

Referees,

Here are some tips and recommendations for getting through tournaments that have only one ref per court (or less):

#1 - Ask the work team or their coach to time warm-ups for you. This will give you a few minutes for a short break.

#2 - If adjacent courts are on a similar schedule, run warm-ups for one another to give a break here and there.

#3 - Ask the tournament director if a short break can be added to the schedule after the 4th round of pool play. This will allow everyone enough time to eat and catch their breath.

#4 - If you absolutely need a break, which is perfectly acceptable and understandable, a coach from the work team will be the first referee for that match. The tournament director will need to inform the teams of this in advance. Let the TD know when you need a break. I would NOT recommend taking your break during the 6th round of pool play. This is 1 v 2 in the pool, and it's important to have a certified referee on these matches.

#5 - Look ahead at your schedule. If you see that you're assigned to a tournament that has only one ref per court, plan accordingly. Take healthy snacks and drinks, and get good rest the night before.

#6 - If you need a break, TAKE IT. We aren't machines. Regardless of your age or energy level, working 6-8 matches in a row without a break isn't good for you and it's not good for the teams. Our focus and concentration start to fade after three or four in a row. Step away from the court to refresh your brain!

#7 - Help each other out whenever possible with those minor pre-match or post-match duties.

#8 - If your tournament has fewer than one referee per court, for consistency's sake, pick a court and stay on that one. Don't try to do a few matches here and a few matches there. When it comes to bracket play, make sure the Gold bracket is covered first, then Silver, Bronze, and so on.

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