

Referees --

You have seen emails from me on a weekly basis for the past month. We NEED referees. We have more certified referees (462) than we've ever had, but we still need more. That's an issue for me to address, and I continue to recruit each season. But it is unacceptable and unprofessional to ask to be released from your tournament assignment on short notice, especially the week of the event. We don't have enough referees to cover those situations.

Tournaments rely on each of you. Barring an emergency situation -- family emergency, unexpected change in work schedule, illness -- referees need to keep the assignments they've accepted.

Our clinics addressed this situation -- "don't fill your schedule and then drop unwanted tournaments later, when you want a day off." While officiating may be a weekend "hobby" to make extra money for many of you and it may not be your primary profession or trade, it is still a PROFESSIONAL ENDEAVOR. Your word, reliability and integrity are extremely important.

Far too many of you have placed an unnecessary burden on tournament directors, teams, and your fellow referees, by dropping an assignment just days before you were scheduled to work. If you can't keep your commitments, then don't accept assignments ahead of time. Pick up tournaments closer to the tournament date when you know your schedule is free.

Just when I think I'm getting these events covered, I end up getting extra work piled on because some referees are inconsiderate and they cancel their commitment. You may feel justified in canceling because something more important arises, but understand that as someone who sought a referee certification, you must also bear the responsibility (and burden) that officiating demands.

A vast majority of our referee cadre treat officiating with the respect it deserves, and they also respect the participants, tournament staff and their fellow referees. THANK YOU for your professionalism! For those who don't value the officiating opportunities they've accepted, perhaps officiating is not a good fit for their schedules.

Having said that, log into your OVR account and look at your schedules for the remainder of the season. Make sure your schedule is clear so that you can keep your commitments to the volleyball people who are relying on you and counting on you to fulfill the obligation(s) you accepted.

I appreciate your help and reliability as certified, professional referees.

Respectfully,

Brian Hemelgarn
OVR Referees' Chair