

# OHSBVA TECHNIQUES – 2010

## R2 Techniques

1. A lineup card is **not required** by the R2 but may be used as long as it does not become a crutch where the R2 misses what is occurring on the court, fails to signal clearly (including use of informal signals) and focuses on the card at the cost of what's happening in the match.
2. The R2 should use the lineups submitted by coaches to verify player positions on court to start each set; however, the R2 must be sure to distinguish a lineup submitted with players shown in floor positions from one submitted with players shown in serve order to properly check player positions on the court.
3. The R2 does **not** hold the competition volleyball in hand while checking lineups.
4. The R2 does **not** go onto the court while checking lineups. Rather, the R2 will obtain view of player numbers by requesting players turn to show their numbers as needed.
5. The R2 does roll the ball to the server at the start of each set, having secured the competition volleyball from the line judge who ends up with the ball at the end of the set.
6. The R2 does not allow the line judge to take the ball from the officials' table to start the match or keep the volleyball to start a subsequent set. The act of tossing the volleyball to the first server is considered part of the protocol by which the R2 is telling the R1 he or she is ready for play. The R2 has already checked lineups for each team, authorized the libero to replace a back-row player and ensured the libero tracker is aware of the exchange(s). At that time, the R2 gives the ball to the first server, then verifies the officials' table is ready, then move into position on the receiving team's side of the net, identifies player positions and turns the court over to the R1 with the agreed-upon ready signal.
7. The R2 may signal who is captain for the initial lineup checks by holding hand in front of chest and gesturing toward the captain for each team with opposite hand. Captains should be encouraged to raise hand to acknowledge this.
8. The R2 may signal no change in team captain for subsequent sets with hand held in front of chest rather than re-signaling the same captain for a team.

## Additional Techniques for Referees

- Referees are to signal a non-served ball that passes under the net to the opponent's side with signal 2 (line violation), pointing to the middle of the centerline. The timing of the R1's whistle is the moment the ball is no longer retrievable by the team that hit it under the net, indicating the rally is over since ball is no longer on the plane of the net under the net and can't be saved.

## Line Judge Techniques

- Line judges should start each rally in their base positions. LJs should be clearly instructed that, if a server comes within about 6 feet of the LJ's position to serve from the left side of court, the LJ should not pull off the sideline but, rather, should move back along sideline just out of view of server in order to avoid visual distraction or discomfort, then move forward to the base position immediately AFTER service contact.

- Line judges should not move up with a player who is running to jump serve but should wait and move upon service contact, coming to a halt before making a line call in particular.
- If the R1 so indicates, the LJ should return to his/her base position to better judge a possible end line foot fault but, in doing so, should assume a position slightly back from the sideline to create additional space if needed, depending upon how close the server is to the sideline. The LJ should then immediately move back to base position for a possible sideline call.
- Line judges should NOT back up when the server is more than 6 away from the left sideline. This is basically a useless position to start a rally.
- Line judges should be instructed to get low to avoid being screened in making line calls and to move for position but not enter the court.
- Line judges should be instructed to move as necessary to help determine whether attempted pancake saves are legal. The line judge should make the assumption that the ball will be saved and only show “ball lands inbounds” if 110% certain that the ball touched the court.
- Line judges should be instructed to turn to the side to avoid the ball while focusing eyes on the part of the court where the ball is landing (getting their eyes ahead of the play) to make the most accurate line calls.
- LJ should show antenna fault INCLUDING ball hitting portion of antenna in the net by pointing the index finger of the non-flag hand at the appropriate antenna and waving the flag. To show which team hit the ball off the antenna, the LJ should point his/her index finger at the antenna, then wave the flag to get the R1's attention, then gesture with right arm (or flag in right hand) down end line if the team on the LJ's side committed the antenna fault or down the sideline with left arm (or flag in left hand) to show the team on the far side of net committed the antenna fault.
- Without a flag, a LJ should show an antenna fault by pointing index finger at antenna and wave his/her hand to get the R1's attention. To show which team hit the ball off the antenna, the LJ should point his/her index finger at the antenna, then wave the other hand to get the R1's attention, then gesture with right arm down the end line if the team on the LJ's side committed the antenna fault or gesture with left arm down the sideline if the team on the far side of net committed the antenna fault.
- Line judges should signal “antenna fault” (point at antenna and wave flag to get R1’s attention) when a ball:
  - a. touches either antenna above the net;
  - b. touches the portion of an antenna in the net;
  - c. touches the portion of the net outside the antenna;
  - d. touches any part of the net set-up including rope, cable, stand, pads, post that is outside the antenna;
  - e. passes over (not completely inside) or outside an antenna and the ball has clearly passed entirely to the opponent’s side of the court.

