



Screening

March 4, 2019

Rule 12.5 in the [Volleyball Canada Rulebook](#) addresses the issue of a serving team preventing their opponent from seeing the server and the flight path of the ball.



The rule states:

- The players of the serving team must not prevent their opponent, through individual or collective screening, from seeing the server and the flight path of the ball.
- A player or a group of players of the serving team make(s) a screen by waving arms, jumping or moving sideways during the execution of the service, or by standing grouped, and in so doing hides both the server and the flight path of the ball until the ball reaches the vertical plane of the net.

There are some interesting points to this rule:

- There are both individual screens and collective screens. A single person can perform an illegal screen.
- For a screen to be illegal the opponent must be prevented from seeing **both** the server **and** the flight of the ball.
- Illegal screens can happen based on the movements of the players of the serving team (waving hands, etc).
- Illegal screens can happen based on where the players of the serving team are standing.

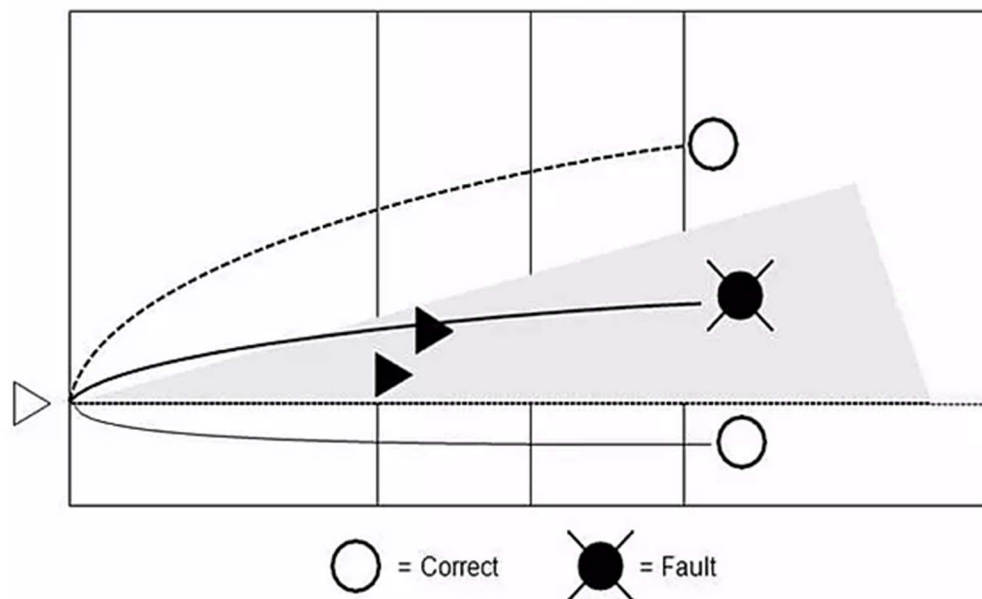
Volleyball Canada is asked about this rule a lot. So much that they have included it in their [Indoor Officials FAQ \(Question #26\)](#). This provides some great insight and tips on identifying screens.

The [Volleyball Canada Referee Guidelines](#) also contain a section on screening. Refer to Rule 12.6 (found on page 10).

The Volleyball Canada rule book contains a diagram to help demonstrate a scenario where a screen may have occurred:

DIAGRAM 6: COLLECTIVE SCREEN / ÉCRAN COLLECTIF

Relevant Rules: 12.5, 12.5.2, 23.3.2.3a



Here are some helpful indicators that an illegal screen may have happened:

- Are players on the serving team actively moving to prevent their opponents from seeing the server?
 - Are the players on the receiving team moving to get a better view of the server and the serving team's players are making counter-movements to prevent that?
- Are players on the serving team positioned closely together? If so:
 - Are their hands / arms raised up high?

- Was the ball served over this group of players?
- Was the ball served low (e.g. Just over the net or below the height of the top of the antenna) over these players?
- Is the height of the net relatively low?
 - It may be harder for a screen to happen on the full men's net height of 243 CM since the flight of the ball can usually be seen.
- Was the serve a standing serve?
 - The flight path of the ball is usually visible for a jump serve.
- Was the receiver caught off guard or surprised by the ball coming to them?
 - This can be an indicator, but should not be used as definitive criteria. Poor serve reception may be due to many factors that have nothing to do with an illegal screen.
 - If the previous criteria for a screen appear to have been met, and the receiving player is caught off guard by the path of the ball, this can be a strong indicator that an illegal screen has occurred.

When the situation arises that you need to call an illegal screen fault, signal #12 should be used:

