



Indoor Officials Frequently Asked Questions

Question 1: During a substitution, do both the R1 and R2 show the substitution signal?

Only the R1 executes the substitution signal. However: if there is a substitution due to an injury and/or an exceptional substitution, the 2nd referee should blow his/her whistle and use the substitution signal. Also: if there is no horn or the assistant scorer is slow, the 2nd referee would then blow his/her whistle and use the substitution signal.

The rule and rationale

Rules 24.2.6, 24.2.7 and Diagram 11.5 – Only the R1 should show the substitution during a substitution, to inform all the participants and spectators that this substitution has been authorized. The Volleyball Canada Indoor Rules Committee determined in September 2012 that Diagram 11.5 is inconsistent with common practice in international volleyball. Therefore, only the R1 should perform this signal.

Question 2: If the coach is disqualified during the first set and there is no assistant coach, may the team captain submit line-up sheets between sets, or will the team lose the match by default?

If there is no qualified assistant coach on the bench, then:

1. An adult on the bench (this includes any adult player on the bench) may be designated as Assistant Coach (this designation will be written in the Remarks section of the score sheet) and this person will submit line-up sheets between sets.
2. If there are no adults on the bench and players are 18 years or older, the team captain will be permitted to submit the team line-up sheet between sets.
3. If the players are not adults and there is no adult on the bench, the team will be declared incomplete once that set is finished.

The rules and rationale

Rule 5.1.2 does not mention that the team captain may submit line-up sheets between sets in the absence of the coach. The “incomplete team” rules only apply to the players (Rules 6.4.3 and 7.3.1.) and the concept “in the spirit of the game” should apply and the match should continue to completion. Part 2 of the answer stated above represents an extension of Rule

Rule 5.1.2.3. If there are no adults present, however, for reasons related to risk management and accountability, the match should not continue beyond that set.

Question 3: What colour is the belt for Volleyball Canada referees?

Black or navy blue.

Question 4: Are players permitted to wear Medic Alert bracelets?

Yes.

The rule and rationale

Rule 4.5.1 – “Items made from soft material, that are padded, not intrusive and not a danger to others, may



be permitted". Jewelry rule exception: Medic Alert bracelets are permitted. Rationale: a risk management issue, enabling the quickest possible access to life-saving information in the event of a seizure, allergic reaction, etc., is more important than covering the bracelet with tape in order to make the bracelet "safer" in the context of a volleyball match.

Question 5: Who blows the whistle for net infractions committed on the attacker's side?

R1 blows the whistle for net infractions on the attacker's side. However, if R1 misses it and R2 sees it, then R2 may blow the whistle and make the call.

The rule and rationale

Rule 23.3.2.3 re R1's responsibility – "to decide upon: c) the faults above the net, and the faulty contact of the player with the net, primarily on the attacker's side (see also 11.3.1, 11.4.1, 11.4.4) and Rule 24.3.2.3 re R2's responsibility – the faulty contact of the player with the net primarily on the blocker's side.

However, if R2 sees a net infraction on the attacker's side and R1 does not, then R2 must whistle and make the call.

Question 6: If the setter has clearly released the ball and then contacts the net on his/her way down, is it a fault?

Yes. Rule 11.3.1 states "Contact with the net by a player between the antennae, during the action of playing the ball, is a fault. The action of playing the ball includes (among others) take-off, hit (or attempt) and landing safely, ready for a new action.

Question 7: If an attacker hits the ball and upon landing, intentionally grabs the bottom of the net to avoid going across the centre line (and this does not affect the play), is this a net fault?

Yes. Rule 11.4.4 states "A player interferes with play by (amongst others), using the net between the antennae as a support or stabilizing aid.

Question 8: Which signal is used when the server commits a foot fault?

The first referee points to the middle of the baseline – Figure 11.22 in the Rulebook

Question 9: Can a Libero fault be called if the Libero player's "set" was done using the knuckles, a fist, or a clean "beach dig" in his or her front zone?

No. The idea behind the wording "overhand finger pass" is of a controlled pass – a volley.



Question 10: Can a blocker be called for “illegally penetrating the opponent’s space” if he blocks the opposing setter’s view of the ball for a moment, but does not contact the ball nor the setter’s hands?

No.

Question 11: Where does the second referee stand during time-outs?

First, R2 faces the first referee in case the R1 needs to communicate something to R2, in order to inspect the court and to check the floor moppers’ work. THEN R2 goes to the scorer’s table to inspect the scorer’s work (visually, not verbally), and FINALLY, R2 stands in front of the post, facing the scorer’s table to ensure that players stay off the court until it is time for them to return to the court and resume play. There is a video within the FIVB website relating to the correct position of R2 during a TTO (and I would suggest a TO) for review. Section 15 in Table of Contents - clip titled “Perfect R2 during TTO”.

