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Indoor Officials – Frequently Asked Questions

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Question 1: During a substitution, do both the R1 and R2 show the substitution signal?

Only the R1 executes the substitution signal.

However: if there is a substitution due to an injury and/or an exceptional substitution, the 2nd referee should blow his/her whistle and use the substitution signal. Also: if there is no horn or the assistant scorer is slow, the 2nd referee would then blow his/her whistle and use the substitution signal.

The rule and rationale

Rules 24.2.6, 24.2.7 and Diagram 11.5 – Only the R1 should show the substitution during a substitution, to inform all the participants and spectators that this substitution has been authorized. The Volleyball Canada Indoor Rules Committee determined in September 2012 that Diagram 11.5 is inconsistent with common practice in international volleyball. Therefore, only the R1 should perform this signal.

Question 2: If the coach is disqualified during the first set and there is no assistant coach, may the team captain submit line-up sheets between sets, or will the team lose the match by default?

If there is no qualified assistant coach on the bench, then:

1. An adult on the bench (this includes any adult player on the bench) may be designated as Assistant Coach (this designation will be written in the Remarks section of the scoresheet) and this person will submit line-up sheets between sets.
2. If there are no adults on the bench and players are 18 years or older, the team captain will be permitted to submit the team line-up sheet between sets.
3. If the players are not adults and there is no adult on the bench, the team will be declared incomplete once that set is finished.

The rules and rationale

Rule 5.1.2 does not mention that the team captain may submit line-up sheets between sets in the absence of the coach. The “incomplete team” rules only apply to the players (Rules 6.4.3 and 7.3.1.) and the concept “in the spirit of the game” should apply and the match should continue to completion. Part 2 of the answer stated above represents an extension of Rule 5.1.2.3. If there are no adults present, however, for reasons related to risk management and accountability, the match should not continue beyond that set.

Question 3: (NEW in Aug 2014): What colour is the belt for Volleyball Canada referees?

Black or navy blue.

Question 4: Are players permitted to wear Medic Alert bracelets?

Yes.

The rule and rationale

Rule 4.5.1 – “Items made from soft material, that are padded, not intrusive and not a danger to others, may be permitted”. Jewelry rule exception: Medic Alert bracelets are permitted.

Rationale: a risk management issue, enabling the quickest possible access to life-saving information in the event of a seizure, allergic reaction, etc., is more important than covering the bracelet with tape in order to make the bracelet "safer" in the context of a volleyball match.

Question 5: Who blows the whistle for top-of-net infractions?

R1 blows the whistle for top-of-net infractions. However, if R1 misses it and R2 sees it, then R2 may blow the whistle and make the call.

The rule and rationale

Rule 23.3.2.3 re R1’s responsibility – “to decide upon: c) the faults above the net and at its upper part (see also rule 11.3.1, 11.4.1,11.4.4)” and R2’s responsibility is: Rule 24.3.2.3 - “The faulty contact of the player with the net at its lower part or with the antenna on his/her side of the court (see also rule 11.3.1)”. However, the 2014-2015 Referee Guidelines state : “ During the exchange of play near the net, the second referee must concentrate on controlling the illegal touch of the whole net on the blockers side...” (page 21). The clarification: “However, if the R2 sees a net infraction on the top band of the net and R1 does not see it, then R2 must blow the whistle and make the call.”

Question 6: If the setter has clearly released the ball and then contacts the top band of the net on his way down, is it a fault?

Yes. Pre-ball contact, during the ball contact and post-ball contact (Jumping, setting, landing) are all part of "in the act of playing the ball". If the setter touches the top of the net during any of these three phases, it's a fault.

Question 7: If an attacker hits the ball and upon landing, intentionally grabs the bottom of the net to avoid going across the centre line (and this does not affect the play), is this a net call?

No. Although it is counter- intuitive, it is a legal play. Taking support from the net, in this particular case, is OK (just like using the post or being pulled back by a team mate).

Question 8: Which signal is used when the server commits a foot fault?

The first referee points to the middle of the baseline – Figure 11.22 in the Rulebook.

Question 9: Can a Libero fault be called if the Libero player's "set" was done using the knuckles, a fist, or a clean "beach dig" in his or her front zone?

No. The idea behind the wording "overhand finger pass" is of a controlled pass – a volley.

