



Officials: 'Let's be careful out there'

Four common places to look to prevent possible injuries

By Jim Momsen

Badger Region Board President
USAV & PAVO National Referee

As we gain momentum into the 2024 season, let's take a moment to remind everyone that there are many items that need to be verified to ensure that a court area is safe for all participants. Also, if something is identified as unsafe, what can be done to correct it.

Here are some of the more common things to check for:

1. The Antennae on the Net.

a. Is the antenna fastened securely?

i. Antennae that clamp on the top and bottom of the net need to be tightly clamped. Loose clamps can break, causing the antenna to come loose and pivot into a player or official. (Replace the antenna. If no replacement antenna is available, securely fasten it to the net with athletic tape.)

ii. Clamped antennae also have the possibility of exposed cot-

ter pins at the bottom. In some instances, there is a metal pin in the handle that clamps the top of the antenna that works out of the plastic. (These should be covered with tape to prevent punctures and/or scrapes.)

iii. Old antennae attached with Velcro tend to slide side to side. Typically, not a safety issue. But they should be checked between sets to make sure they are vertical and not leaning.

2. Nets and Net Posts.

a. USAV 2.5.2 states that "Posts should be rounded and smooth, fixed to the ground without wires. There should be no dangerous or obstructing devices."

b. USAV 2.6.c states that "Posts should be padded to a minimum height of 1.7m (5'6") with 1.25cm (1/2") thick, resilient, shock-absorbing material throughout the length."

c. USAV 2.6.a states that "... Metal cables, tensioning devices, and other exposed cables may need to be covered."

i. Be especially aware of the tensioning devices on the bottom net cables. They should ALWAYS be covered to prevent fingers from being snagged and broken. (Use

plastic sleeves, cut pool noodles, or wrap a towel around them and secure it with athletic tape.)

3. Referee Stand.

a. USAV 2.6.e states that "The front and sides of the referee's stand must be padded in the same manner as the posts to a height of 1.7m (5'6")"

b. Some facilities place a jump box, or step ladder, for the R1 to stand on. According to USAV 2.6.d, "Step ladders, jump boxes, and other devices not specifically designed as referee stands shall not be used. If an appropriate referee stand cannot be provided, the R1 performs his/her functions from the floor."

4. Playing Surface.

a. USAV 1.2 .1 states that "The surface must be flat, horizontal, and uniform. It must not present any danger of injury to the players."

i. If a tiled, temporary surface (Sport Court) is being used, the surface should be inspected to ensure there are no raised seams, or protruding tabs, that could injure a player.

b. Camera tripods should be positioned off of the playing surface

where they cannot interfere with play and potentially cause injury.

5. Player Equipment.

a. USAV 4.5.1 states that "It is prohibited to wear a cast, even if padded"

b. Further, USAV 4.5.1 states that "Jewelry may be worn provided its nature does not present a concern for safety, such as extremely long necklaces and/or necklaces with large medallions, or large hoop earrings."

i. Note that ear buds or headphones are not considered jewelry and are not permitted to be worn, even during warm-ups.

c. Players' backpacks and water bottles should be behind, or under, the benches where players chasing errant balls cannot trip over them.

Failing to check these items may save you a minute or two, but, in the long run, it may cause longer delays later on if a player gets injured on your court. Nobody wants that to happen.

I'll close this article using a catchphrase from the 1980's police classic TV series, "Hill Street Blues" Sergeant Phil Esterhouse (played by Michael Conrad) would end the morning roll call by saying, "Hey, let's be careful out there."

Have a great, and safe, season!

SHOUTOUTS

I had the privilege of having the River City 14 Black on my court yesterday as a work team several times. The entire team was excellent; but I do want to get recognition for 2 young athletes who performed outstandingly! Bayleigh Schaefer as Scorer and Briar Wigner as R2.

Briar performed her R2 responsibilities just as a certified ref. Watched from the blocking side, recognized and whistled several net violations and managed the scoring table and subs proficiently, whistled time outs. She had great communication with the coaches letting them know how many subs and time outs remained. All without any prompting from her coaches or from me. She even used the ready sign....seems to be something of a challenge for juniors as R2.

For scoring, you know that I have been the loudest whiner about incorrect and incomplete scoring. Bayleigh's scoresheets were perfect. I believe that this was the first time ever in my career that I did not have to make any corrections or chase down a scorer for completions or signatures. Everything was complete and correct. Set start and end times (in military time as well)... Check. Exit scores and subs...Check. She even used PEN and pencil in the appropriate places and recorded alternate captains correctly. (Who does that??)

And credit should be given to Coach Stephanie Schaefer and River City for supporting this performance.