Question 12: When the first referee signals a service fault, does the second referee mimic this signal?

Yes

Question 13: A side-out rally is completed after the incorrect server served the ball. Can the point(s) served by the incorrect server still be cancelled?

Yes, as long as the scorer and referees can determine the exact moment when the incorrect server started serving. If they cannot determine this fact, then no points shall be cancelled (Rule 7.7.2). For example: Team A #13 serves twice when it should be #10 serving – not detected by the scorer. After #13’s second serve, Team B wins the rally. Team B #4 serves – correct server. Team A wins the rally. Team A then requests a rotational check. Scorer replies #13 should serve. Team B immediately appeals for a rotational fault on Team A prior serve. Officials consult, agree that Team A #13 did serve twice on the previous play, and rule a rotational fault on Team A. A loss of rally is applied (side-out and point to Team B) and two points removed from Team A (for every point scored while out of rotation).

Question 14: Do the line judges wear their badges?

For domestic competitions, line judges do not wear their badges. However, for international competitions, line judges would be permitted to wear their badges.

Question 15: During the match, a coach, while standing near the sideline giving instructions to his/her players, is obstructing the view of the line judge. What is the response by the referees?



The 2nd referee should politely ask the coach to stand back so as not to block the view of the line judge.

The rule and rationale:

Rule 5.2.3.4 - The coach may give these instructions while standing or walking within the free zone in front of his/her team's bench from the extension of the attack line up to the warm-up area, without disturbing or delaying the match.

Rationale: Because there is no coaches' restriction line (FIVB only), the coach may go up to the sideline to give instructions to his/her players. However, if the coach is interfering with the work of the line judges (obstructing the view of the line judge), it is by rule, disturbing the match. The 2nd referee must ask the coach to stand back so as not to disturb the work of the line judge. If the coach continues to obstruct the line judge's view, the coach should be warned through the game captain.

Question 16: Where is the coach allowed to move in respect to the sideline?

The coach is allowed to move between the extension of the attack line and the warm-up area.

Question 17: Do you, as the 2nd referee, keep the whistle in your mouth during the procedure for substitutions, or do you remove the whistle from your mouth and speak to the scorer?

You keep the whistle in your mouth as much as possible – the whistle is the most effective means to control a substitution that is going out of control (hasty players, for example) when you are in a noisy gym. During the substitution, visual communication with the scorer is all you need. However, with inexperienced scorers, taking the whistle from your mouth and communicating verbally with the scorer regarding the players' numbers often facilitates the scorer's job.

Question 18: When must the line-up be submitted to the 2nd official?

Immediately, once teams have changed courts. The line-up sheets for the next set should be the first thing the R2 looks for during the interval between sets. At 30 seconds remaining on the set interval clock the R2 blows his/her whistle. If at 0 seconds remaining the scorer is still writing down the line ups due to a late submission from a coach, then a delay of game warning must be issued (if this is the first delay of game in the match by this team).

Question 19: Is R1 required to show the time out signal when a timeout is called?

Yes (please note it is different for FIVB competitions).

Procedure

When R2 whistles for a time out request, R2 would show the timeout signal followed by showing the requesting team as per Signal #4 in the Rulebook.

R1 would also show the timeout signal following by showing the requesting team by pointing to the bench.



Question 20: When R1 calls a net fault, does R2 repeat the net signal?

Yes.

Question 21: When R2 calls a net fault, does R1 repeat the net signal?

No.

Question 22: In the deciding set, what does the R2 use to check the player positions (lineups) on the court?

He/she uses the line-up sheets submitted by the coach.

Question 23: At the end of the set how many whistles are blown by R1?

Three. R1 whistles to end the play – then whistles to show “end of set” signal – then whistles and executes the “teams change sides” or “shake hands” signal.

Question 24: At the end of the 4th set when the score in sets is 2-2, does R1 dismiss the teams from the stand or from the floor?

From the floor.

Question 25: What is the post-game protocol for 1st and 2nd referee?

After the whistle for the last point, the first referee comes down from his/her stand and the second referee crosses the court to join the first referee, at the sideline. From the scorer's table or the jury's table you should see, standing from left to right: 1st referee, 2nd referee (on Court A), line judge 1, line judge 2, line judge 3 and line judge 4 standing (on Court B) side.

Question 26: Does the screen rule still exist?

