

PRE-MATCH DISCUSSION CHECKLIST

First Referee/Second Referee Pre-Match Conference

(Since referees typically switch roles for matches, doesn't have to be "led" by R1)

- ✓ Work as a Team
- ✓ Maintain Eye-Contact/Communication
 - Before, during, and after every rally (centering, part of first referee's scan)
 - Deer-in-the-headlights look (R2 takes lead, same with R1 if R2 is stuck)
 - If R1 looks at R2 during play, shake of head ("nod") should be interpreted as play/contact was okay, nothing should be called
 - Get R1's attention quickly, as needed, for:
 - Interruptions, time-outs, substitutions, lineup checks
 - Floor wiping situations, shoe untied, blood issue
 - Scorekeeping Issues (additional time needed at score table)
- ✓ Discreet Signals (based on agreements)
 - Generally, unless otherwise agreed to, R2 to show only rally-ending information
 - R1 has to trust R2 on calls that may be outside R1's view and since R2 will be the one to explain the call to the affected coach ("coach, we both had that one")
 - Preference regarding 4 hits coming up (early? head shake "no" touch by the block? key is the agreement between the referees)
 - Stepping out with the surprise 4 hits (extra contact seen by R2 – "trust me" call – R2 will explain and sell call to affected coach)
 - Tape shot and R2 has a touch off the block (typically R2 doesn't show touch signal, head bob "yes" to show saw touch)
 - R2 can help by stepping to side of the team the R2 has losing the rally to lead R1 if necessary
 - R2 leads on a bang-bang play (e.g., attack/block/antenna or attack/antenna/block or ball untouched by block into the tape and landing out of bounds), being on side of team losing the rally
 - Ball handling assistance when R1 might be screened, on a ball dug out of the net, and where R1 has allowed a hands play that the R1 has been calling a fault (2 hits, illegal hit including prolonged contact)
 - Two-hits and illegal hits (including prolonged contact)
 - Illegal attack including back-row attack, attack of serve, libero attack, attack off libero fingertip pass in attack zone – hesitate to see if referee looks but, if sure, whistle/call if referee fails to scan since key is to get the call right but don't call if referee waves off the help
 - Illegal block – show informal signal for illegal block, hesitate to see if R1 looks but, if sure, whistle it if R1 doesn't look
 - Game point shown on shoulder of team that has game point after R2 verifies with scorer – R1 nods to acknowledge but doesn't signal back
 - Ball touches court as defense attempts a save close to the floor should have R2 step out strongly and show ball down/"in" – R1 should scan to pick up help on the call and may accept the call or wave it off; if R1 does not see signal (no eye contact), R2 is empowered to whistle the fault since key is to get the call right
- ✓ If ball goes behind the R1, by agreement or if R1 doesn't turn, R2 judges legality of the next contact (signaling but not whistling a ball-handling fault, out of bounds or touched out to the R1) while R1 picks up center line and net
- ✓ Establish exit plan for leaving court at end of match and leaving venue
- ✓ Officials identify host management and where representative will be located
 - Meet with coaches on the court when both referees are present
 - Go to home team coach first to determine special events, timing of National Anthem, player introductions, etc. unless information has already been obtained from host management
 - Share information with visiting team coach
 - Answer any questions from coaches
 - Be friendly but professional, be brief, spend equal amount of time with each coach and conclude with "good luck"

- ✓ Officials divide duties with R1 typically checking net height, using chain as a plumb line/bob to set position of each antenna
- ✓ R2 checks ball pressure with gauge (no Charmin/"feel" test), small mark on valve can be used identify game balls to avoid mix up
- ✓ R1 typically briefs line judges on expectations, signals, techniques
- ✓ If there are ball shaggers, R1 briefs them
- ✓ R2 establishes rapport with support staff at officials' table, verifies experience of scorer and libero tracker and reviews libero replacement duties with libero tracker
- ✓ R2 reviews duties with timer/scoreboard operator and announcer
- ✓ R2 agrees to step to court to show request for a card issuance (not a secret) and toes to the line to signal need for R1 to call R2 across court