



REGION REF BULLETIN

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As officials, we strive to be as consistent as possible

By **Jim Momsen**
Badger Region Board President

I'd like to spend a few minutes talking about officiating consistency.

When working with less experienced referees, I try to instill in them the value of proper, and consistent, hand signals since we use hand signals to communicate to the players, coaches, score table, and spectators what we saw and what the result of the rally was. They should not be rushed and should have a consistent pace throughout the match so everyone knows what is happening and a good rhythm is established for play.

The other part of consistency that is equally, if not more, important is establishing consistency in our judgement calls. I'm by no means saying that we need to call every match at the same level for ball handling. I certainly don't call a girl's 12s club match with the same criteria that I call a Women's NCAA Division I match. If I did, I'd blow the U12s of the court and

nobody would have any fun. I'm talking about consistency within each match.

One of my first college officiating camps was at the University of Illinois. On the advice of one of my officiating mentors, I drove down to the camp with another member of Badger Region. It was a fantastic and memorable experience. All of the "campers" and observers met the night before the on-court sessions to go over logistics and ground rules. One of the highlights of that meeting was a one hour session with then University of Illinois Head Coach Don Harden.

He told us one comment/story that I still vividly remember to this day. Here's what he shared:

"Every referee that we coaches see in a match has a slightly different criteria regarding what is acceptable and what is not acceptable for ball handling. Some referees will call a little tighter match, and some referees will call a little looser match. As coaches, at some point in the match, there will be a

marginally handled ball and it will either be called a fault, or it will be let go and play will continue. Most of us coaches will make note of the play and whether or not it was called a fault. Sometime later in the match, there will be a similar play on a ball, either by the same team, or by the opposing team. You need to be consistent and call it the same way as you called the first one! We as coaches get upset, and so do our players, when the ball handling is inconsistent during a match. That's what causes the most frustration and issues on our part."

I'll add something from another coach, "If you called it at 0-0, you better call it on game point."

Since that first PAVO Camp many years ago, the game has continued to evolve. The players are generally, bigger, more athletic, more skilled, quicker, hit the ball harder, and continue to make more outstanding plays. One of the items in the NCAA Ball Handling Directive Guidelines states the desire for, "An increase in continu-

ation of play when judging second ball contacts that are directed to a teammate," as well as, "Less severe judgement is applied to a contact by a player who makes a challenging or spectacular play."

The NCAA recently approved use of an experimental rule for 2022 spring play. Teams will be allowed to experiment with a rule that eliminates double contacts when the ball remains on the same side of the net (i.e., a teammate makes the next legal contact)! Note that this rule did not get a great deal of support on the last coaches' survey, but the NCAA rules committee would still like to gather some pertinent data and opinions. Though it would make our jobs discerning "doubles" a lot easier, I'm also not sure I like this, because, in my opinion, it would eliminate a lot of the skill and beauty of the game and tend to turn it into a free-for-all.

With that said, continue to strive to stay consistent in your judgement, and in your mechanics.

Step-in rule modified at Feb. Board Meeting

For 12-and-under age groups (but not the 12 Open Division), servers can start in front of the endline and serve from approximately six feet in front of the endline.

The server must "declare" which area he or she is serving from before they serve by setting up in front of behind the standard serving line. Once declared, they should stay in the serving area through contact of the serve. Serving line violations should/will be called if he or she steps on or in front of the serving line they are using.

If a player declares to use the short serving one but then

decides to move back past the endline to use the regular 30-foot serving zone, that is legal, but he or she must now (since they have re-declared to the full serving zone), they must complete the serve from behind the end line.

Court markings to indicate the step-in serve line are suggested but are not required due to some facilities not allowing tape on the floor.

There will be a maximum of two step-in serve points per term of service. After two step-in points have been scored in a term of service, all subsequent serves for that term of serves must be from behind the endline.

When either team has scored its 20th point in a nondeciding set, no more step-in serves will be allowed for the remainder of that set. For deciding sets, no step-in serves will be allowed after either team has scored its 12th point.

Refs still needed for national events

USA Volleyball had a tremendous response of folks registering for the Open National Championships in Orlando. They still have great need at 18GJNC in Phoenix. Sunshine Qualifier in Orlando could also use a few more referees.

If you are interested in applying to any of these events, please register online in AES no later than the Early Registration Deadline to be considered. However, if you register after the deadline, you will still be considered if we are in need of additional officials.

Register for these events in AES by searching by the event name.

* 2022 USAV Girls 18s Junior National Championship – Registration remains open

* 2022 USAV Open National Championship – Early Acceptance April 1, 2022

* 2022 USAV Girls Junior National Championship – Early Registration Deadline April 18, 2022 – Early Acceptance April 25, 2022

* 2022 USAV Boys Junior National Championship – Early Registration Deadline April 4, 2022 – Early Acceptance April 11, 2022

* 2022 USA Volleyball All-Star Championship – Early Registration Deadline May 2, 2022 – Early Acceptance Deadline May 9, 2022

As a reminder, here are the instructions for registration:

* Go to this link to register for an AES event: <https://www.advanced-eventsystems.com/operations/officials/manage/events/register>

* Search for 2022 USAV "Event Name"

* Click the word "Register" to the left of the event name

* Answer the required questions



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Details for Badger Region Championships

We hope you are all looking forward to the final weekend of the 2022 Badger Region Championships.

