



# Work of the 1st Referee in Volleyball

A Presentation for FIVB Events

Approved by the FIVB Rules of the Game and Refereeing Commission



## The Duties and Responsibilities

- The text says:
- **23.1 LOCATION**
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- The 1<sup>st</sup> referee carries out his/her functions standing on a referee's stand located at one end of the net on the opposite side to the scorer. His/her view must be approximately 50 cm above the net.

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## The Mechanics

- A Referee in Volleyball has certain key qualities.
- Their pre-match behaviour marks them out as special , they have authority and they are in control;
- They know how to deal with people – e.g. the other match officials – and the coaches.
- They know the mechanics of the current protocol and carry it out confidently and without hesitation and with authority.

## 23.2 **AUTHORITY**

- 23.2.1 The 1<sup>st</sup> referee directs the match from the start until the end. He/she has authority over all members of the refereeing corps and the members of the teams.
- During the match his/her decisions are final. He/she is authorized to overrule the decisions of other members of the refereeing corps, if it is noticed that they are mistaken.

## Authority

- He/she may even replace a member of the refereeing corps who is not performing his/her functions properly.



## Authority

- He/she also controls the work of the ball retrievers, floor wipers and moppers.
- He/she has the power to decide any matters involving the game, including those not provided for in the rules.
- He/she shall not permit any discussion about his/her decisions.

## Authority

- The 1<sup>st</sup> Referee will not interfere with the work of the moppers unless forced to by circumstances.
- This also applies to the ball retrievers. (currently there are **5 balls** in circulation –this change is designed to speed up the play).

## Decisions on Ball handling

- This is one of the main areas where a 1<sup>st</sup> Referee is judged by the players – does the referee understand
- What is a clean hit ?
- What is a fault?
- When to whistle?
- How quickly to whistle?



## Ball at the net

- This is the critical time for the 1<sup>st</sup> Referee. The action at the net is the big battle ground for the teams.
- Reactions must be fast
- Optical position to see must be correct
- The referee must look at the correct place
- Many rebounds are possible
- Speed of whistle is therefore also critical

## Judgement of net contact

- Does the referee take good position on the attack side of the net?
- Is the referee focussed on the ball or is he/ she focussed on the net action?



## Procedures

- Most of the questions from Game Captains to the 1<sup>st</sup> Referee concern a break down of control at procedures like substitution or Libero replacement or Time out requests or misconduct warnings and sanctions.
- Does the 1<sup>st</sup> Referee control these things clearly and efficiently and decisively?



## Authority

- However, at the request of the game captain, the 1<sup>st</sup> referee will give an explanation on the application or interpretation of the rules upon which he/she has based the decision.
- If the game captain does not agree with this explanation and chooses to protest against such decision, he/she must immediately reserve the right to file and record this protest at the conclusion of the match. The 1<sup>st</sup> referee must authorize this right of the game captain.

# Authority

- The 1<sup>st</sup> referee is responsible for determining before and during the match whether the playing area equipment and the conditions meet playing requirements.



## Pre-match checking

- Did the referee check the paddles, the balls, the spare net and antennae, the mops and the towels for the quick moppers and ball retrievers?
- Did the 1<sup>st</sup> referee check the score sheet/ team list and signatures?
- Did the 1<sup>st</sup> Referee check the e-score sheet was operating correctly?
- Did the 1<sup>st</sup> referee link with the Refereeing Delegate?

## **23.3 RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 23.3.1 Prior to the match, the 1<sup>st</sup> referee:
  - 23.3.1.1 inspects the conditions of the playing area, the balls and other equipment;
  - 23.3.1.2 performs the toss with the team captains;
  - 23.3.1.3 controls the teams' warming-up.

# Responsibilities

- During the match, he/she is authorized:
- to issue warnings to the teams;
- to sanction misconduct and delays;



## Responsibilities

- 23.3.2.3
- to decide upon:
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- a) the faults of the server and of the positions of the serving team, including the screen;
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- b) the faults in playing the ball;
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## Responsibilities

- c) the faults above the net, and the faulty contact of the player with the net, primarily on the attacker's side.;
- d) the attack hit faults of the Libero and back-row players;
- e) the completed attack hits made by a player on a ball above net height coming from an overhand pass with fingers by the Libero in his/her front zone;

# Responsibilities

- f) the ball crossing completely the lower space under the net;
- g) the completed block by back row players or the attempted block by the Libero.
- h) the ball that crosses the net totally or partly outside of the crossing space to the opponent's court or contacts the antenna on his/her side of the playing court.
- i) the served ball and the 3rd hit passing over or outside the antenna on his/ her side of the court

# Responsibilities

- At the end of the match, he/she checks the score sheet and signs it.



