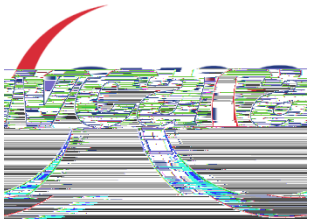
Keeping Statistics: Serving



Keeping Statistics: Serving

Definition: initial hit of a point

* Three outcomes
    * Service ace
    * Service error
    * Zero serve (ball is kept in play)



Keeping Statistics: Serving

What is a service ace?

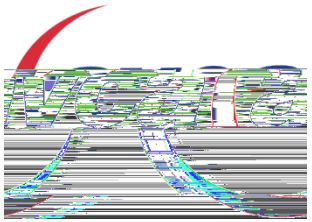
Answer: a serve that meets **ANY** the following conditions:

* Hits the court untouched
* Contact is made, but ball isn't kept in play
* Violation is called on receiving team
* Receiving team is out of rotation

What is a service error?

Answer: a serve that meets **ANY** of the following conditions

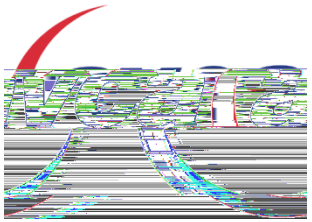
* Ball doesn't go over the net
* Ball goes out of bounds (or hits antenna)
* Server foot faults
* Serving team out of rotation (service error goes to player who **SHOULD** have served)



Keeping Statistics: Serving

Pitfalls

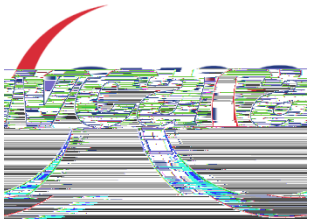
* To award a service ace or not – that is the ultimate question
* Remember: if the opposing team never got decent control of the serve, then don't be stingy – it's an ace!



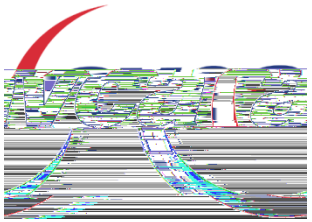
Keeping Statistics: Serving

You know you've messed up if:

* Your total for service aces and reception errors is different (we'll get to reception errors in one minute!)



Keeping Statistics: Passing

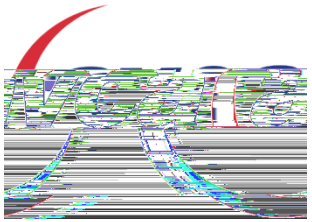


Keeping Statistics: Passing

Definition (pass): initial contact after serve

* Key point: for every serve, there must be a reception attempt

* Two outcomes:
    * Reception attempt
    * Reception attempt **AND** reception error



Keeping Statistics: Passing

What is a reception attempt?

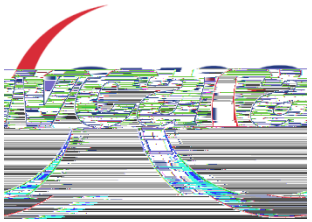
Answer: whichever player receives the serve (first contact) is credited with a reception attempt

What is a reception error?

Answer: when a serve results for a point for the opposing team a player of team must be charged with a reception error

Two kinds:

- *Player reception error
  - * Serve hits floor in area of a player
  - * Player receives serve, but makes bad pass
  - * Player called for a reception violation (rare)
- *Team reception error
  - * Serve falls between two players
  - * Receiving team is out of rotation



Keeping Statistics: Passing

Pitfalls

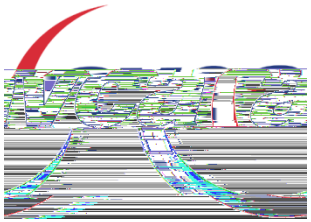
* Remember – **ANY** time there is a service ace, there **MUST** be a reception error (either charged to a player or to the team)

* Reception errors – which player do I like the least?
    * This might be the hardest call in volleyball because it is completely objective. Do your best, try and figure out who the serve was closest to. If you're not 100 percent sure which player to give it to, then

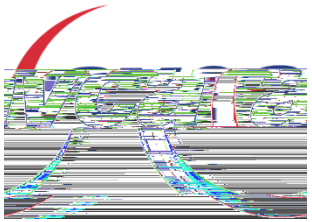
Keeping Statistics: Passing

You know you've messed up if:

* Your total number of service aces and reception errors aren't the same



Keeping Statistics: Defense/Digs



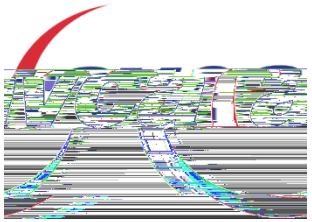
Keeping Statistics: Defense/Digs

Definition (dig): when a player receives an attacked ball and keeps the ball in play

