



REGION REF BULLETIN

WWW.BADGERVOLLEYBALL.ORG | MEMBERSHIP@BADGERVOLLEYBALL.ORG

FROM PREVIOUS REF BULLETINS

Dec. 10 meeting online

Due to popular demand, the Badger Region has decided to make the December 10 officials meeting a Zoom meeting and not in person.

The meeting will still be at 12:00 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, as scheduled. You will need to register for this Zoom meeting even if you already registered for the in-person. Below is the link to register for the Zoom meeting.

[To register for the meeting, click here.](#)

After registering, officials will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

All officials (new or experienced) are required to attend at least one meeting prior to the start of the 2023-24 season.

The Dec. 10 meeting is the final meeting of the year.

Accessing modules

All ref training modules are live. To access these modules please go into your training academy and search the appropriate certification training (current certification).

To access:

1. Log into Sports Engine
2. Click on Household
3. Click on View profile
4. Click on View details
5. Click on the blue USA Volleyball Academy at the top
6. Click on content library
7. Click on search and type in first couple letters needed to do search for your certification modules



New officials practicing their skills with some on-court training at the Adversity-Wisconsin Center in Germantown.



Ref training in action

Congratulations to those who completed their on-court evaluation this past Sunday at the Adversity Training Center in Germantown.

Those officials included: Malayna Dins, McKenzie Johns, Katie Gall, Glenn Teschendorf, Terry Walsh and Erica Bills.

Adversity-Wisconsin VBC also used the scrimmage event to



Score training at Adversity.

train their teams in scoring and line judging.

Thank you to all of those who took part in this event.

In addition, congratulations to the 12 University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh athletes who completed their in person officials clinic on Dec. 5. We can't wait to see you all on the stand.



Training new officials at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

Officials uniforms

Badger Region and USA Volleyball officials should start using a new website to order approved apparel for upcoming seasons. The website is: <https://vbofficials-gear.com/>

There, you will also find travel accessories, refereeing accessories and plenty of apparel options.

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Voigt at sara@badgervolleyball.org.



Rulebooks available

New USAV rulebooks (also known as the DCR) are in that are good through the 2023-25 season.

The Badger Region will be disseminating these at the in-person officials meetings and mailing to those who we may miss those events. Please email Sara Voigt (sara@badgervolleyball.org) when you have purchased your annual USAV membership and she will put a rulebook aside for you.

For a link to an online edition of the DCR, please [click here](#).



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E.S.P. program recognizes sportsmanship

Officials can give wristbands given to adults being great role models

Sportsmanship isn't a suggestion for the way every player, coach and fan should act on and off the court. It is the expectation.

To reward those exceeding expectations, the Badger Region wants to recognize you.

The 2023-24 marks the eighth year of the "Enthusiastic. Supportive. Positive." program that highlights volleyball enthusiasts, specifically fans in the stands.

Last season, tournament directors throughout the Region distributed close to 250 wrist-



bands at events and tournaments, and we're looking to hand out hundreds more.

Then, at the Badger Region Championships in March, anyone (adults/spectators only) who was awarded a wristband throughout the year, will be eligible to win Badger Region gear such as T-shirts, water bottles, mini volleyballs and other cool swag.

So, what do you have to do to get a wristband? Support your team! Be positive! Show character that would make your mother proud!

Get a little crazy. Go the extra mile. Recognize the good in your team and others. Get excited when even your opponent makes an amazing save or play.

Don't cheer against another team. Don't taunt or heckle officials, coaches or players. Don't give your club or team a black eye with any "in your face" cheers.

Tournaments directors, Badger Region staff, referees and board members are watching.

If you get one of our colorful "ESP" wristbands, come to the Championship Desk at the Badger

Region Championships for prizes. Anyone with a wristband gets one entry into the raffle. At certain points throughout the day, names will be drawn for the prizes.

The only rule: You must have your wristband on at the time of the raffle to receive your gift.

The ESP program is designed for recognition of adults or other individuals who are "outside the lines." Winners do not have to be Badger Region members.