## **LINE JUDGES**

**Question:** May players be used as line judges and, if so, does the visiting coach need to agree?

**Answer:** Players are permitted to serve as line judges in certain circumstances. However, there are some requirements. The only players eligible to serve as line judges are non-rostered players for the match in question and not playing in the match in question. So, while no one on the roster of the team that will be playing the match may be a line judge, a JV player could serve as a line judge for the Varsity match. One additional requirement is that, to serve as a line judge, a player is not permitted to wear a numbered team jersey. The visiting team coach does NOT need to

approve the use of players as line judges but if, in the opinion of the R1, a line judge is not handling the responsibility properly, the LJ can be replaced for the next game.

This issue has to be addressed because some schools/coaches do not require parents to serve as line judges and/or do not properly train parents effectively. In some instances, trained parents aren't available while, in others, schools choose to use players as line judges because these players may have more of a feel for the game, understand the angles” and may have better visual acuity. Regardless, the R1 is responsible for determining whether line judges are paying attention and fulfilling their responsibilities sufficiently well enough or whether the LJ needs to be replaced. In general, line judges should not be replaced during the middle of a game unless an extenuating circumstance arises that prohibits someone from finishing a game (becoming ill or indisposed, etc).

### **Scorer Techniques:**

- Scorers now must add the responsibility for properly recording events associated with the libero serving, partnering with the libero tracker to ensure that the first time each team’s libero serves a triangle is recorded to mark that spot in the service rotation, that points scored with the libero serving are recorded in a triangle and that if the libero attempts to serve in a second place in the rotation in a given game, the R2 is informed immediately.
- The R2 will be required to ensure that scorers have been properly instructed to fulfill this function, that partnering is occurring between the scorer and the libero tracker, and that the libero serving is verbalized to ensure that all pertinent information is being recorded.
- Scorer may be asked to be a second check that proper players are on the court to start a set and correct positions according to the scoresheet.
- Scorer uses scoresheet at conclusion of a time-out to verify the players on the scoresheet (other than a libero) are the players returning to the court for both teams (in an ideal world!).

### **Libero Tracker Techniques:**

- Libero trackers now actually have to be trained, which will be a key change for some schools. The R2 will have to ensure that any libero tracker who has not been trained receives sufficient information/guidance to fulfill his/her responsibilities associated with the libero serving and how to record the replacement when the libero moves to serve from an on-court position. The libero tracker has to partner with the scorekeeper to ensure that the first time each team’s libero serves a triangle is recorded to mark that spot in the service rotation and that if the libero attempts to serve in a second place in the rotation in a given game, the R2 is informed immediately.
- The R2 will be required to ensure that libero trackers are partnering with the scorer and that the libero is serving is verbalized to ensure that all pertinent information is being recorded.
- Libero tracker may be asked to be a third check that proper players are on court to start a set and in correct positions according to the libero tracking sheet (LTS), then to verify as libero is authorized to enter that the number on the LTS matches the number of the libero entering the court.
- The libero tracker is essential to ensuring that the proper players are on the court when the libero assumes the RB position to serve the next rally. The R2 must ensure that the LT and scorer both are aware of the libero serving, have put a triangle around the appropriate position in the service rotation (triangle goes around the I, II, III, IV, V or VI) and that the libero is not attempting to serve in a different spot in the rotation in a given game which would be illegal.