Question 10: Can a blocker be called for "illegally penetrating the opponent's space" if he blocks the opposing setter's view of the ball for a moment, but does not contact the ball nor the setter's hands?

No.

Question 11: Where does the second referee stand during time-outs?

FIRST, R2 faces the first referee in case the R1 needs to communicate something to R2, in order to inspect the court and to check the floor moppers' work. THEN R2 goes to the scorer's table to inspect the scorer's work (visually, not verbally), and FINALLY, R2 stands in front of the post, facing the scorer's table to ensure that players stay off the court until it is time for them to return to the court and resume play. There is a video within the FIVB website relating to the correct position of R2 during a TTO (and I would suggest a TO) for review. Section 15 in Table of Contents - clip titled "Perfect R2 during TTO".

Question 12: When the first referee signals a service fault, does the second referee mimic this signal?

Yes.

Question 13: A side-out rally is completed after the incorrect server served the ball. Can the point(s) served by the incorrect server still be cancelled?

Yes, as long as the scorer and referees can determine the exact moment when the incorrect server started serving. If they cannot determine this fact, then no points shall be cancelled (Rule 7.7.2). For example: Team A #13 serves twice when it should be #10 serving – not detected by the scorer. After #13's second serve, Team B wins the rally. Team B #4 serves – correct server. Team A wins the rally. Team A then requests a rotational check. Scorer replies #13 should serve. Team B immediately appeals for a rotational fault on Team A prior serve. Officials consult, agree that Team A #13 did serve twice on the previous play, and rule a rotational fault on Team A. A loss of rally is applied (side-out and point to Team B) and two points removed from Team A (for every point scored while out of rotation).

Question 14: Do the line judges wear their badges?

No.

Question 15: During the match, a coach, while standing near the sideline giving instructions to his/her players, is obstructing the view of the line judge. What is the response by the referees?

The 2nd referee should politely ask the coach to stand back so as not to block the view of the line judge.

The rule and rationale:

Rule 5.2.3.4 - The coach may give these instructions while standing or walking within the free zone in front of his/her team's bench from the extension of the attack line up to the warm-up area, without disturbing or delaying the match.

Rationale: Because there is no coaches' restriction line (FIVB only), the coach may go up to the sideline to give instructions to his/her players. However, if the coach is interfering with the work of the line judges (obstructing the view of the line judge), it is by rule, disturbing the match. The 2nd referee must ask the coach to stand back so as not to disturb the work of the line judge. If the coach continues to obstruct the line judge's view, the coach should be warned through the game captain.

Question 16: Where is the coach allowed to move in respect to the sideline?

The coach is allowed to move between the extension of the attack line and the warm-up area.

Question 17: Do you, as the 2nd referee, keep the whistle in your mouth during the procedure for substitutions, or do you remove the whistle from your mouth and speak to the scorer?

You keep the whistle in your mouth as much as possible – the whistle is the most effective means to control a substitution that is going out of control (hasty players, for example) when you are in a noisy gym. During the substitution, visual communication with the scorer is all you need. However, with inexperienced scorers, taking the whistle from your mouth and communicating verbally with the scorer regarding the players' numbers often facilitates the scorer's job.

Question 18: When must the line-up be submitted to the 2nd official?

Immediately, once teams have changed courts. The line-up sheets for the next set should be the first thing the R2 looks for during the interval between sets. At 30 seconds remaining on the set interval clock the R2 blows his/her whistle. If at 0 seconds remaining the scorer is still writing down the line ups due to a late submission from a coach, then a delay of game warning must be awarded (if this is the first delay of game in the match by this team).

Question 19: Does the R1 mimic the time out signal of the R2?

Yes (please note it is different for FIVB competitions).

Question 20: When R1 calls a net fault, does R2 repeat the net signal?

Yes.

Question 21: When R2 calls a net fault, does R1 repeat the net signal?

No.

Question 22: In the deciding set, what does the R2 use to check the player positions (line-ups) on the court?

He/she uses the line-up sheets submitted by the coach.

Question 23: At the end of the set how many whistles are blown by R1?

Three. R1 whistles to end the play – then whistles to show “end of set” signal – then whistles and executes the “teams change sides” or “shake hands” signal.

Question 24: At the end of the 4th set when the score in sets is 2-2, does R1 dismiss the teams from the stand or from the floor?

From the floor.