Yes. Rule 12.5 is the most contentious and misunderstood rule in the Volleyball Canada rulebook. It is a challenge to implement as the referee must make a decision in the short period of time from when the ball is contacted by the server and when the ball crosses the net. The wording of the rule has changed over the last couple of years making it more difficult to call a screen as both conditions must now be met.

The use of grouping players at or near the net has evolved within Canadian Volleyball over the past few years with teams challenging the interpretation of the spirit of the screening rule based upon the philosophy that it is not called at the International level. Referee must look at other criteria to assist in the decision making process based upon the principle that every player is entitled to his/her position on the court. The Receiving



team takes their position; the Serving team takes their position. If the Serving team adjusts their position on the floor to prevent the Receiving team from first seeing the server and secondly the flight path of the ball, then it is a screen.

Referees must try to detect any movement of players on the court at the time of service and the position (grouping) of the players. Referees must determine if the toss of the ball is high enough for the Receiving team to see; are player(s) on the Serving team waving their arms, has the Serving team moved after the Receiving team regains a position on the floor to get an improved view of the server and flight path of the ball?

On a jump serve, it is believed that the Receiving team can see the ball when it is tossed by the server.

Each situation is different and referees must understand the criteria of being a screen and we should help educate the coaches and players regarding the application of the rule interpretation.

Screening is a judgment call, with the referees' decision based on whether or not the criteria have been met, per the rule book.

More information on Rule 12.5 can be found in the Volleyball Canada Referee Guidelines.

Question 27: When a team illegally substitutes a player – at what point does the scorer alert the 2nd referee?

When the scorer sees that substitution has been requested by hearing the buzzer/whistle, the scorer quickly looks for the number of the substitute player coming off the bench. If the number of this substitute player is not on the team roster or does not correspond to the number of the player who should be returning to the court, then this substitution is illegal. Therefore, the buzzer will sound or the scorer raises one hand indicating to R2 "illegal substitution". R2 will then reject the substitution, and indicate to R1 to issue a delay sanction to the offending team. If this illegal substitution is missed and at least one rally has been completed: When the wrong server is detected, the scorer will tell R2 discreetly and before the service, "wrong server". R2 will wait until the service is executed before blowing the whistle, awarding a point and service to the opponent, and removing all points scored by the team while it was out of rotation/out of position.

NOTE: This is why it is very important for the scorer to use the correct hand signals. It is also very important for R2 to clarify with the scorer before the match the expectations regarding match procedures.

Question 28: Does the R1 initial the Remarks section and Sanction section while verifying the score sheet at the end of a match?

Volleyball Canada: At the end of the match, the R1 will initial the Remarks section if information has been recorded in this section. R1's initials are not required in the Sanctions section; it is recommended, however, that if an R1 expels or disqualifies a player or a coach, that he/she submit a separate report to his/her ROC regarding this expulsion/disqualification.

Question 29: The ball is driven into the net on Team A's side. The player from Team B puts his hands up to redirect the ball driven into the net preventing Team A from having a play on the ball. What is the signal for the fault committed on Team B?



Signal 19 – Net Touch

Rule and Rationale

Rule 11.4.4 A player interferes with the opponent's play by (amongst others): making actions which hinder an opponent's legitimate attempt to play the ball.

However, R1 must make a determination on the intent of the player who makes contact with the ball through the net. If contact with the ball through the net is deemed not intentional, then no action is taken against the player and the ball is awarded to the appropriate team.

Rule 11.3.3. When the ball is driven into the net and causes it to touch an opponent, no fault is committed.

A player whose intent and action is to interfere with the ability of the opposing team to play the ball will be deemed to be unsportsmanlike and a Stage 2 Warning (Yellow Card) must be awarded. If the action by the player is either a second offence or done with clear intent, moving to get a position and directly putting his/her hands in a position to re-direct and interfere with the flight of the ball, this will be deemed as Rude conduct (Red Card).

As Referees, we have an educational role regarding the rules. Rule 20.2.1 Participants must behave respectfully and courteously in the spirit of FAIR PLAY, not only towards the referees, but also towards other officials, the opponents, teammates and spectators. The deliberate action of a player redirecting a ball through the net is not adhering to the spirit of the rules as outlined in Rule 20 – FAIR PLAY – and thus a misconduct sanction is required.

Question 30: The first contact from Team A is a poor one and the ball is travelling into the opponent's free zone totally or partially through the external space. A player from Team A is running towards the ball to play the ball back through the external space and while in the opponent's free zone, he/she is interfered with by an opponent from making a play on the ball. What signal is used by the referee to indicate the interference of the player from Team B?