- When a time-out is called, per pre-match instructions by R2, the LT can be asked to provide information regarding whether a libero is on or off the court for each team. The intent is clearly to prevent a mess which occurs when a libero exchange takes place out of view of the officials (including the LT) during a time-out.
- Everyone, including the LT, is responsible for trying to ensure the players who were on the court are the same players who return to the court after the time-out. Clearly, a substitution during a time-out is legal, and the R2 is responsible for conveying appropriate information to the scorer(s) and libero tracker(s) during the time-out. Many scorekeeping mess-ups occur for an unauthorized change of players on the court during a time-out.

Note: The proper technique for a substitution taken during a time-out is to 1) ensure there were not two separate requests for substitution on the same dead ball (one would be denied without penalty); 2) not require the players to enter the sub zone to sub in/out after the time-out has concluded; but 3) for the R2 to communicate to the R1 that a substitution occurred in such a manner as to make this public. There was never an intent that that the substitution be a secret.

### **Request by Head Coach for Reconsideration of R1's Ruling on the Last Rally**

Referees are expected to facilitate a head coach's request for reconsideration of the R1's ruling on the last rally using the following process and with the following stipulations:

- Match officials are expected to facilitate requests for rule reconsideration with patience and equanimity. A legitimate concern is entitled to fair consideration. However, the continued raising of challenges to judgment calls is unacceptable and subject to sanction so it's important that coaches use the reconsideration request reasonably.
- To request rule reconsideration, the head coach must inform the R2 that the coach is asking for reconsideration of a ruling (not simply a judgment call) and is willing to use a time-out to do so.
- The R2 will first hear the coach's question to determine whether the coach is asking for reconsideration of something that is solely a judgment call. If solely a questioning of the R1's judgment on the last rally, no reconsideration and play should resume immediately.
- If the rule reconsideration is being requested for other than the last rally, no reconsideration will be given, and play will resume immediately.
- The rule reconsideration may involve the R1's acceptance of an R2's ruling but may not involve the accuracy of the official scoresheet. Accuracy of the score is addressed separately.
- A coach is not permitted to cross the court to discuss the rule with the R1 without going through the R2. Rather, if the R2 determines that the coach's concern appears to involve possible misapplication of a playing rule or the application of the wrong rule or application of an incorrect penalty, the R2 will delay calling the time-out until the R1 is advised of the coach's question.
- The R2 will cross the court to discuss the rule issue with the R1. The coach will not enter the court. If the R1 agrees with the coach's position, a new ruling may result in a replay or the awarding of the rally to the challenging coach.
- The R1 may choose to come across the court to the R2 side of the court to access the OHSBVA Rules Book, OHSBVA Casebook, Rules Exceptions or NFHS Casebook and Manual in an effort to quickly address the coach's rule issue. The R2 is permitted to assist in this process and a consult between the two officials is encouraged.

- If the R1 can resolve the rule issue immediately, this should occur. However, as soon as the R1 determines that the rule issue can't be resolved without consulting the rules documents, the clock should be started and the time-out officially begins. The officials should try to resolve the issue within the 60 seconds of the time-out. The time-out will be charged to the team unless the R1 changes the ruling under consideration. If the team has used both time-outs and the R1 rules against the coach, a loss of rally is awarded to the opponents who will serve next.
- As soon as there is a determination by the R1, the outcome will either be to reaffirm the ruling or to change the ruling. If the ruling is changed, resulting in either a replay or awarding the rally to the coach who requested reconsideration, the R1 returns to the stand, the R2 instructs the scorable staff, and play begins as soon as possible.
- If the ruling is against the coach and there is any time left in the time-out, the team is entitled to it. If the time-out took more than 60 seconds, play begins immediately.
- Just because a team has no time-outs remaining does not mean that the coach can't request rule reconsideration. However, since the coach has used both time-outs, if the ruling is sustained, this results in loss of rally to the opponents.

### **Resolution of a Challenge to the Accuracy of the Visual Score or the Official Scoresheet**

This is handled by the R2. Only if absolutely necessary should the R1 become involved.