## 28. OFFICIAL SIGNALS

- **28.1 REFEREES' HAND SIGNALS**
- The referees must indicate with the official hand signal the reason for their whistle (the nature of the fault whistled or the purpose of the interruption authorized). The signal has to be maintained for a moment and, if it is indicated with one hand, the hand corresponds to the side of the team which has made the fault or the request.

# Whistling and Signals

- **22.2 PROCEDURES**

- 22.2.1

- Only the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> referees may blow a whistle during the match:

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- 22.2.1.1

- the 1<sup>st</sup> referee gives the signal for the service that begins the rally;

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## Whistling and Signals

- 22.2.1.2
- the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> referee signals the end of the rally, provided that they are sure that a fault has been committed and they have identified its nature.
- 22.2.2
- They may blow the whistle when the ball is out of play to indicate that they authorize or reject a team request.

## Signals

- 22.2.3 Immediately after the referee's whistle to signal the completion of the rally, they have to indicate with the official hand signals:
- 22.2.3.1 if the fault is whistled by the 1<sup>st</sup> referee, he/she will indicate in order:
  - a) the team to serve,
  - b) the nature of the fault,
  - c) the player(s) at fault (if necessary).
- Note: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Referee does NOT repeat the 1<sup>st</sup> Referee's signals.

## When does the work start?

- Preparation before the match. A referee who takes the opportunity to study the team(s) he/she will referee is acting as a PROFESSIONAL.
- The teams deserve a Professional service from the referees.
- The Referees meet properly in uniform before the match. For an international match, the referee corps is subject to an alcohol test

## The 1<sup>st</sup> referee

- The 1<sup>st</sup> referee will give instructions to his/ her team
- In due time the team will enter the court and check the equipment. It is possible that the Refereeing Delegate will already have checked – nevertheless, it shows a professional approach.
- Match balls should be checked.

# Irregularities

- Any irregularities of equipment or team uniform should be pointed out to the Jury Member(s) responsible



# The Protocol

- The 1<sup>st</sup> Referee is responsible to make the protocol happen according to the regulations.
- That means checking the net, making the toss and supervising the signing of the score sheet



## The warm up

- If teams have the opportunity to warm up on the court, the referee should be aware of the timing and will whistle and signal how many minutes the teams are allowed to warm up over the net.



## The announcement

- At the due time, both referees will walk to the middle of the court to be presented.
- Once they shake hands, the 1<sup>st</sup> referee goes to the chair/ stand.



# Supervising

- The 1<sup>st</sup> referee should be aware of everything occurring on the court, and should:
- Check that the referee team is ready
- Obtain information from the 2<sup>nd</sup> referee
- Confirm the two game captains
- Check that the teams are ready
- Whistle exactly ON TIME for the 1<sup>st</sup> service



## **During the match – a REMINDER!**

- Signals should be precise and controlled
- Signals should not be exaggerated
- Work closely with the other members of the referee team
- At the end of a rally whistle IMMEDIATELY
- Check with the corresponding line judge regarding the decision
- Give the final decision by signalling who has service and THEN the reason for the decision.

## The Challenge

- FIVB has decided to implement a video verification or Challenge system for key events. Similar systems may operate in Continental events
- This is meant to act as a support for refereeing decisions.
- Referees must be aware of the situations which may be “challenged”, know the mechanics of the system, and apply rigorously and equally to both teams.

## Near-Line balls

- The redefinition of ball “IN” allows the Challenge technology to work with a graphic interface or a video verification system. So if the ball compresses on the floor, and during that process it touches the line the ball is to be judged “IN”.
- If the 1<sup>st</sup> referee’s eyes track the ball, the impression will mostly be “ball out” because the eye movement will be too slow – however, if the eyes are focussed on the line, a more accurate perception is likely. Anticipation works!

## Responding to the Challenge Result

- It is vital that the 1<sup>st</sup> Referee, as the person responsible for the final decision, respects the Challenge information from the Technicians.
- In summary: NEVER overturn the Challenge decision – the spectators will never understand it!





**THANK YOU**