Signal 2 – Team to Serve Point Awarded

Rule and Rationale

Because there is no signal for interference of a player in the opponent's free zone, R1 would indicate the Team to Serve – Signal 2 as it would seem quite obvious that there was interference. If the game captain requests an explanation from R1, R1 would simply state that interference has occurred.

Question 31 (Revised 2018): Is it permissible to wear a long-sleeved shirt underneath the Volleyball Canada uniform shirt when the gym is too cold? Is it permissible to wear the



referee jacket at Volleyball Canada National Championships when the gym is too cold?

Long-sleeved shirts are permissible provided the long-sleeved shirt is navy in color. For Volleyball Canada National Championships, it is not permissible to wear the referee jacket during the match.

Question 32: The served ball hits the net and antenna before being played by the receiving team and the referee whistle for a service fault. What signal does the 1st Referee use? What signal is used for a served ball that passes the net outside the antenna?

Signal #19 should be used when the server ball fails to cross the vertical plane of the net, completely through the crossing space. Other examples of service faults include a served ball that goes under the net, hits a player of the serving team before the ball crosses the net. Hand signal number 15 ("OUT") is the signal for served ball passing outside the antenna.

Refer to the 2016 FIVB Casebook (Case #7.12)

Question 33: What signal does the Line Judge show for when the ball is deemed "Out" as per Rule 8.4?

To understand the clear and distinct usage of the correct Line Judge signal to use, we need to identify and understand the following definitions and in what circumstance they relate to Ball 'Out'

1. Crossing Space
2. Playing Area

The first instance of ball out is when the part of the ball which contacts the floor is completely outside the boundary lines without being touched by a player on the receiving team. This instance can only be considered when the ball is legally sent to the opponent's court through the crossing space. If this is the case, Line Judge Signal #2 must be used. The same would apply if the ball is sent to the opponent's court through the crossing space and hits the wall or goes into the spectator seating area. Although the wall is considered an object outside the court as per Rule 8.4.2, it is logical to use Line Judge signal #2 to show the ball is "Out".

Almost all other instances that result in Ball 'Out' (and the use of Line Judge signal #4) involve the ball physically contacting something within the playing area. Specifically, an object outside the court (E.g. referee stand), the ceiling, a person out of play, the antennae, ropes, post or the net itself outside the side bands. A person out of play is also limited to a person that is within the playing area. This means a member of the referee corps or the coach while they are walking within the free zone. In these situations, the line judge would use Line Judge signal #4 pointing to the antenna on his/her side of the court.

The team staff, substitutes, Scorer and Assistant Scorer, etc. are all situated outside of the playing area. If the ball contacts any of this latter grouping, the line judge must determine if the ball was legally sent through the crossing space as the determining factor for which signal is to be used. If the ball was sent through the crossing space legally, and touched by a player of the receiving team, the line judge would show Line Judge



signal #3. If it is not touched by a player on the receiving team and contacts any individual list above, the signal would be Line Judge signal #2 (Out).

When the ball crosses the vertical plane of the net either partially or totally outside the crossing space, it requires a greater understanding of the ability of the athletes to play the ball back either totally or partially through the external space on the same side of the court.

- If a team chooses not to pursue the ball passed beyond the net through the external space, whether it lands in the opponent's court, the opponent's free zone or outside of the playing area, signal #4 is to be used.
- If a team does pursue the ball passed beyond the net through the external space, line judges must be very patient and observe what happens next.
 - If the ball is played back totally or partially through the external space on the same side of the net, we must understand the legal nature of this occurrence and not make any signal
 - If the ball is played back but goes completely through the crossing space, signal #4 must be used immediately to identify Ball 'Out'
 - If the ball is pursued, but is deflected into the opponent's court, beyond the opponent's free zone, etc. signal #4 is used to identify Ball 'Out'

Please refer to the Line Judge Training presentation at <http://www.volleyball.ca/en/development/referee/rules-amp-guidelines>.

Question 34: For U Sport matches where the 2 libero system is being used, what should be recorded on the line up card to designate the Libero(s)?

A. Teams have the option of using 0, 1, or 2 liberos. Coaches must indicate the number of the Libero(s) on the line up card. If teams choose to use 2 liberos, both numbers must be on the line up card. If there is no number or only 1 number listed for the libero, the 2nd referee should confirm with the coach if that is their true intention. Often, the libero number is missed by the coaches and 2nd referees should check to ensure the number of liberos the team wishes to use before the line ups are recorded on the scoresheet.

Question 35: Are players allowed to wear headbands?

Yes.