- Reasonable accommodation should be given to a head coach's concern regarding accuracy of the score (visual score or score that shows on the official scorer's scoresheet) but not to the point of constant delays.
- If there are obvious accuracy issues, the R2 has the right (with the R1's consent), to make a visiting scoresheet the official scoresheet as well as to replace a scorer, libero tracker or scoreboard operator not performing competently.
- R2's determination that there was or was not a wrong server may include the R2's and R1's recollection in terms of reconstructing previous rallies.
- The R2 should attempt to back track the score to determine whether a scoresheet error can be identified. Unless an error can be identified, the official scorebook is considered accurate and the scorebook then overrides the visual scoreboard unless the officials know the scoreboard to be correct through their direct observation of the scoreboard after every rally.
- As implied above, to prevent and/or resolve problems, both the R1 and R2 are encouraged to "eyeball" the visual scoreboard after every rally to ensure the score reflects the R1's determination of who won the rally or that a replay is ordered or the R1 has a mind change.
- Visiting team scorebook may be consulted in an effort to resolve a concern with the score or with whether the correct server is serving. However, once the opponents have scored, points are not removed for a wrong server although players will be played into correct order in the service rotation.
- In a tournament match, with an official book and a book for the home team and the visitors, the R2 may choose to look at both scoresheets if necessary.

### **Inadvertent Whistle or Horn/Buzzer**

An inadvertent whistle/horn may result in a replay, but this is not automatic determination as confirmed by the NFHS Rules Editor. With assistance from the R2, the R1 is expected to make a determination at the time regarding whether the whistle, horn or buzzer affected play. Referees should give the benefit of the doubt in favor of a replay unless it is clear that the inadvertent whistle, horn or buzzer didn't affect play. An inadvertent whistle may occur when the official didn't mean to whistle quite that early (such as just before the ball hits the ground or the ball hits a foot instead of floor and then immediately touches the floor) or when official's whistle was determined to be "mistaken" (whistle should not have been blow).

One example is when the R2 calls the receiving team illegal alignment. The receiving team head coach objects and, when the R2 checks the scorebook for a lineup check, it turns out the team was NOT illegally aligned. If the serve went into the net or went outside the antenna, there is no replay. If the serve went over the net inside the antennas to the opponent's side, we typically have a replay based on the timing of the R2's whistle. Common sense should prevail. If the horn/buzzer affects play by the player preparing to play the ball stopping, we have a replay. If everyone keeps playing, then we play on. If the R1 whistles a back-row attack and the ball has almost landed with no one in position to play the ball, and the R1 was mistaken – the player was front row rather than back row – the results of the rally would probably stand.

### **Leading 4-Hit Informal Signals:**

As with USA Volleyball, OHSBVA prefers officials not show a fault before there actually is a fault. Specifically, we don't want the R2 to provide what is described as a "leading 4." If there's a touch off the block on a tape shot which stays on the side of the attacking team, a quick head nod from the R2 will suffice – this requires pre-match clarification, timely R1 scanning, clear information provided from a visible R2 that affirms "play on" and eye contact between the officials, of course. For OHSBVA, the R2 would show "4 hits" in the chest area only when the actual contact has occurred. This would be true if the attack occurred on a second hit instead of third hit, and the ball was contacted by the same player ("2 hits" shown in the chest area). As with other rulesets, the OHSBVA does not permit the R2 to whistle the 4-hit call. Nothing stops the R2 from moving to the team that the R2 believes will lose the rally to convey this information to his/her partner.

Again, the key is always an effective pre-match discussion with your partner. The R2 affirms for the R1 that – if I shake my head "yes" – I had a touch from my angle. If I do nothing, I either don't know whether there was a touch or I saw no touch. I'll give "2" or "4" on the next contact if I had no touch and make eye contact with you. The R1 makes eye contact and is free to use the R2's information or go with what the R1 viewed on the play. "If I transition to the attacking team side, it's to provide what I believe to be rally-ending information (like "4 hits" coming up or ball into the tape/net and out off the attacking team). One of the reasons behind not going with a "leading 4" is that our "best practices" include not giving possible fault information discreetly. We should only give fault assistance as R2s when we are certain that, from our angle, a fault has actually occurred. On 4-hits, the fault has yet to occur.