Thanks again River City 14 Black

Official Bob Wisinski

Kudos to the Madison Elite U13 work team. Their R2 was the only one who consistently gave the proper ready sign after properly waiting for the scorer to be ready. In fact, pregame she asked if she had the proper ready sign because the other R1 she worked with interpreted it as an indication of time-outs used.

The scorer was well trained. After each set, she was recording the results section before I got to the table. All other entries appeared to be correct.

The line judges worked through spectator comments in the first set holding their composure and continuing to make judgements I supported. Between sets I spoke with the tournament staffer who went to the spectator area for the beginning of the second set. The spectators behaved appropriately during the second set.

Official Glenn Teschendorf



REGION REF BULLETIN

WWW.BADGERVOLLEYBALL.ORG | MEMBERSHIP@BADGERVOLLEYBALL.ORG

PROPER ATTIRE AND PROTOCOL

- Officials need to know and wear official uniform (outer jackets not allowed, unless the white cert ref or unbranded white jacket). If you are confused about what to wear please email sara at sara@badgervolleyball.org

Other reminders:

- NO spandex pants
- Officials must wear USAV patch at all times when officiating
- Only a small ref bag comes to the court side, must include a rule book and have easy access. Do not bring duffel bags or any other large bags to the court. Ask the tournament director where you can safely leave your belongings.
- Refs ARE responsible to check in with tourney director or head official before going direct to court and before leaving at the end of the day.
- Officials MUST read the pre-read before coming to tourney in advance and are encouraged to print a copy and put in ref bag.

Have questions? Email sara@badgervolleyball.org.

UPDATES FOR JUNIOR NATIONAL AND NATIONAL OFFICIALS

USAV Officials Academy Clinic Schedule

Junior National Referees and National Referees can go into their USAV Academy account and click on the course US24-504 USAV National Officials Clinic and will click register for any of the clinics that you want to attend live.

For information on how to log in to the Academy please [use this link](#), scroll to "Important Materials for Indoor Referees," "Sports Engine and USAV Academy," and "USAV Academy Log-in Instructions."

* Feb. 28, 2024, 6 p.m. MST – "R2 Transition and Other Responsibilities + Handling Rotations as R2 and (R1)"

* March 27, 2024, 6 p.m. MST – "Managing Coach and Bench Behavior"

* April 24, 2024, 6 p.m. MST – "Preparing for the USA Volleyball National Championships"

Indoor Candidate Programs

The deadlines are approaching for the National Referee, Junior National Referee, and National Scorer Candidate Programs.

National Referee applications must be submitted by Feb. 15, 2024.

Junior National Referee applications must be submitted to your region by March 15, 2024.

National Scorer applications must be submitted by Feb. 15, 2024.

Find all information on the [National Referee and Junior National Programs](#). Scroll to Applications and select the program.



Dig Pink at Champs 2024

This year, the Badger Region and the Side-Out Foundation are partnering for the 2024 Badger Region Championships.

To promote the event and raise money and awareness for the Side-Out Foundation, Burghardt Sporting Goods is having a pre-sale of Dig Pink shirts.

[Purchase your Dig Pink T-shirt in advance here.](#) All proceeds will benefit the Side-Out Foundation.

Officials can wear their Dig Pink shirts on each Saturday of the Championships (March 9, March 16 and March 23) as a way to show support for this amazing fundraiser.

FROM PREVIOUS REF BULLETINS

Shoutouts

Calling all officials: Please send your outstanding work crew nominations to Badger Region program director Brian Sharkey at brian@badgervolleyball.org. Please get their team name, club name and the head coach if possible. We will highlight your nomination and the team on social media and in future newsletters.

Thanks in advance.

Card reporting

If you issue a red card during a Badger Region-sanctioned match, please remember to record it by filling out this form on the Badger Region website. This will help us document repeat offenders and looking for other trends.

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://vbofficialsgear.com/>

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



REGION REF BULLETIN

WWW.BADGERVOLLEYBALL.ORG | MEMBERSHIP@BADGERVOLLEYBALL.ORG

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.

BECOME A HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL OFFICIAL!

STUDENT-ATHLETES NEED YOUR HELP SO THAT THEY CAN CONTINUE PLAYING THE SPORTS THEY LOVE. ADDITIONALLY, THERE'S NO BETTER OPPORTUNITY TO EARN EXTRA PART-TIME INCOME. AS AN OFFICIAL, YOU'LL BE PART OF THE GAME, WITH THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE.

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE ● GIVE BACK TO THE SPORT
DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS ● EARN EXTRA INCOME

SIGN UP TODAY AT
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