

# Supervising ODR Junior Tournaments

This document provides a brief review of some of the duties of supervising referees at ODR Junior tournaments. Please send questions or suggestions for improving this document to Bob Kyle, Old Dominion Region Referee Chair, at [bobkyle@cox.net](mailto:bobkyle@cox.net).

Referees shall wear the official USA Volleyball official's uniform.

Assigned referees must arrive at the facility at least one half hour prior to the first scheduled match of the day. Except for bathroom breaks and short lunch breaks, the supervising referees should be courtside at all times.

Supervising referees must be attentive, alert, and proactive. Don't wait for problems to arise or escalate. Work team inattentiveness, player misconduct, special situations, and incorrect rule interpretations must be addressed as they occur.

Supervising referees need to maintain firm control of on-court behavior, especially at boys' tournaments. Supervising referees must require player R1s to issue appropriate warnings and sanctions. Rude and offensive behavior must be sanctioned. Minor misconduct or behavior that threatens to incite further misconduct must be dealt with in an appropriate manner with a warning. Off-court misconduct must be brought to the attention of the tournament director and the offending player's head coach.

Supervising referees must assist the Tournament Director in any manner required or requested. If the tournament director and the supervising referees work together, each tournament will take place without major problems and will conclude expeditiously.

We highly encourage all supervising officials to referee at least one match during pool play if possible and if there are a sufficient number of other supervising referees to cover all courts. This allows you to teach by doing and you can instruct the rest of the work team during the match if needed. Supervising referees should also keep score as many times as necessary to properly maintain their ODR scorer certification.

In the event of a protest, a committee made up of the Chief Referee, other supervising referees, and the tournament director will immediately rule on the protest to avoid unnecessary delays.

During pool play, supervising referees shall:

1. Assist and instruct R1s, R2s, Line Judges, Scorers, Libero controllers, flip chart operators, and any other work team personnel as necessary.
2. Talk with the work team coach prior to the work team's assignment and remind them that they or another rostered adult must be courtside during the entire match. For younger age groups, it is recommended they either assist the R1 or assist at the score table. For older age groups or for a team that has demonstrated the ability to work a match in an acceptable manner, the coach may be anywhere courtside. If the work team is incomplete or if the coach departs the court during the team's work assignment, supervising referees must ensure appropriate penalties are levied, recorded, and enforced in the next match.
3. Monitor player, work-team, coach, and spectator behavior. Take appropriate action to correct unacceptable and unsporting behavior. Enlist the assistance of the Tournament Director if necessary.
4. Ensure proper time management. Ensure that match intervals are not exceeded. There is a 10 minute interval between matches during which time the coin flip and warm-up period (2 minutes shared ball handling on own court; 4 minutes for the serving team; 4 minutes for the receiving team) for the next match takes place. The 10 minute interval starts when the R1 in the preceding match signals the teams to come together at the net to shake hands after the last point has been scored.
5. Answer coach questions and/or complaints.

6. Prior to each match, check the players' uniforms for any illegal uniforms (taped numbers, non-contrasting numbers, Libero jersey that doesn't contrast, etc.). Have the team with illegal uniforms fix the uniform or don't allow the player to play. If you don't fix the problem, it will still be there for the next referee the next week and may become a problem for one of our teams at a national tournament. Ensure all players have removed all jewelry. Intervene in the match to stop play and ensure appropriate sanctions are issued if jewelry is discovered during the match. This is a safety issue.

7. Conduct the work team briefing prior to each match, or closely supervise and expand on the briefing the work team R1 or coach conducts. Ensure the work team has all necessary equipment they need to do a good job. Do not allow any member of the work team to have a cell phone, iPod, MP3 player or any other device with them during the match. Ensure the line judges have shoes on so that they are able to move quickly out of the way if players run towards them chasing a volleyball. Do not allow work team personnel to have food or drinks at the score table. Allow them to have bottled drinks with screw on lids, but have them keep those drinks off the table.

8. Intervene in the match only on rule situations. Junior players will make mistakes. Let them, without intervening in the match. It is how they learn. Do not intervene on judgment situations. If there is a multiple contact foul (or other judgment call) that is not called, stay out of the match. You can talk to the referees and their coach after the match or between sets. If there is a rule violation (e.g., Libero fault, improper Libero replacement, back row attack, back row block, number of substitutions, exceptional substitution, wrong server, wrong position entry, sanction, rule change situation, etc.) that is not caught by the referees, you may intervene to correct the error. You must ensure there was a rule violation rather than a judgment error. As a rule of thumb, if the play in question would result in an upheld protest, then you must intervene.

9. Ensure that score sheets are complete and accurate at the end of each match and that correct information is entered at the beginning of each match. Checking what the scorer enters at the beginning of each match will give you an indication of how well they will probably do during the match. Require the work team coach to review the score sheet at the end of each match and keep the scorer there to fix any errors on the score sheet. Ensure that the head coach from each playing team signs the scoresheet and that the R1 signs the scoresheet after verifying all necessary information has been entered and is correct.

During play-offs, supervising referees shall:

1. Referee quarter-final and semi-final matches with a work team provided R2 unless there are playoffs on more courts than there are supervising referees.
2. Referee final matches with two supervising referees unless there are more courts than there are supervising referees.

Although supervising Junior tournaments is hard, demanding, and occasionally tedious work, it can be a fun, enjoyable, and rewarding experience if you let it.