

**TO: All National Federations**

**Subject: Trial of Rule 12 – 15 seconds between rallies & revised set scores**

Luxembourg, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Dear Mr. President,

**Introduction:**

Following research it has been shown that the ball is only in play for 17% of time during a volleyball match. As part of the FIVB's commitment to keep the ball 'flying', time has been spent looking at ways to reduce the 'non-flying' time. One of these is a proposal to reduce the time wasted by teams cheering and collecting the ball for service. This is the background for the "test". To make the test results meaningful, a large scale trial is considered necessary. Therefore it was agreed at a recent FIVB Special Working Group Meeting that in addition to the test of sets being played to 21 points and one technical timeout per team per set (sets 1-4) the 2013 European league will also test a modification to rule 12.3 (Authorization of Service). Although it is not possible to utilise exactly the same teams in the analysis of matches last year, it will be possible to compare the average values of flying ball time in key matches this year and compare them to last year.

Please see below the instruction that has been agreed by FIVB Rules of the Game Commission that minimally impacts the rules and allows for a clear interpretation.

**1. Rule 12.3 Authorization of the Service**

The 1<sup>st</sup> referee authorizes the service, after having checked that the two teams are ready to play and that the server is in possession of the ball, and must do this within 10 seconds of the end of the previous rally. The server has then 5 seconds to hit the ball.

The assistant scorer starts and ends the timing of the service attempt, and communicates visually with the 1<sup>st</sup> Referee when the whistle is delayed. 10 second count down to the 1<sup>st</sup> referee's whistle should be visible to the teams and spectators.

The organiser must provide on the scorers table a countdown clock/monitor that is visible to the players on court and the referees. No smaller than 20cm x 20cm, the timing of the clock will be controlled by the assistant scorer however it is the 1<sup>st</sup> referee who will decide on any transgressions of the new rule therefore no sound will be permitted from the countdown clock/monitor.

## 2. Scoring Trial in 2013 CEV European League


Following the FIVB Board of Administration decision on April 5, 2013, the 2013 CEV Volleyball European League was selected to test a new scoring system with the long-term goal to harmonize Volleyball and Beach Volleyball rules.

During the forthcoming European League season, each set will be played until 21 set points (5th set 15 points). Only 1 technical timeout per set is foreseen by reaching 12 points (except for the tie-break), everything else will remain the same.

The e-scoresheet software will be accordingly updated by DataProject in order to fulfill the needs resulting from the above mentioned scoring system.

In addition each supervisor will be asked to complete a form after each match and include with the final report they send to the CEV office. Additional the forms can be emailed to [rulestest@cev.lu](mailto:rulestest@cev.lu) following each match.

Yours sincerely,



André MEYER  
CEV President



Jan REK  
ERC President