

Referees -

I know we're down to the last four weeks of the indoor season, but I still want to encourage you to report facility issues that you encounter (or have encountered earlier this season). That door is always open, no matter the point in the season.

The OVR takes a lot of pride in providing exceptional events and quality facilities FOR OUR PAYING CUSTOMERS - the participants, without whom we would not have jobs! Parents pay some big \$\$\$ for their kids to play, and in turn, club directors \$200 or more for one team to play in a local tournament. In return, the OVR's job is to ensure the quality of our events so that they get what they pay for.

Coaches, teams and spectators/parents have expectations for the types of facilities they will play in because we have established standards to ensure consistency. These are covered in the Junior Tournament Packet: https://www.ovr.org/juniors/tournament_packet/index.php

And this is where you, the referees, come in. You are our eyes and ears around the region. You're on the front lines. You know when you encounter a facility setup that's a little unusual or abnormal - EX: extremely low overhead obstructions; insufficient clearance around the court (less than the required 2 meters, 6' 6-3/4"); insufficient padding on net posts; no step-in line for 12s & under; or incomplete/missing court lines, among other things.

When you encounter something out of the ordinary, PLEASE REPORT IT. A note to me and Tom Kohl (kohl@ovr.org) is appropriate. You do not have to fear repercussions from a tournament director, and assignor, or other referees. When something isn't right, we have to address it.

Thanks again for your work and commitment to keeping the OVR the best it can be!

Brian Hemelgarn
OVR Referees' Chair