* Key point: you **CANNOT** get a dig from anything other than an attack

* Key point (part 2): **YOU CANNOT GET A DIG FROM ANYTHING OTHER THAN AN ATTACK!!!**

* Two outcomes
    * Successful dig
    * Ball handling error
        * These are rare because first contact rules are much looser than second and third contact



Making Volleyball Statistics Simple

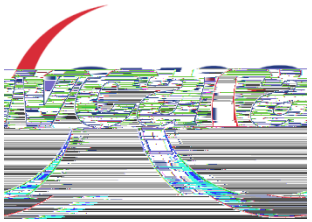
Keeping Statistics: Defense/Digs

Pitfalls

* **YOU CANNOT GET A DIG FROM ANYTHING OTHER THAN AN ATTACK!!!**
    * Covered balls are **NOT** digs
    * Freeballs **CANNOT** result in digs

* There can only be **ONE** dig per possession

* Watch out for ball handling errors (you will hardly **EVER** have them on dig attempts)
    * If it happens on a serve, it's a reception error
    * If it happens on a block, it's a blocking error
    * If it happens on an attack by the other team, it's nothing (except a kill for the other team)



Making Volleyball Statistics Simple

Keeping Statistics: Defense/Digs

You know you've messed up if:

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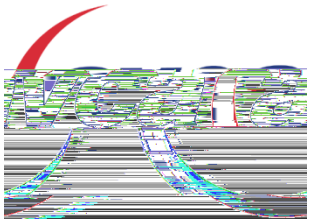
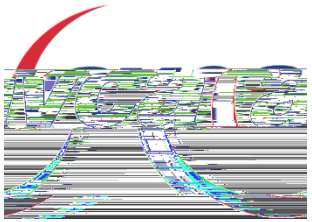
* A team's total digs is greater than the opponent's total attacks

* A team's total digs is greater than the opponent's zero attacks (TA – K – E)



Keeping Statistics: Blocking

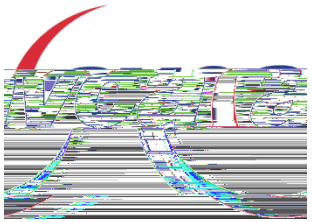


Keeping Statistics: Blocking

Definition (block): player(s) block leads immediately to a point

* Key point: it does **NOT** matter which player touches the ball – if 2-3 players go up for a block and one player touches it, each receives a block assist

* Four outcomes:
    * Block solo
    * Block assist
    * Block error
    * Ball kept in play (no blocking statistic is recorded)



Keeping Statistics: Blocking

What is a block solo?

Answer: when **ONE** player's block immediately leads to a point

What is a block assist?

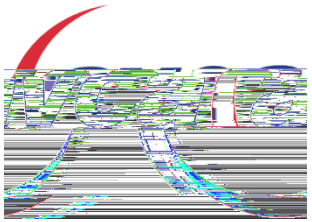
Answer: when 2-3 players **ATTEMPT** to block immediately leads to a point. It does **NOT** matter which player actually touches the ball

What is a block error?

Answer: when a player's attempt to block a ball directly results in the stoppage of play and a point for the other team (if there is a block error, there **MUST** be a kill for the other team)

Examples:

* Blocker in the net
* Blocker across center line
* Blocker reaches over the net
* Back-row player attempts to block (mostly setter)
* Blocker called for thrown ball



Keeping Statistics: Blocking

Pitfalls

Making Volleyball Statistics Simple

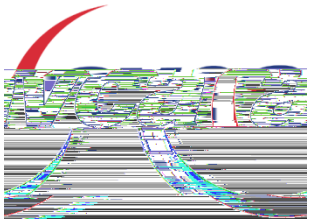
Keeping Statistics: Blocking

You know you've messed up if:

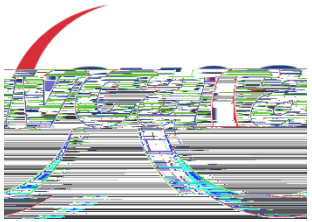
Keeping Statistics: Points

Definition: a tabulation of anything that results in a point

* Formula:
    * Kills + service aces + block solos + ½ block assists = points

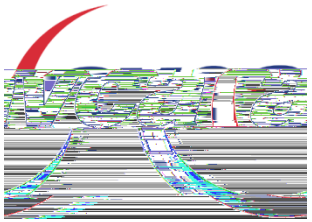


Review



Making Volleyball Statistics Simple

Review

* Is keeping volleyball stats easy?
  - No
* Can keeping volleyball stats be stressful?
  - Yes
* Does that mean you should let it freak you out?
  - NO!!!
* Remember the two golden rules:
  - * RELAX
  - * Take a deep breath and figure out what you just saw

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