If you have someone like an athlete, coach or official who is deserving of recognition, please fill out a nomination form for the "Caught Doing Good" program.

If you are an official who would like to request a package of wristbands for distribution at your event, contact Program Director Brian Sharkey at brian@badgervolleyball.org.

Volleyball officials are part of a cohesive team, too

By **Jim Momsen**
Badger Region President

As we look forward to the start of a new season, I'd like to share some observations and thoughts about working as a team when officiating. These observations apply whether you are working USAV Club, WIAA high school, and/or NCAA women's or men's matches.

In all rule sets, the R1 has the final decision on all calls during the match. However, that does not mean they should work in a vacuum. The R1 makes these decisions with the help and input from the R2 and the line judges.

In the higher levels of volleyball officiating, NCAA and high school, the good news is that you will always have a trained and certified R2 to provide input. In NCAA,

you will typically have trained line judges. In high school, you will sometimes have trained officials as line judges, and other times you will have students as line judges (or no line judges for the JV and freshman matches).

In USAV Club volleyball, the R2 may be a coach or a player from the work team, and the line judges are usually players. They are members of the officiating team and should be treated with the same respect as you would treat a certified official. Many times they can be timid and reluctant to make calls. You should always encourage them to participate in the match. And give them props and positive feedback along with a hint or two on how to improve. We need to encourage them as they can be

the next great official.

Regarding making calls as an R1, most of the time we have a good look at where the ball hits the floor and whether it is "in" or "out". If it hits very close to a line, we'll rely on the input from the line judges to make our decision. If the ball is "out," we'll also check for "touch" calls from the Line Judges and/or the R2. This is part of our post-whistle scan to gather input before we award the point.

What can be one of the most difficult judgments is on a "pancake" attempt. A "pancake" is when the player tries to place their open hand between the ball and the court in order to prevent the ball from contacting the floor. If the ball is close to the hand, I will delay my whistle in order to allow play to continue until I

can look at my Line Judges and R2 for input to see if the pancake attempt was successful or not. I've heard from many coaches that they would rather we "miss" a fault rather than inventing one that results in an incorrect stoppage of play. We're fortunate in NCAA Women's DI that most schools have some type of Challenge Review System in place allowing us to review the play and "get it right."

In conclusion, try to watch some of the best officials during the NCAA Women's DI tournament over the next few weeks to see how much they scan their officiating team for input. These are some of the best officials in the country/world. Try to emulate them as much as you can in order to improve your officiating teams.

USA Volleyball SafeSport script for officials

1) All officials should know the concepts of the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy

All interactions with Minor Athletes must be Observable and interruptible

An official should not be speaking behind closed doors (conference room, hotel room, etc.) with Minors without a second adult participant or a parent present.

2) Officials should not share or post videos of Minor Athletes on personal social media accounts unless proper parental consent has been given. Many people enjoy sharing their life on social media, but we must remember the role of an official is one who has power and control over minor athletes. Do not share pictures with yourself and minor athletes or minor athletes alone on social media.

3) Under the SafeSport Code officials are Mandatory Reporters of abuse and are required to report allegations of sexual abuse to the U.S. Center for SafeSport. All other forms of misconduct can be reported to USA Volleyball, such as bullying, hazing, harassment, physical abuse such as forcing an injured player to continue to play.

Officials are asked to provide as much information as you can. This report is confidential.

** Do not report allegations of abuse to your supervisor expecting him/her/them to report the allegations for you. You have a duty to report it yourself. Reports are often not filed because someone thought someone else was going to file it. Let's be proactive and make sure we are doing what we are supposed to do.

**If someone reports allegations of misconduct to you, do not discuss it. Keep it confidential and let the U.S. Center for SafeSport or USA Volleyball investigate.

4) Officials have power and authority over others and are held to higher standards. The Center has jurisdiction over you on duty and off duty. Officials can get in trouble for inappropriately touching others. Fist bumps and high fives are generally acceptable behavior. You should not hug someone if you do not already have a personal relationship with them or if you are in a supervisory role. Don't slap others' butts in front of fellow officials, spectators, or children, that conduct is unprofessional and will not be tolerated. We are here to have a safe and fun event

A FACT SHEET FOR Sports Officials



The information in this fact sheet can help you protect athletes from concussions or other serious brain injuries and know what to do if an athlete might have a concussion.