Here are some details — other details have been sent out via email.

*** FACILITY ENTRY:** Wisconsin Center doors, and the Skywalk from the Hilton, open at 7:00am. Hyatt skywalk is torn down so it is not accessible.

*** REFEREE MEETING:** The morning pre-tournament officials meeting will be in Room 201A starting at 7:15 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday. Also, after the morning meeting, Room 201A will be closed (so if you don't start at 8 a.m. come directly to the 3rd floor where you can stow your coats and bags in the Referee Room.

*** COURT LAYOUT:** Due to the start of construction on the Wisconsin Center expansion project, most courts will be in the main hall (on the 3rd floor), with some courts being set up in the Ballroom on the 1st floor. Court numbers 1-30 will be on the 3rd floor and Ballroom 1-6 will be on the 1st floor.

*** CHAMPIONSHIP DESK(S):** Given the split groups of courts, there will be a Championship Desk on each level to turn in your completed score sheets.

*** NATIONAL ANTHEM:** Played at 7:45 a.m. each day. Call captains at 7:40 a.m. then warm-ups after the anthem. Do not start play with music still going on in the arenas

*** REFEREE UNIFORMS:** Only USAV-approved shirts/outerwear can be worn by officials while officiating a match. The ¼-zip red pullovers that were given out by Badger Region are only approved when working Badger Power League events and your USAV certification patch CANNOT be worn over this.

*** PLAYERS' UNIFORMS:** Be cognizant about libero jerseys. They MUST contrast with the regular players' jerseys! Look in the USAV Indoor Rules Book for specific examples of non-contrasting color schemes. Also be aware of the body of the number not contrasting with the color of the body of the

uniform, regardless of any accent piping around the number. Report any uniform issues to your closest Championship Desk. Some clubs have already applied for waivers and were approved with the lead official

* REFEREE CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT

o Check-in with the Lead Official 30-45 minutes before your first scheduled match.

o Any changes from the match schedule must be approved by the Lead Official and reported to the Championship Desk.

o Don't leave until you have checked-out with the Lead Official.

*** CONCESSIONS:** Wisconsin Center concession stands will be selling both food and drink during the event. You are encouraged to bring your own snacks and water.

o Each Referee will be given a gift of a Badger Region Volleyball soft-sided cooler-bag containing snacks. Limit one bag per official no matter how many weekends are worked.

o Referees will also be paid a food stipend (paid in their total check from the Region) based upon the number of matches worked per day.

— 7 or less matches (minimum of 5 matches worked) - \$10.

— 8 or more matches worked - \$20.



* SPORT COURT RULES AND BENCH CONTROL

o Per the 2019 USAV Rule Modification, to begin serve, both feet must be touching the Sport Court (don't beckon until they are legal).

o One body part must be in contact with Sport Court to play any ball over a non-playable area — then it's OK to continue off Sport Court.

o Substitutes must either be sitting on chairs or standing on the concrete beyond the end of the bench.

o Teams WILL NOT be switching sides in between sets.

o Please ask who the listed head coach is on the roster so you are aware who can call timeouts, etc.

* WORK TEAMS AND SCORE TABLES

o No food or drink on score table — place on floor AND no electronics in use by scorers.

o Get the next match warming up and on the clock before bringing the prior completed score sheet to the Championship Desk.

*** WARM-UPS:** 2-4-4 all day, may go to 3-3 if both teams agree and have already played, especially if courts are behind.

* COURT SUPPLIES

o Nets should be OK, but measure them at the start of competi-

tion or after a height change.

o Balls — Boys/Girls/VB Lites at Championship desks — don't leave the ball unattended on court.

o Check the pressure of the Game Ball.

o Pens/Pencils/Score sheets/Line-up sheets/Libero sheets/Flip score/towels at Championship Desks.

o Return the Balls/Pens/Pencils/Score sheets/Lineup sheets/Libero sheets/towels at end of day.

* REPLAYS DUE TO BALL ON COURT — ONLY IF IT AFFECTS PLAY

o Ball on court in back zone — not necessarily a replay.

o Ball on court simultaneous with ball down — not necessarily a replay.

o Ball in front zone — immediate stoppage.

Other reminders

A reminder that Sunday is always "hurry up and wait" day — please get your completed scoresheets handed in to the Championship Desk ASAP so brackets can be updated and the next scoresheet issued.

* Before you leave the facility, please check-out with the lead official or Jennifer Armson-Dyer/Kelly Lehman, and also confirm your start time for the following day (if applicable).