Chapter VII

REFEREEING TECHNIQUES
FOR BETTER OFFICIATING

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It is highly recommended that referees fulfill the following conditions to officiate successfully:

1. A Complete Understanding of the Rules

The referees must have a complete understanding of the Official Volleyball Rules. This means that they are required to understand the essence or spirit of what each rule stipulates. The referee makes instantaneous decisions. He has no time to ponder the interpretation or the application of the rule before making his decision, even in rare cases.

2. Officiating Experience

The referee should have experience in refereeing official matches because officiating is entirely practical not theoretical.

3. Friendly Attitude Towards Players

When officiating, the referee should maintain a friendly attitude towards the players. He must carry out his duties in a gentle, courteous manner and must not be authoritarian.

4. Fair Decisions

The referee's decisions should be impartial at all times. The first referee may change any of his fellow officials' decisions or his own. For example, if he makes a decision (whistled) and then sees that the second referee made an opposite one, he can do one of the following:
a) If he is sure he is correct, stick to his decision.
b) If he sees he was wrong, change his decision.
c) If he sees that a fault was committed simultaneously by both teams, he signals for the rally to be replayed.
d) If he considers the second referee’s decision was wrong, he can reverse it or have the rally replayed depending on the situation.

5. Whistling

In practice, referees are required to blow their whistles immediately when they see a fault or if the ball is dead. Slow whistling puts doubt in the minds of players and spectators and causes problems. When two faults have been committed by two opponents, it is always the first fault that must be penalized.

6. Judgment on Ball Handling

We insist on the FIVB’s 1966 Prague Congress “decision” requiring referees, when deciding “ball handling faults,” to call a fault only when they are convinced and have seen with absolute clarity, that a fault has been committed (held ball, carried, double contacts, etc.). If there is any doubt, they must not whistle.

7. Collaboration With Fellow Officials

The first referee must always cooperate with his fellow officials, (second referee, scorer, linesmen). He must allow them to work within their areas of competence and authority. When deciding whether a ball was “in” or “out”, he must always look at the linesman in charge of the line close to the place where the ball landed. During the match, the first referee must often look at his second referee, who is facing him, to find out whether he is signalling a fault or not (four contacts, double contacts, etc.). The question as to whether the ball “out” has been touched by the receiving team, is checked by all the officials—both referees and linesmen. It is, however, the first referee who makes the decision after seeing the signals of the others. The referee must not ask the player whether or not the ball has touched him.

8. Hand Signals

The referees must use only official hand signals. The hand signals must be clearly indicated and held up for a moment for players, officials and spectators to see. The hand signals must be indicated in the following order:

1. The nature of the fault
2. The player at fault
3. The next team to serve
Referee in action
Mini volley