



## **Spectator Purple Card Policy**

### **Summary**

The rules of volleyball allow officials to address on-court behavior from players or coaches by issuing sanctions and point penalties (yellow cards, red cards). The purpose of the Purple Card Policy is to give officials and tournament directors another tool to address behavior from spectators. The goal of this policy is to help preserve a respectful, positive, and fun playing environment and keep the focus on the student-athletes. This is in addition to all other tournament- and facility-specific policies in place at ERVA-sanctioned events, including the Parent/Spectator Code of Conduct.

### **Prohibited Behavior**

- Comments made or actions displayed that are deemed by others as rude, profane, disrespectful, disruptive, or aggressive, which interferes with the normal progress of a tournament match.
- Inappropriate actions or comments directed at members of an officiating crew.
- Behaviors or comments attempting to influence the calls made by officials
- Behavior prohibited by USAV and/or ERVA codes of conduct.
- Misconduct deemed contrary to normally accepted behavior, resulting in the unnecessary interruption of a match.

### **Applicability**

This policy applies to the below-listed groups at ERVA-owned events. Club-hosted events will also have this policy in place.

- Any member of the ERVA region (e.g., club director, coach, rostered adult, player, chaperone) not currently participating in a match who has assumed the role of a spectator.
- Any non-region member, such as parents or relatives of a region member.
- Any attendee or spectator at any ERVA-sanctioned event.

Yellow & red card sanctions may still be used for match participants, in accordance with the USAV Rules Book.

The Purple Card is applied to any situation during a match where spectator misconduct occurs, and the on-court official deems the misconduct serious enough to be addressed. An ERVA official may issue a Purple Card either from the stand or while overseeing the court.

Misconduct occurring before or after a match is handled through applicable policies, such as the Parent/Spectator Code of Conduct.



## **Verbal Warning-Stage 1**

It is the duty of the on-court officials (coach R1/R2), the certified ERVA officials on site (R1/R2 or Day Official), team coaches, and the tournament staff to attempt to prevent spectators from reaching the sanctioning level. This is done first through a verbal warning, then through the issuance of a Purple Card.

## **Issuance of Purple & Yellow Card Warning – Stage 2**

After a verbal warning is issued, if the behavior does not improve, the following happens:

- If the R1 on the match is a coach and NOT a certified ERVA Official, the coach will request the Day Official and/or Tournament Director to come to their court. The Day Official and/or Tournament Director will then proceed with the following procedures.
- If the R1 on the match is a certified ERVA Official, they may proceed with the following procedures and request their Day Official and/or Tournament Director to their court for reporting purposes.
  - **Purple Card & Yellow Card are displayed in one hand, as a warning to the team with which the spectator is affiliated.**
    - Both team captains are summoned to the referee stand and will then notify their head coach that a spectator potentially affiliated with their team has been sanctioned.
    - Once the affiliation of the spectator is determined, the head coach will inform the offender of the warning.
    - If the offender refuses to identify their team affiliation, they may be subject to more serious sanctions, including expulsion from the facility. Expulsion also carries a fine to the club.
    - A Purple Card/Yellow Card warning is assessed to the team and is in force for the entire match. A team may only receive one such warning per match.
  - **Warnings are recorded on the scoresheet but have no immediate consequences.**
    - Record "PC" in the "W Warn" column, along with the team identifier, set number, and score at which the sanction was issued.



### **Issuance of Purple Card & Red Card Penalty – Stage 3**

Further misconduct by spectators affiliated with the same team during the same match (it does not have to be the SAME spectator that was issued the purple card the 1st time) may be sanctioned as follows:

- If the R1 on the match is a coach and NOT a certified ERVA Official, the coach will request the Day Official and/or Tournament Director to come to their court. The Day Official and/or Tournament Director will then proceed with the following procedures.
- If the R1 on the match is a certified ERVA Official, they may proceed with the following procedures and request their Day Official and/or Tournament Director to their court for reporting purposes.
  - **Purple Card & Red Card are displayed in one hand by the official. Sanction is penalized with a point and service to the opponent.**
    - Both team captains are summoned to the referee stand and will then notify their head coach that a spectator potentially affiliated with their team has been sanctioned.
    - Once the affiliation of the spectator is determined, the head coach will inform the offender of the warning.
    - If the offender refuses to identify their team affiliation, they may be subject to more serious sanctions, including expulsion from the facility. Expulsion also carries a fine to the club.
  - **Penalties are recorded on the scoresheet**
    - Record "PC" in the "P Penalty" column, along with the team identifier, set number, and score at which the sanction was issued.
    - If the penalty is against the serving team, record the serving team's exit score
    - Record the awarded penalty point. Slash and circle the opposing team's next point in the "Points" column.



### **Discretion of Official**

Depending on the seriousness of the offense, an official may ask for a spectator to be removed from the facility, with or without a warning.

- The referee stops the match and secures the safety of the match participants. If a coach is the R1 then they may request the Day Official and Tournament Director to their court.
- The referee consults the tournament director, facility staff, and head coach of the team to ask the spectator to vacate the facility.
  - If the spectator refuses to leave the facility in a timely manner, law enforcement is notified immediately.

### **Reporting**

Day Officials will be asked to complete the "Behavior Reporting Section" on Day Official Report.

Tournament Directors will be asked to complete the "Behavior Reporting Section" on the Tournament Director Report.

When a Behavior Report is submitted to the office, a formal notice will be sent to the club who was reported. Club will have the option to respond to this notice via a standard form and the information submitted **may** be used to determine the validity of the sanction.

### **Purple Card Threshold Sanction Penalties**

When a Behavior Report is submitted to the office, a formal notice will be sent to the club who was reported. Club will have the option to respond to this notice as per the guidelines in the ERVA Sanction Process and Appeal Process for Imposed Sanctions as outlined in the ERVA Participant's Handbook, Section 12. The information submitted by the Day Official **may** be used to determine the validity of the sanction.

- Clubs who receive a second Purple Card in the same season are subject to a \$250.00 fine.
- Clubs who receive a third Purple Card in the same season are subject to a \$500.00 fine and will be fined \$500.00 for each subsequent Purple Card they receive.
- Fines will be invoiced and must be paid by the deadline indicated to remain in good standing with Region to retain eligibility for upcoming events.
- Spectators receiving multiple purple cards may be subject to further Code of Conduct violations and penalties including but not limited to spectator restrictions from ERVA sanctioned events.

