

Pre Match Discussions between Partners

- Introductions?
- Facilities/Ground Rules
- Event Management, Ref Stand, Net, Padding, Benches, Game Balls, Scorer, Libero Tracker, Line Judges
- Anything Special/Unusual Expected (Senior Night)
- Any Team Uniform or Equipment Issues?
- Coin Toss. Who's timing warm-ups (usually R2)?
- Ask each other "What do you Need from me?" Expected Signals
 - Most R1s want Discrete Signals from R2 ONLY for Faults (not "possible")
 - What does the R2 do when play was tight, but no faults (head nod?)
- Be sure you let your Partner know any habits/"quirks" you may have
 - Example – Court Scan, Centering after each Rally, Holding Whistle when Partner has Court, etc.
- Discuss common situations (4 hits, down ball, ball out behind partner, who's got what responsibility for possible BRA – R2 feet? What does R2 expect/DO when they see a fault their Partner does NOT call?)
- Does R2 need/want help with Rosters?

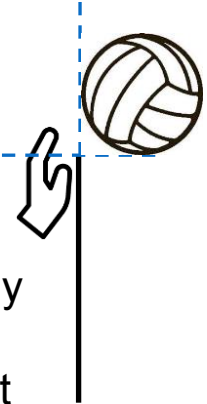
Current Ball Handling Expectations

- Ball Handling is ALL Judgement.
- The sport is moving from “Tighter” to “Looser.”
- We want to make a call when the ball is obviously mis-handled, but usually we DON'T want to call “small bobbles.”
- Ball set “over the net” MUST be handled cleanly. Call more tightly when the ball is “set over the net.”
- The problem is drawing that line and staying with it.
- If you call it at 1-1, then call it at 23-23.
- Or, “Start where you want to End.” Would I call this at Match Point?
- There will always be differences due to judgement calls. Every officials must work to reduce these differences. Each official must try to improve their consistency point to point within a match and from match to match.

Working with your Partner

- R1 Pre-Rally Scan
 - Start at one LJ, scan around perimeter of court looking for any issues, scanning bench, score table/partner, other bench, and second LJ. Check if Server has ball, then “Center” with Partner. Extend arm for Service, Whistle, and Beckon for Serve.
- R1/R2 Centering
 - Briefly looking at (checking with) your Partner Before and After each Rally
 - R1 should not award Rally until they have “checked with” Partner
 - Ever get caught signaling only to find out R2 has a Net?
- “Taking” and “Giving Back” the Court
 - When you “Take the Court,” DON’T stand with a hand up! Your Partner must respect you enough to wait until YOU give the court back!
 - As R1, if R2 has the court, consider taking whistle out of your mouth and holding it. Can’t call for serve, and players will understand.
- Never “Leave” your Partner (start a rally when your Partner is NOT ready)
- Discrete Signals?
 - By R2, Only if they SEE a Fault (NOT for “maybe there could have been”)
 - Ball Handling Discrete (Double, Held Ball) ONLY if R1 could not see contact

Play at the Net (BRA, BRB, Over)



- Back Row Attack: Back Row Player, Attacks Ball from Front Zone, while Ball is entirely higher than the top of the net. Key factor is position of the BALL with respect to the horizontal plane of the top of the Net at moment of contact – Is ball “entirely higher” than the plane?
- Back Row Block: Key factor is position of the BLOCKER’s Hands with respect to the horizontal plane of the Net). Is “blocker” reaching higher than top of net? Fault if ball contacts any part of Back Row Blocker!
- Over the Net: Key factor is position of the BALL with respect to vertical plane of the Net. NOT a fault if any part of the ball is “in the plane of the net”?

Most Common Coaching Comment: “My Setter has a Right to Set the Ball”

– Once the ball reaches the Vertical Plane of the Net, either side may play it freely

- “She Jumped” or “She Didn’t Jump” (Usually with a Libero Attack or Back Row Attack)
 - Illegal Attack (key factor is position of the BALL with respect to horizontal plane of the top of the Net)
 - Whether or not a player “jumps” means NOTHING.

R2 Positioning and Transition

- R2 begins each rally on Receiving Team side “square to court” observing receiving team for possible overlaps. Approximately 3 feet back from Pole, and approximately 1 ½ feet away from Center Line.
- Upon Service Contact, R2 transitions to other side of the net (now the Blockers side) with a slight angle toward the net (inside foot back ½ step). Goal is to be able to “see the Set through the Net.”
- R2’s primary responsibility during the rally is to watch for Net or Center Line faults. R2 MUST “Stay with the Net.” Must NOT follow ball. If R2 can make a line call, then they probably were “off” the Net!
- As play approaches the Net, R2 focuses on Center Line, up to the top of the Net, looking for possible touches by Attackers or Blockers, then following players as they return to the floor, focusing on Center Line until players transition away from Net.
- Video

Coach Communication and Managing Confrontation

- Do not have “Rabbit Ears,” but professionally and unemotionally deal with situations involving profanity or personally demeaning language.
- Coaches are passionate, and have legitimate questions and needs during a match. Officials must answer questions, but should NOT discuss judgement
- Problems are usually the result of cumulative issues/friction. Key is to try to prevent escalation as the match progresses. Never “pour gas on the fire.”
- Approach the Coach with “Open Hands.” Face them. Let them know you are hearing them.
- Never assume you know what the Coach wants to ask. **Listen** to the question and then answer it. If the Coach “comments” on poor judgement – best simply to move on – unless it gets personal or profane.
- Use of Proper Verbage. Have “one liners” for common questions.
- Example Situations. Back Row, “Help your Partner,” What did you see?
- NEVER “throw your Partner under the Bus.” It’s **OUR** call, not “their call.”

Incident and Ejection Reports



- Anything that may “get back” to Association (or above) should be reported to Assignor following the match. Normally, this includes any Sanctions. However, these are almost always informal reports only to the Association.
- Significant “Incidents” (other than Ejections) occurring during a match must be reported immediately following the match via an Incident Report. This may be a facility issue causing teams to switch sides or unruly fans requiring involvement of “Host Management.”
- Formal Incident Reports are first discussed with Association Leadership/Assignor, then with District Director (who provides instructions/password for completing an official report) to the VB Coordinator and AHSAA.
- ANY EJECTION (Red and Yellow) or any incident involving fighting or violence MUST be reported immediately following the match. In fact, the R1 MUST file an official Ejection Report within 12 hours to avoid suspension. Again, the Official goes through Association, then to District Director (who will provide instructions/password for completing the report) to VB Coordinator and AHSAA.
- Incident and Ejection Reports are completed On-Line via the AHSAA Web Site (NOT via DragonFly)! BRIEFLY and clearly state what happened.

Sportsmanship and Professionalism

- Sports involve Passion for the Game. Different Sports have different “standards.” VB requires a High Standard of Behavior for EVERYONE (especially, Coaches and Officials)!
- Coaches have “Needs” (TOs, Subs, Questions) and often have tremendous Experience.
- Officials and Coaches must show Professionalism toward each other, Players, and Spectators
- Officials answer Coaches’ questions, but will not discuss Judgement Decisions.
- Officials must NOT interact with Spectators. Handled through “Event Management” (Principal, AD, Coach, SRO, etc.)
- Treat others as you expect to be treated.
- Be Reliable, On Time, Communicate.
- Project Confidence, Knowledge, Experience.
- Maintain Calm Presence. This is not easy. Assume everything is on Video.
- Behavior (including off the court) DOES have impact on your path.

