

Officials - As we reach the midpoint of the season, please review the following items:

LINEUP SHEETS/SERVING ORDER/LIBERO TRACKING

- 1) The line up sheet should list the numbers of the players starting the match in those positions.
- 2) The first server for the RECEIVING team will be listed first on the lineup sheet and will be located in the RIGHT FRONT POSITION on the floor.
- 3) The libero IS NEVER LISTED IN THE STARTING LINE UP but is beckoned on to the court for replacement of a starting player AFTER the lineup has been verified by the R2. The libero number is located on the lineup sheet in a separate blank at the top of the lineup along with the blank for the floor captain. If there is no libero number listed in this blank, the team shall not use a libero for that SET.
- 4) If the libero serves, the scorekeeper and the libero tracker will place a triangle around the position number to identify this on the scoresheet and libero tracking sheet at the time of the rotation during the set. Coaches are NOT required to identify a position for the libero to serve prior to the start of the set.

Officials must follow these procedures and rules. Not doing so causes an enormous amount of confusion among coaches, scorers, libero trackers, and other officials who are following proper procedures.

PLAYABLE/NONPLAYABLE AREAS

Rule 2-1-9 defines the playable area as the court and the unobstructed space outside of the court boundary lines. The playable area outside of the court boundary lines shall be visible to all team members and officials.

Rule 2-1-10 defines the nonplayable area as that space located beyond the court and surrounding playable area. It includes walls, bleachers, team benches, area behind team benches, and any other areas identified in the pre-match conference, deemed by the first referee as unsuitable for playable area.

Confusion remains as to how to play the area between the scorer's table and the team benches. When the team benches are in the bleachers, this area is obviously unplayable. However, when the team benches are actual benches or chairs on the floor, and the scorer's table is set between them, the area between the team benches and scorer's table is PLAYABLE unless the first referee determined at the prematch conference that the area was unsuitable for playable area (not enough space, dangerous, etc.).

Also, remember that a player may play a ball over a nonplayable area if the player has a body part in contact with a playable area at the time the ball is contacted, and she may enter the nonplayable area after playing the ball. Keep in mind that a player still may not gain an illegal advantage by contacting a team bench, scorer's table, bleachers, wall, etc. Additionally, remember that when matches are being played on adjacent courts, no player or ball may enter or break the plane of the adjacent court before, during, or after playing the ball.

YELLOW/RED CARD PROCEDURE & LOSS OF STANDING PRIVILEGES

Remember that if you issue a card (yellow or red) to the head coach, an assistant coach, or team bench, the head coach shall remain seated for the remainder of the match except:

- to request a time-out or substitution during a dead ball;
- to confer with officials during specifically requested time-outs;
- to ask the second referee, during a dead-ball situation, to review the accuracy of the score, verify the number of time-outs used, the serving order of his/her team, or to verify the proper server for the opponent;
- to stand at the bench to greet a replaced player;
- to confer with players during time-outs;
- to spontaneously react to an OUTSTANDING play by a player(s) of his/her own team;
- to attend to an injured player with the permission of a referee.

Rule 12-2 outlines conduct expectations and the procedure for handling unsporting conduct violations.

If a team has co-head coaches, one head coach must be designated as the coach with standing privileges for match.

SUBSTITUTION PROCEDURE

Rule 10-2 outlines proper substitution procedure. The procedure for multiple substitutions was changed two years ago to "substitution in succession." In other words, if more than one substitution is to be made, the substitutions

shall be made in succession, one pair of players (substitute and outgoing player) after another, such that only one substitute is in the substitution zone at a time. Additionally, when more than one substitution is requested, the incoming substitutes must be ready to enter the substitution zone once the preceding substitute has been released to the court. Some officials are getting lax in enforcing this procedure, and we need to tighten it up a bit. Penalty is unnecessary delay.

REGIONAL/STATE TOURNAMENT AVAILABILITY

If you are interested in being considered to officiate in the regional/state tournament series, please double-check to ensure that you have submitted your availability in your official's locker and that the availability is correct. If you need to make a change, please simply resubmit your availability form in your locker by this Friday, Sept. 23. I will begin working on officials' assignments this weekend. If your availability changes after Friday, please email me the change. Regional assignments will be posted to your officials lockers on Wednesday, Oct. 5. You will also receive an email notifying you if you have been assigned regional matches.

Get mentally prepared for each match you work, stay focused, and keep up the great work!

Joel Oswald
Assistant Director