



USA Volleyball

Guidelines for Second Referee Training

While the Officials Division of USA Volleyball prefers that all referees be trained as both First and Second Referees, we do acknowledge that, under certain circumstances (e.g., junior teams), it may be desirable to only provide Second Referee training to new and less experienced referees. To that end, we are providing the following list of Responsibilities of the Second Referee for use as training topics in clinics for Second Referees. These topics should be discussed in detail with the trainees, stressing the necessity of professionalism and teamwork. Clinicians should also stress throughout the training process that the Second Referee is a very important and necessary part of the officiating team and, as such, should take pride in performing their functions to the best of their ability.

The references that are enclosed in parenthesis at the end of most items (e.g., *Pre-match procedures – A.*) refer to the applicable section in the Basic Officials' Training Clinic Script that is developed jointly by USAV and PAVO and has been provided to the RVA Referee Chairs by USAV. Refer to that document as needed during the training session. Clinicians may also wish to refer to USAV Rule 27 for additional details regarding the location, authority and responsibilities of the Second Referee.

Please note that the list of topics provided in this document should be considered the minimum knowledge set required for any volleyball referee. Regions should feel free to include additional topics as they see fit. Furthermore, it is recommended that the trainee receive on-court training related to the topics included in the clinic.

It should be noted that the trainees being addressed by these guidelines should also have a general knowledge of the rules of the game and of scorekeeping techniques. To this end, these trainees should take a written (or verbal) examination. Successful completion of USAV Referee Exam Form D, or a similar exam prepared by the region, should be included as a minimum requirement. It would also be beneficial to the trainee to have them participate in a basic scorekeeping clinic.

Many thanks to the regions, specifically Florida Region, who provided information used to put together this document. Please direct any comments on these guidelines to your regional Referee or Officials Chair or directly to Ben Jordan, National Commissioner – RVA Referee Development at bjordaniii@compuserve.com.

Responsibilities of the Second Referee

General Techniques

- Do not lean on the pole. This is not professional and does not show confidence. Move from side to side, outside the pole, to be in a position to call net and centerline violations. (*Officiating mechanics – C.*)
- Use a loud, firm whistle so that everyone can hear it. Many of the times that an R2 whistles, it is unexpected – make sure everyone knows you whistled. Use a lanyard and keep the whistle (bring your own) in your mouth so that there is no delay in whistling for violations or substitution and time out requests. If players do not stop playing, blow the whistle again louder and with more repetitions to prevent injuries.
- Do not accept rude remarks from the coach or players. Inform the R1 of any rude remarks directed at any of the officiating team (R2, Scorekeeper, Line Judges, etc.) and let him/her deal with it. This is very important and the R1 will be happy to accept your input.
- Remember that you are representing your team. A sloppy job looks like you do not care enough to do a good job. Do the job the same way that you want the other teams to do it when they are officiating your match.
- Pay attention – work hard to not make mistakes. However, if mistakes are made, do not worry about it. Even the best referees miss calls. Just work as hard as you can to do the best job possible and both teams will really appreciate your work.
- Be ready to work from the time warm-ups begin until the end of the match. Do not allow teammates or parents to interrupt your concentration during the match.
- Make your signals clear and visible. This will make you look more professional and will keep the coaches and spectators from asking “What’s the call”. (Clinician may want to stop here and practice hand signals and, possibly, whistle techniques.) (*Officiating Mechanics – A.*)

Pre-game responsibilities

- Attend pre-match meeting with the First Referee and the team captains (*Pre-match procedures – A.*)
- Supply line-up sheets to the team captains or coaches
- Time warm-up period (if requested by R1) (*Pre-match procedures – E.*)
- Check players for jewelry or other forbidden objects (*Pre-match procedures – A.2.*)
- Return the line-up sheets to the scorekeeper; check line-up sheet for Team Name, Coach’s Signature, Designated Floor Captain and, if being used for that game, Designation of a Libero (*Pre-match procedures – B.*)
- Check the player’s positions as they take the court before the start of each game to make sure they match what is written on the line-up sheets (*During the match – A.*)

During the match

- At the time of service, watch the receiving team for position faults (overlaps) (*During the match – B.7.*)
- Primary responsibilities during rallies are to watch for net and centerline violations – to best view these, Second Referee should transition to the blocker's side after the attacking team's first contact. Remember that it is not appropriate to duck under the net – move outside the pole. (*Officiating mechanics – C.*)
- Whistle loudly to end play for net or centerline violations or for foreign objects in the court area that might interfere with play. (*Other rulings – A. & B.*)
- Watch for ball hitting the antenna on your side of the court and clearly whistle and signal this violation (*During the match – C.1.a.*)
- Between rallies, be alert to substitution and/or time-out requests from the coaches (*Officiating mechanics – C.4.*)
- If substitution is requested, whistle and indicate a substitution. Check players' numbers and release the players. Be sure the scorekeeper has the information, then signal the R1 that you are ready (*Match Administration – A. & Officials Mechanics C.6.*)
- If a legal time-out is requested, whistle and indicate which team requested the time-out. Time the time-out and whistle when it is over (30 seconds). Request the players return to their positions, then signal the R1 that you are ready. Show the R1 how many time outs each team has taken and follow their hand signal. (*Match Administration – B.*)
- If a line-up check is requested during a dead ball, whistle to let the R1 know what you are doing. Get the correct information from the scorekeeper – he/she has the most current information.
- If R1 whistles to stop play, mimic R1's hand signals. If you whistle to stop play, signal the violation and then mimic the R1's signal to award the rally. (Clinician may want to stop here and practice signal sequences) (*Officiating Mechanics – A.*)
- Protect the scorekeeper from any interruptions. All requests for information must go through the R2
- During side change at 8 points in a deciding game, make sure players do not stop at benches – they must go directly to the other side of the court
- [Advanced] During the rally, assist the R1 (signal discretely but do not whistle) with:
 - Ball handling violations that may be screened from R1's view
 - Possible back-row attacks or blocks (*During the match – G.*)
 - Ball contacting the floor
 - Four hits vs. touch at the net (*During the match – F.*)
 - Players touching the ball before it goes out of bounds (*Summary of officials and their duties – B.*)

Between Games

- Keep time between games (3 minutes – whistle teams back on the court after 2 ½ minutes)
- Supply line-up sheets to the team captains or coaches
- Return line-up sheets to the scorekeeper as quickly as possible; check for the same information that you did before the match
- If requested by the R1, conduct the coin toss prior to the deciding game
- Keep track of the game ball or delegate this responsibility to a line judge. It is your job to make sure the game ball is not lost between games or after the match.

After the match

- Collect the game ball and return it to the proper location
- Thank your support officials (scorekeeper and line judges)

**Remember the most important tools of a good referee are
Professionalism and Teamwork**