Question 25: What is the post-game protocol for 1st and 2nd referee?

After the whistle for the last point, the first referee comes down from his/her stand and the second referee crosses the court to join the first referee, at the sideline. From the scorer's table or the jury's table you should see, standing from left to right: 1st referee, 2nd referee (on Court A), line judge 1, line judge 2, line judge 3 and line judge 4 standing (on Court B) side.

Question 26: Does the screen rule still exist?

Yes, Screening Rule 12.5 is still in the Rulebook: We have it in the rule book and it is often discussed because it is infrequently called, although this infraction is clearly an unfair advantage for the serving team. Officiating strategy: before the service, the first referee draws an imaginary line for the flight path of the served ball that would definitely constitute a screen. Once the ball is served low and in this flight path, the referee should blow the whistle and make the call. More information regarding this rule are found in the *Volleyball Canada Referee Guidelines*.

Question 27: When a team illegally substitutes a player – at what point does the scorer alert the 2nd referee?

When the scorer sees that a substitution has been called and the buzzer/ whistle has been heard for this interruption, the scorer quickly looks for the number of the substitute player coming off the bench. If the number of this substitute player is not on the team roster or does not correspond to the number of the player who should return to the court, then this substitution is illegal. Therefore, the scorer raises his/her hand and says to the R2, "illegal substitution". The second referee should pick up on this, not allow the substitution, and motion to the first referee to award a delay warning to that team. If this illegal substitution is missed and at least one rally has been played: When the wrong server is detected, the scorer tells the second referee discreetly and before the service, "wrong server". The second referee will wait for the service to be executed then will blow the whistle, awarding a side out to the opposing team, and taking away all points scored by the team while it was out of rotation/ out of position.

Note: This is why it is important for the scorer to use correct hand signals. It is therefore important for the second referee to clarify with the scorer before the match his expectations regarding match procedures.

Question 28: Does the R1 initial the Remarks section and Sanction section while verifying the score sheet at the end of a match?

Volleyball Canada: At the end of the match, the R1 will initial the Remarks section if information has been recorded in this section. R1's initials are not required in the Sanctions

section; it is recommended, however, that if an R1 expels or disqualifies a player or a coach, that he/she submit a separate report to his/her ROC regarding this expulsion/disqualification.

Question 29: The ball is driven into the net on Team A's side. The player from Team B puts his hands up to redirect the ball driven into the net preventing Team A from having a play on the ball. What is the signal for the fault committed on Team B?

Signal 19 – Net Touch

Rule and Rationale

Rule 11.4.4 A player interferes with the opponent's play by (amongst others):

- making actions which hinder an opponent's legitimate attempt to play the ball.

However, R1 must make a determination on the intent of the player who makes contact with the ball through the net.

If contact with the ball through the net is deemed not intentional, then no action is taken against the player and the ball is awarded to the appropriate team.

Rule 11.3.3 When the ball is driven into the net and causes it to touch an opponent, no fault is committed.

A player whose intent and action is to interfere with the ability of the opposing team to play the ball will be deemed to be unsportsmanlike and a Stage 2 Warning (Yellow Card) must be awarded. If the action by the player is either a second offence or done with clear intent, moving to get a position and directly putting his/her hands in a position to re-direct and interfere with the flight of the ball, this will be deemed as Rude conduct (Red Card).

As Referees, we have an educational role regarding the rules. Rule 20.2.1 Participants must behave respectfully and courteously in the spirit of FAIR PLAY, not only towards the referees, but also towards other officials, the opponents, teammates and spectators. The deliberate action of a player redirecting a ball through the net is not adhering to the spirit of the rules as outlined in Rule 20 – FAIR PLAY – and thus a misconduct sanction is required.

Question 30: The first contact from Team A is a poor one and the ball is travelling into the opponent's free zone totally or partially through the external space. A player from Team A is running towards the ball to play the ball back through the external space and while in the opponent's free zone, he/she is interfered with by an opponent from making a play on the ball. What signal is used by the referee to indicate the interference of the player from Team B?

Signal 2 – Team to Serve Point Awarded

Rule and Rationale

Because there is no signal for interference of a player in the opponent's free zone, R1 would indicate the Team to Serve – Signal 2 as it would seem quite obvious that there was interference. If the game captain requests an explanation from R1, R1 would simply state that interference has occurred.