

## SECTION 9 – NON-VOLLEY ZONE RULES

The Play: The two teams are volleying at the net when the (name tag, hat, comb, band-aid, etc.) from one of the players, who last volleyed, falls into the non-volley zone. The referee calls a fault.

Answer: This is a correct call.

9.B. A fault will be declared if, in the act of volleying the ball, a player or anything the player is wearing or carrying touches the non-volley zone or touches any non-volley line. For example, a fault will be declared if, in the act of volleying the ball, one of the player's feet touches a non-volley line.

26

-----  
-----  
The Play: After volleying several balls, Team B hits the ball to Team A player's feet. In playing this ball, the Team A player's paddle during the swing, accidentally hits the floor in the non-volley zone before hitting the ball on the upward swing. The referee calls a fault.

Answer: This is correct.

9.B. A fault will be declared if, in the act of volleying the ball, a player or anything the player is wearing or carrying touches the non-volley zone or touches any non-volley line. For example, a fault will be declared if, in the act of volleying the ball, one of the player's feet touches a non-volley line.

IFP Comment: The act of volleying the ball includes the swing, the follow-through, and the momentum from the action. If the paddle touches the non-volley zone during the swing, it is a fault regardless of whether the touch occurred before or after contacting the ball. (Added January 15, 2012)

-----  
-----  
The Play: The two partners on Team A rush to hit a soft lob back to Team B. Team A's paddles collide, the ball is then hit, and the player whose paddle did not strike the ball falls into the non-volley zone. The hit ball is a winning shot. Team B calls for a violation of the non-volley zone.

Answer: This is not a violation of the non-volley zone. The player who fell into the zone did not strike the ball.

9.B. A fault will be declared if, in the act of volleying the ball, a player or anything the player is wearing or carrying touches the non-volley zone or touches any non-volley line. For example, a fault will be declared if, in the act of volleying the ball, one of the player's feet touches a non-volley line.

-----  
-----  
The Play: The Team A player rushing to hit a soft shot just over the net hits a volley that is good, but the player's forward momentum is taking him/her into the non-volley zone. The Team A partner is also at the net

27

and has one foot touching the non-volley zone line. This partner reaches out and holds the partner from going into the non-volley zone. The referee calls a fault.

Answer: This is correct. It is a fault as the partner holding the player from going into the non-volley zone has his/her foot on the non-volley zone line.

9.C. A fault will be declared if, in the act of volleying the ball, the player's momentum causes the player or anything the player is wearing or carrying to touch the non-volley zone or touch any non-volley line. It is a fault if the player's momentum causes the player to touch anything that is

touching the non-volley zone, including the player's partner. It is a fault even if the ball is declared dead before the player touches the non-volley zone.

---

The Play: In a soft dink game, the Team A player steps into the non-volley zone and returns the ball after it has bounced. Before the Team A player can step out of the non-volley zone with both feet, the Team B player hits the ball directly at him/her. The Team A player returns the ball but only one foot is outside the non-volley zone. The referee calls a fault.

Answer: This is correct. Before the Team B player can again volley, both feet must have stepped out of the non-volley zone making contact with the floor.

9.D. A fault will be declared if the player violates the intent of the non-volley zone rule. All volleys must be initiated outside of the non-volley zone. A maneuver such as standing within the non-volley zone, jumping up to hit a volley, and then landing outside the non-volley zone is prohibited. If a player has touched the non-volley zone for any reason, that player cannot volley the return until both feet have made contact with the playing surface completely outside the non-volley zone. (Revised June 23, 2012)

---

The Play: In a 5.0 doubles game, a member of Team A has one foot in the non-volley zone. In a cross-court dink shot, the Team A player jumps to the out of bounds area to return the dink and hits the ball in the air. Team B loses the point but appeals to the referee for a ruling.

28

Answer: The Team A member was at fault and the play was dead when he contacted the ball. Both feet must be out of the non-volley zone and in contact with the floor prior to hitting the shot to be legal.

9.D. A fault will be declared if the player violates the intent of the non-volley zone rule. All volleys must be initiated outside of the non-volley zone. A maneuver such as standing within the non-volley zone, jumping up to hit a volley, and then landing outside the non-volley zone is prohibited. If a player has touched the non-volley zone for any reason, that player cannot volley the return until both feet have made contact with the playing surface completely outside the non-volley zone. (Revised June 23, 2012)

---

The Play: Team A hits a high lob that will land in the non-volley zone on Team B's side. The Team B player waits in the non-volley zone and puts the ball away on the first bounce. Team A takes exception that players may not be in the non-volley zone when hitting the ball.

Answer: Team A is incorrect. Players may be in the non-volley zone at any time and may play the ball once it has bounced. If a player volleys the ball in the non-volley zone, it is a fault and play stops.

9.E. A player may step on the non-volley line or enter the non-volley zone at any time except when that player is volleying the ball. There is no violation if your partner returns the ball while you are standing in the non-volley zone. A player may enter the non-volley zone before or after returning any ball that bounces.

---

The Play: Team A and Team B are in the midst of play when one of Team B's players goes into the non-volley zone for a play and does not immediately step out of the non-volley zone. Team A stops play and challenges that Team B lost the point when the Team B player failed to return to volley area.

Answer: Team A is at fault and loses the point. Players are not restricted from the non-volley zone. They can remain there and play will continue as long as the Team B player does not engage in a volley.

29

9.F. A player may stay inside the non-volley zone to return balls that bounce. That is, there is no violation if a player does not exit the non-volley zone after hitting a ball that bounces. -----  
-----

The Play: In a very aggressive game a Team A player appears to be stepping on the non-volley line when returning a hard hit ball. The Team B player calls for a fault and Team A takes exception to the call indicating that on their side, only they can make a “kitchen” call. The game does not have a ref.

Answer: Team A is incorrect. In in non-officiated game, either side may make this call.

9.G. For non-officiated play, non-volley zone faults may be called by any player on either team. (Added April 20, 2015)