Rule and Rationale

Rule 4.5.1 – "Headwear is not permitted except those worn for religious and/or cultural beliefs. Headbands can be worn, at a maximum 5cm in width, made of non-abrasive, single color cloth, pliable plastic, or rubber."

Rationale: The rule on headbands was put in place back in early 1990s to disallow players from wearing bandanas. The 5cm width was decided on as it is easy to equate to the width of the court lines. The single color was put in place to alleviate any gang affiliation which was of great concern back then. The color of the headband does not have to be the same for each player as the headband is NOT part of the official uniform. The headband CANNOT have any patterns on it – MUST be a solid color. The headband can also be tied as long as it meets the criteria in Rule 4.5.1.



Question 36: When only 2 line judges are used, where should the line judge be positioned when the server is on his/her side of the court?

When the server has taken their starting position to serve near the line judge, the line judge should position themselves along the end line in order to see the contact of the server's foot (feet) with the end line at the moment of the service hit (or take off for jump serve).

Rationale

With the other players on the court possibly obscuring the view of R1 of the server contacting the end line with his/her foot (feet) at the moment of the service hit (or take off for jump serve), the line judge will be in position to see and signal the fault of the server. It is important to note that the line judge, after the service hit, must move quickly into position to ensure that the served ball does not cross the plane of the net outside the crossing space and that the line judge is in position to see the ball land in or out along the side line.

Question 37: What is the procedure for the referees and the match participants for when an injury to a player occurs on the court?

The procedure or protocol for an injury on the court would be that the injured player would be tended to by the trainer (if no trainer, then the coach) with the players remaining on the court. If there is a trainer present, the coach would be also allowed onto the court to tend to the injured player - for domestic competitions only. There have been cases where the trainer goes out, then the coach also goes onto the floor, especially as some teams are using student trainers at the CCAA and U sport levels. The coach may have more knowledge than the trainer. The opponent players would also remain on the court during this time. Because the coach can walk freely in the free zone, the coach would be allowed to meet with his/her players while they are on the court. No water would be allowed for the players on the court while the injured player is being tended to. However, if the injury is serious and it will take some time to stabilize the player prior to moving him/her off the court, then the other players would be allowed to move to the bench area. This doesn't happen a lot but with common sense being used, the referees can use their best judgment and make a decision. If an ambulance is required then it's an easy decision to allow them to move to the bench.

Question 38: Are players permitted to yell during the opponent's execution of service?

Rule 20.2 in the Volleyball Canada Rule book states:

20.2 FAIR PLAY

20.2.1 Participants must behave respectfully and courteously in the spirit of FAIR PLAY, not only towards the referees, but also towards other officials, the opponents, team-mates and spectators.

20.2.2 Communication between team members during the match is permitted (Rule 5.2.3.4).

Additionally, as per the Code of Ethics in the Volleyball Canada Rulebook, it states in part:

A - IN RELATION TO THE PLAYER

1. The official shall ensure that the player has a reasonable opportunity to perform to the best of his/her ability, within the limits of the rules.



3. During the game, the official is required to supervise; he/she must take all reasonable steps to maintain a spirit of healthy competition.

Accordingly:

- a) He/she shall not permit intimidation of a player by other players or by team staff, either by word or action.
- b) He/she shall not tolerate unacceptable conduct to officials, other players or spectators.
- c) He/she shall avoid pointless discussions with players in a match situation; only team captains are authorized to address him/her.

When it comes to opponents yelling during a player's execution of service, the referees must take into consideration WHAT is directed at the opponent and HOW it is being directed. If deemed excessive or over the top, misconduct warnings or sanctions MUST be issued. Referees must make a judgement on this behavior and act accordingly as per Rule 20.2 and taking into account the above reference to the Code of Ethics.

Question 39: What is the correct notification procedure performed by R2 after the 5th (11th) and 6th (12th) substitution or 2nd timeout?

After a team has used its 5th (11th) or 6th (12th) substitution or 2nd timeout, R2 should firstly inform R1 and then secondly, inform the coach.

Question 40 (New 2018): Are players required to wear the same shorts?

No

Rule and Rationale

Rule 4.3 – “A player's equipment consists of a jersey and shorts.”

Rule 4.3.1 – “The colour for the jerseys and shorts must be uniform for the team (except for the Libero). The length, style, design or fit of the shorts are irrelevant and of no consequence. The uniforms must be clean.”

Rationale: There are many teams that do not provide shorts to their players as part of the uniform. There are various styles, fits, and lengths that players are comfortable wearing that do not compromise or detract from their play. The only requirement for player shorts is that the shorts be the same color as per Rule 4.3.1.