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## Changes in Japanese Volleyball Affected by National Rule

By *Shoichi Kimura\**

The special feature seen in volleyball games at the Olympiads is the fact that there has been a decrease in the number of teams whose principal tactics are to make slow attacks — which may be said a trademark in European countries and in the U.S. — in which a three-step tactics is majorly adopted, and instead a remarkable increase in the number of teams which make attacks with rapidity. This change is a surprise to us. Such a change is the result of foreign teams having imitated the Japanese tactics. The 9-player system which was the motherbody for quick attacking tactics — now universally the main stream tactics — is becoming a thing in the past in Japan. The objective of this study is to search for changes in Japanese volleyball games as a result of influence of the national rule. What is hoped for the present players to impress on their minds is the fact that the present 6-player system was born from the old 9-player system, and that the senior players tried to find every possible original idea and device in order to transplant the quick attacking plays into the 6-player system, because I think that this may serve as an original point for the development in the future of volleyball.

Comparative studies are to be made between the old 9-player system and the present 6-player system, which can be divided in two points: (1) being basic plays, and (2) being combination plays and others. In the present study, review was made on (1) above. The results of the review have revealed that the overall influence of the national rule represents a great obstacle to the transplantation of quick attacking which is the target of Japan. What overcame this obstacle was the strong confidence in quick attacking volleyball and the original ideas and devices for the transplantation of quick attacking. These efforts have brought about many new tactics such as the development of linear pass in serve receive, slide service, etc. Thus, combination volleyball which is higher in quality, more complicated in quick attacking than the

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past 9-player volleyball has been invented. Consequently, it may be said that the influence of the national rule has not functioned to the minus to the Japanese volleyball but has played a role as an appropriate stimulant. And it can be said that the original ideas and devices of Japanese players have turned the obstacle into a stimulant.