However, officials are free to work out whatever works best for them in terms of how to best communicate no touch. Many officials are comfortable that seeing no affirmative head nod means they have their own decision to make on a tape shot while others want some indicator that the R2 had no touch. This information could be communicated by the R2 stepping to the side of the attacking team to lead the R1. If the R1 signals touch on the play, the R2 would transition back to the blocking team's side. But, the R2 moving helps the R1 realize the R2 is saying I have no touch or I would have remained on the blocking team's side of the net. No movement means that the R2 is not sure regarding whether there was a touch by the block since, if the R2 had a touch, the R2 would ensure visibility and eye contact and use the head nod "yes" and, if the R2 clearly believed there was no touch, the R2 would quickly transition to the attacking team's side (opposite normal positioning) as an indicator that the R2 had no touch by the block.

## **WARM-UP REQUIREMENTS**

**Question:** What restrictions exist in terms of what players, non-players and coaches are permitted to wear while participating in warm-ups?

**Answer:** The NFHS stressed risk minimization as a point of emphasis for the 2008–2009 season. A key aspect of risk management is being aware that hard floors and flying volleyballs create possible hazards for everyone and at all times. Warm-ups are an important time for teams where there are a variety of individuals on the court, either participating in the warm-up or assisting with it. Coaches are urged to be aware of and to limit non-participants (non-rostered individuals for a given match) who are on the court during the warm-up. When non-participants come out of the stands to help retrieve balls as well as members of the Freshmen, JV or Varsity teams), we now have some special challenges in terms of court safety. The OHSBVA has adopted the same expectations for its matches as the NFHS articulated previously.

The OHSBVA believes referees are responsible for the coaches, players and team managers, and they have control – by rule – over players' dress and behavior, especially where jewelry and illegal equipment are concerned. Referees can have the coach intervene to ensure removal of jewelry or illegal equipment during the warm-up, with possible penalties. However, the individual school is responsible for those non-playing individuals who are on the floor during warm-ups, and they bear the liability for anything that occurs, not the officials.

Head coaches must not allow non-players on the court who will be actively participating in the warm-ups but will do so in unsafe footwear (such as socks, bare feet, flip-flops or crocs) or wearing electronic devices or who have casts on or are on crutches. This includes non-playing members of the team such as Freshmen/JV/Varsity players who are not playing in this match since this exposes these individuals to unnecessary risk. While the motivation of these "helpers" is certainly positive, the head coach can reduce the risk by asking them to put on proper footwear (athletic shoes) and remove electronics such as I-pods and other music devices.

Risk minimization during a team warm-up period for OHSBVA matches requires all personnel "actively conducting" the warm-up to be properly attired for the duties required. Special attention should be given to ensure that auxiliary personnel are wearing appropriate footwear for active participation and that electronic devices, cell phones, I-Pods, other music devices are not being used. Given that prior to each match, head coaches and captains verify that all players are legally equipped and properly attired, it is reasonable to expect all players to be wearing legal uniforms and equipment during warm-ups and no jewelry or illegal equipment.

While coaches themselves are not bound by jewelry rules while participating in warm-ups, OHSBVA follows NFHS rules in terms of footwear and electronics (no electronics other than approved medical devices, no players with casts or on crutches can be tossing balls, retrieving balls, etc.). Athletic shoes or flat shoes are required for coaching staff, and athletic shoes are required for all others participating in the warm-up. High heels, flip flops, bare feet or socks, crocs, and open-toed shoes are not acceptable for anyone actively participating in warm-ups. However, referees are not to be concerned with jewelry for adults, only for players.

Summary: The OHSBVA expects coaches to step up to their responsibilities, making this a non-issue during warm-ups. However, the OHSBVA also expects match officials to address these issues when coaches fail to do so. We do not want our referees, coaches or schools having to defend a law suit over someone else's negligence or clumsiness. If a coach is wearing high heels in conducting the warm-up (high heels on any gym surface could be dangerous and, in some cases could damage the gym floor), this is a reasonable issue to be addressed. And, once the officials arrive at the site, NO electronic devices (e.g.: I-pods, cell phones, digital cameras, etc.) should be permitted by any players, coaches or officiating personnel, except for true emergencies.