Understand concussion

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or by a hit to the body that causes the head and brain to move quickly back and forth. This fast movement can cause the brain to bounce around or twist in the skull, creating chemical changes in the brain and sometimes stretching and damaging the brain cells.

Help keep athletes safe

As a sports official, you help set the tone for safe play and can help lower an athlete's chances of getting a concussion or other serious injury. When athletes are overly aggressive or make illegal actions, they can increase the risk for concussion for themselves and other athletes. Here are some ways you can keep athletes safe:

- Enforce the rules for fair play, safety, and good sporting behavior.
- Learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of concussions so you can be confident about when an athlete should be removed from a game or competition.
- Stop play whenever there is a concern for the safety of athletes, and remove an athlete from a game or competition if you observe concussion signs or if the athlete reports concussion symptoms.
- Penalize athletes for unsafe actions, such as:
 - Using their head or helmet to contact another athlete.
 - Making illegal contacts or checking, tackling, or colliding with an unprotected athlete.
 - Trying to injure or put another athlete at risk for injury.
- Use correct terminology, such as concussion and brain injury. Avoid words, such as *bell ringers* and *dings* to describe a concussion because these can make light of a serious problem.
- Use pre-season and pre-game meetings to remind coaches to promote a culture of concussion safety with athletes.

Take action for a possible concussion

If you suspect that an athlete might be experiencing concussion symptoms, pull them from play. **When in doubt, get them out.**



An athlete who is allowed to continue playing with a concussion, or who is returned to play too soon, is at risk for a repeat brain injury. This can lead to a longer recovery and poorer health outcomes.

Stay up to date on concussion policies and information

- Review your state, league, and organization's concussion policies. Be aware that concussion policies may vary by location and sport. Most policies state that an athlete cannot return to a game or competition on the same day the possible concussion occurred and cannot return before being cleared by a healthcare provider.
- Take a training course on concussion. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers free concussion training for sports officials at www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP.
- Talk with other sports officials to share strategies that enforce safe and fair play.

GOOD SPORTING BEHAVIOR
MODEL IT. EXPECT IT. ENFORCE IT.



ENFORCE SAFE PLAY. SPORTS OFFICIALS SET THE TONE FOR SAFETY.

Spot a possible concussion

Athletes with one or more of the signs and symptoms listed below after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body may have a concussion or other serious brain injury.

Concussion signs that sports officials, parents, or coaches might observe in athletes:

- Appearing confused, dazed, or stunned
- Looking unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moving clumsily (appearing off-balance or dizzy)
- Being slow to answer questions
- Being unable to remember events before or after the hit, bump, or fall
- Losing consciousness (only occurs in about 10-15% of concussions)
- Showing behavior or personality changes

Concussion symptoms that athletes might feel and report:

- Having a headache
- Feeling nauseated or vomiting
- Experiencing balance problems or dizziness
- Seeing double or having fuzzy vision
- Feeling sensitive to light or noise
- Feeling sluggish
- Feeling mentally foggy
- Having difficulty concentrating or remembering plays
- Being confused about what play it is or what part of the game it is

Signs of a more serious brain injury

Have someone call 9-1-1 if an athlete develops one or more of these danger signs after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body:

- Drowsiness or inability to wake up or inability to stay awake
- Repeated vomiting
- Convulsions or seizures (seizures can include violent, uncontrollable shaking or twitching)
- Unusual behavior, increased confusion, restlessness, or agitation
- Slurred speech, weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination
- One pupil larger than the other
- A headache that gets worse and does not go away

The information provided in this fact sheet or through links to other sites is not a substitute for medical or professional care. Questions about diagnosis and treatment for concussion should be directed to a physician or other healthcare provider.

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To learn more,
go to [cdc.gov/HEADSUP](https://www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP)

