



Jo Auch
Assistant Executive Director
South Dakota High School Activities Association

This newsletter will be a focus as we gear up for the final phase of our volleyball season and draw near the post season. These are great reminders for all officials. Hopefully, you will find one or two things that you can use to help along the way.

REVIEW YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES As we enter post-season tournament time, officials are encouraged to review specific responsibilities (Rule 5) per position (R1, R2) and the officials' manual.

PRE-MATCH CHECK ALWAYS IMPORTANT

Do not take short cuts in the pre-match. Do not assume everyone is on the same page with you. Get to the match in plenty of time to complete your pre-match duties. The officials always have the responsibility to inspect the ball, court and playing equipment prior to pre-match conference with coaches and captains. If the officials discover a problem, they should not be the ones to "physically" correct the problem, contact the host management and have them find people to help with the problem. Check the ball pressure and net height. If either needs to be adjusted, take care of the issue prior to the warm-up beginning. If the standards are not anchored or properly padded, or the officials stand in not secured, have the host school correct the problem. Be sure to verify with the coaches that their uniforms and equipment are legal. It is important that everyone knows their responsibilities and puts their best effort forward as we make final preparations for sub-state and state events.

R2 REMINDERS

As an R2, keep the following things in mind:

- 1) **Transcribe the starting line-ups correctly onto your line-up card & check to make sure the numbers of the starting players match those on your line-up card.** Scenario: Coaches writes player #12 as starter on lineup; #2 starts the match - R2 does not catch mistake; several plays later the coach subs #4 in for #12, but #2 is playing. Ruling: Illegal line-up. Note: The ultimate responsibility of the players on the court is the coaches' responsibility. However, in this situation, the R2 could have prevented this error, had they taken the time to slow down and get it correct with a substitution to start the match.
- 2) Make sure the libero is listed on the line-up card if the team plans to use one. If you see, a libero warming up on the court but the libero is not listed, PRIOR to the 2-minute mark go over and ask the coach if they plan to use a libero. That will still give them the

ability to utilize one without penalty. If after the two-minute mark, the libero is not listed, the Libero **WILL NOT** be allowed to play in that set!

- 3) **Use your line-up card throughout the match.** Not only must you know the correct line up of the receiving team at the moment of serve, you should also keep track of substitutes on the card and start informing the head coach when they reach their 15th substitution.
- 4) **Make required calls at the net during play.** As an R2, you cannot be a complete spectator of the game. Your focus of attention must be per Rule 5-5-3 (pg. 24).

LIBERO TRACKERS

The beginning of each time-out, the libero tracker will inform the second referee of each team's libero status. Be sure that the substitutions are being recorded properly for BOTH teams. We have a tendency to get teams into the state tourney that have replacement issues and they always say "we've been doing it like this all year". Let's catch these issues before these teams make it to state.

"THE LIBERO SANDWICH"

Remember that the player who leaves the court when the libero enters the court must be the same player that returns to the court when the libero player exits the court. Example: #12 leaves the court, libero enters, libero must exit and #12 must re-enter (**12/L/12= a libero sandwich**). Sometimes this is a good way to explain it to the tracker so that they can visualize what has to happen.

THE "U-TURN"

Situation: Player 10 starts the set in the LF position and plays across the front row. When 10 rotates to the RB position, #4 is subbed in to serve. Upon loss of rally, she (4) is replaced by the libero. The libero plays across the back row. When the libero is scheduled to rotate to the front row, player 10 (who plays front row for the team), replaces the libero.

Ruling: Illegal libero replacement. When the libero leaves the court, she must be replaced by player #4 (libero sandwich: 4/L/4). **NOTE:** If the coach wants #10 to play the front row instead of #4, a replacement with #4 followed by a substitution of #10 for #4 can take place during the same dead ball. This procedure is referred to by many as a "U-Turn".

LINE JUDGES AND USE OF FLAGS

Line judges are a part of your officiating crew. Interact with your line judges and keep them focused on the play. As the R1, it is your duty to review with them your expectation and to review FLATS with them and the proper use of the flags. Treat them with respect. Do not overrule them unless you bring them over to the stand and discuss the call with them. Line judges for region play may or may not be licensed officials, so please be thorough with their duties. SoDak 16 must have licensed officials, which will be assigned by the SDHSAA.

