



# CHESAPEAKE REGION VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

## REFEREE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



### *Once An Official, Always An Official*

*Corny Galdones, April 1998*

Once you become a volleyball official, you are held accountable to higher standards for conduct and ethics. Officials are expected to be models of excellence in morality, integrity, and behavior on the stand, off the stand, and away from the stand. You will be perceived as an official at all times, regardless of venue or function. So be responsible in and for your actions.

***Officiating conduct.*** Each match is meaningful to someone and deserves nothing but your best in dress, demeanor, and effort. Professionalism is key. Respect all match participants unconditionally. Manage the match in a dignified, business fashion with composure, diplomacy, and fairness while allowing the players and spectators to enjoy the spirit of competition. Your decisions must be unquestionable in impartiality. Activities having any hint of impropriety or personal exhibition are to be shunned. Discussing game matters with the match administrators, coaches, captains, and work partners is essential and suitable, fraternizing is not.

***Non-officiating conduct.*** When at a match in a non-officiating capacity, be it as a player, coach, or spectator, apply the Golden Rule. Treat and respect the match officials as you would want to be treated and respected as a match official. You are no better or worse than the match officials, even if a difference in stature or ability is discerned. If an official makes a perceived mistake, be understanding and keep your emotions and opinions in check. Be on best behavior when asserting your rights within the playing rules. Do not abuse your status as an official by impugning or discrediting the match officials. If you feel the need to provide them constructive input about their performance, do so privately and civilly after the match. Remember, we officials compose a fellowship. Support each other.

***Public conduct.*** An official is obligated to be a model citizen in society. Your actions should be beyond reproach. People trust you will morally know right from wrong. Don't break that trust. Be aware perception is reality. Assume your every action is under scrutiny. Should you have an opportunity to socialize with someone associated with a team you recently officiated or will officiate in an upcoming match, avoid it at all costs unless there is absolutely no possible semblance or question of this being perceived by anyone as inappropriate, a conflict of interest, or a wrongdoing. If there is any uncertainty whatsoever of this being acceptable, play it safe and abstain, no matter how noble your intentions are. All other circumstances and personal actions should be dealt with similar discretion.

Having chosen to become a volleyball official, you represent not just yourself, but the entire brotherhood of volleyball officials. Expectations for your conduct and ethics by your peers and the public are now raised. Whether you want to be or not, you are a role model. You are depended upon to police yourself to do the right thing and be accountable for your actions.