

WHAT REFEREES AND COACHES CAN DO TO BENEFIT OHIO HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' VOLLEYBALL

REFEREES SHOULD:

- Ensure they've reviewed the current boys' VB rules and rule exceptions before taking the court
- Try to attend a men's volleyball match to see speed of game, skills and acceptable skill execution
- Commit to effective partnering, regardless of with whom they're working
- Commit to a pre-match discussion with their partners and an honest post-match discussion before/after EVERY match
- Agree to scan for information as R1 and, as R2, agree to become visible with informal help in a timely manner
- As R1, make eye contact with their partners before authorizing service, at key points during a rally and before signaling a fault at the end of a rally
- Protect their partners – fully understanding the role of the R2 in terms of “serve and protect” the R1
- Not make a hands call with a game or the match on the line if they haven't made that call all match
- Not make prolonged contact calls on ugly first-ball multiple contacts where the ball really doesn't come to rest
- Strive for greater consistency in calling hands so that teams can know how to play
- Call prolonged contacts consistently regardless if it's a 1st ball handle or 2nd or 3rd contact

- Not call double hits on one team's setter while allowing prolonged contact by the other setter (such as allowing a setter to hold a ball while waiting for the middle hitter to get into position for an attack) - on 2nd and 3rd contacts, both double-hits and prolonged contact should be called
- Try not to overreact to a coach being upset on a close call by issuing a card, unless really necessary
- Let coaches coach unless a coach is guilty of disruptive coaching and/or really crosses the line with the R2 using verbal cautions to avoid carding where possible
- As R2, not allow coaches to yell across the court at the R1 (this is unsporting conduct) – if not addressed, this typically results in the other coach becoming more verbal to try to ensure the officials aren't being unduly influenced
- Use a prevention approach where possible and try to facilitate the match, making the match be about the players and not about the referees
- Maintain their composure regardless of the behavior of coaches and players
- Take pride in their appearance and look and behave as a professional referee - dress professionally with clean, pressed clothes, dress slacks, clean shoes
- Ensure they don't create the appearance of favoritism by spending more time with one coach than the other coach
- Try to create a climate of comfort for everyone
- Be comfortable and confident but never arrogant – no one is better than the game
- Share the pre-match duties with their partner with special focus on evaluating safety concerns

- Not be lone rangers but expect and use partner help (as R1) and provide it as R2
- Take the time to properly instruct all support staff especially libero trackers with the move to the libero serving
- Involve their line judges in the match and overrule only when a clear error is made
- Provide quick answers to explain a play or a call when asked respectfully by a head coach or captain but do not allow judgment calls to be continuously questioned
- Not accept questioning of judgment calls by assistant coaches
- Be courtside no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the first match to share pre-match duties and provide comfort to host management that both officials are there
- Walk into the school with a demeanor that shows they intend to fully enjoy making a contribution to the student-athletes' experience
- Take pride in minimizing their involvement in each match – focus should remain on the student-athletes
- Not fail to control assistant coaches attempting to intervene in the match
- Issue cards when necessary and especially when warnings fail to produce correction in behavior but not take personal affront to the reactions of players and coaches who are involved in intense competition
- Regardless of quality of match and the effort put out by the teams, strive to do their best on every rally of every set, start to finish, to provide the best customer service possible
- Smile – if not having fun, there's something wrong
- Let those observe you see that you're enjoying officiating

COACHES SHOULD:

- Come to consensus regarding what they would like to see generally improved in terms of how ball handling is called and communicate this information through proper channels so that referees can understand where improvement is needed
- Not yell at the R1 for double-hits call on a first contact when multiple contacts on the first ball with one effort are legal
- Not whine incessantly for prolonged contact on first-ball multiple contacts – “ugly” is not illegal – this is not the same as wanting the R1 to see a ball that is received low and released high and there’s prolonged contact rather than a clear double-hit, recognizing that on same first contacts there can be an initial multiple contact (legal) followed by prolonged contact (illegal)
- Not yell at the R1 to call tight hands on the opponent’s side while expecting loose hands to be allowed on their side of the net (c’mon, coach, be consistent 😊)
- Not show disrespect for officials or disgust at calls, both of which fall under the definition of unsporting conduct and contribute to an ugly tone to a match
- Set a good example through their own behavior (not overreacting) and not allow their players to scream at officials or allow their players to get off the bench to do so (players can NEVER be up for this purpose)
- Actually respect and comply with the rule that prohibits disputing the judgment calls of the referees that, when it becomes a constant pattern of behavior, leads to disrespect on the part of players and fans for referees and results in issuance of cards including disqualification of coaches
- NOT teach net blocking (resulting in deliberate, unsporting interference of a ball on the opponent’s side of the net)

- Understand and convey to the team how to prevent screening rather than teaching their teams to set up screens while yelling at the referees for not enforcing other game rules
- Know that a back-row attacker completing an attack on the next contact from the back zone off a libero set from the attack zone is an illegal attack if the ball is totally above net height
- Understand that a fault will be called when a ball fully crosses to the opponent's side outside the post or R1 stand at the point the ball is no longer on the plane of the net extended (just because a player remained on his team's side of the net in playing the ball is irrelevant since it's ball position that matters in terms of ending the rally or continuing play)
- Know what constitutes a center-line violation
- Fully understand the rules associated with a libero setting the ball in the attack zone and when an attack on the next contact is illegal as well as understanding that the wave off for legal play refers to the libero being behind the attack line
- Know that when the libero sets the ball in the attack zone that an attacker completing an attack on the next contact when the ball is NOT totally above net height is legal
- Not let their assistant coaches address the officials regarding decisions since assistant coaches have no speaking rights to challenge decisions, and this constitutes questioning judgment calls which is not sporting behavior
- Not teach stalling tactics
- Make a strong effort to have trained line judges and scoretable support staff who know what they're doing to contribute to the game
- Intervene when the behavior of their players or fans clearly crosses the line
- Not allow their players to bring electronic devices onto the court

- Police jewelry so that affirming they're legally equipped actually means they paid attention
- Ensure their "helpers" who are actively participating in a warm-up all have appropriate footwear and NOT make the officials become fashion police in the interest of safety
- Not take a position at the end of the bench and then get upset with the R2 for failure to see the coach's request for a time-out or substitution
- Not allow their players to stand behind the bench – rules do not permit this
- Not make a comment to a line judge since this is inherently an attempt to influence an official
- Understand that their position on the bench gives them an "angle" that match officials don't have
- Respect that OHSBVA rules do allow for one coach to be up and coaching the team during play by not:
 - Addressing the officials about judgment calls
 - Getting too close to the court
 - Blocking the view of the R2 or bench-side line judge