REVIEWING DECISIONS

Decisions based on judgment of the official(s) are not subject to review. Do not allow the coach to review a questionable call or give them that opportunity. If a specific rule is misapplied, such as a back row player being a front row player that would be alright to review that decision.

Items not up for review would be an illegal hit or a judgment call about the height of the ball at contact with a back row player attacking it, etc.

USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The use of an electronic communication device is permitted during the match; however, they may not be used for any review of a referee's decision. These should not interfere with play or be in the way of the officials working the match.

BALL HANDLING

Being consistent with our calls is all we can ask for from our officials. Ball handling calls are still a concern. Be sure if you are calling a "two" on a second contact, you see two separate contacts.....don't assume because it was ugly that it was a two. We still need to call the two if it is there, but try not to insert yourself into a match by thinking you have to make the "two" calls. Helpful hint might be to try to watch the HANDS TO THE BALL, not the BALL TO THE HANDS. This has helped some people when trying to determine the prolonged contact and double hits.

OFFICIALS UNIFORM

Officials must look professional! Slack/pants must be BLACK; officials' **shirts must be white and tucked in**, and remember officials' jackets are required for sub-state and state events. In addition, black socks and solid black athletic shoes are the other parts to the uniform. Carry the proper equipment with you, (whistle, black lanyard, line up cards, pencil/pen, red/yellow cards, coin, ball pump and net chain). BE PROFESSIONAL AT ALL TIMES!

WHEN ADDRESSING COACHES

Be polite, approachable and convincing. These conversations should not hold up the match. Most of the time coaches just need a quick, simple explanation of what you might have seen. Sometimes officials are forced to make difficult calls in a difficult situation. Regardless of the call, your response need to be unemotionally. Do not allow your body language or voice to display displeasure. Your facial expression and voice should not suggest you are happy or unhappy to be calling a violation or issuing a penalty.

Communication is also listening. Ninety percent (90%) of officiating is being a "people person". It is "knowing how to work with and handle people". **Remember that listening is an important skill.** If you are asked a question, respond with the appropriate answer. Don't throw anyone under the bus in your response, as to "it wasn't my call" or "I didn't see it." Treat everyone on the court with the same respect you demand from them.

SPORTSMANSHIP & THE UNRULY SPECTATOR

Rule 12-3: When a spectator becomes unruly or interferes with the orderly progress of the set, the R1 shall suspend play until **host management** resolves the situation and the set can proceed in an orderly fashion.

Officials DO NOT:

- Card a spectator;
- Scold a spectator;
- Approach a spectator.

That is the responsibility of the host management.

Host Management MUST:

- Monitor crowd actions & enforce appropriate sportsmanship;

- Not allow spectators on the court after the contest to confront officials.

We want to keep cheering at the matches in a positive manner. If you have any concerns about the sportsmanship of the contest, contact host management and let them deal with their spectators, fans and student body.

PLAYS OF THE WEEK

Situation: Here is a quick lesson on Libero setting in the front zone. Review Rule 9.5.6b. These are frequently missed. Both referees must be aware of the Libero in the front zone whether setting or not. Pre-match with your partner; R1 has the hands; R2 has the feet (if possible) for any play involving the attack line.

https://youtu.be/O6NMZ_33Zl8

Situation: #5 on the right is a back row setter. Tough to see for sure from this angle as she puts her hands up, but they appear to not be above the height of the net. This is contact #1, not a block. Note that the opposing coach has a differing opinion and makes it known. The R2, in a non-confrontational manner, goes over to acknowledge her concern and doesn't let her address the R1 across the court. Play quickly continues. Great job by the R2.

<https://youtu.be/QX2ayywLaD0>

THANK YOU!

These are two simple words- that are not spoken nearly enough! I, for one, want to take a moment to say THANK YOU for all you do for the sport of volleyball. I know how many nights a week you are gone from family and friends, and I just want you to know that it does not go unnoticed or unappreciated. I appreciate your commitment to excellence. I appreciate your dedication and determination to "pay attention to detail" and make sure the enforcement of rules are carried out each and every time that you work a match, so that when the next team attends the same facility, the rules are enforced the same way each time a match is played. Lastly, thank you for agreeing to become an official. We need more people like you to be willing to join the ranks and do what you do. You are great leaders in the field. Continue to be that teacher and mentor for anyone who chooses to join the group. Thank you for all you do!

With gratitude and appreciation,

Jo Auch
Assistant Executive Director