

Crew,

I've heard from a couple different referees and coaches that junior second referees have been instructed by OVR referees to NOT blow their whistle for net faults and/or center line faults -- only whistle subs & time-outs.

If you are instructing junior officials to not do their jobs, it's time to STOP. This is unacceptable and is contrary to the spirit of having junior players provide officiating support during matches. Please read Rule 24.3.2 to ensure you know what the R2 is responsible for whistling.

TEACH the junior second referees the rules about "net contact during the action of playing the ball." If you aren't comfortable with the rule yourself, ask me or a veteran referee so that you are explaining it and applying it correctly. Re-read ALL of Rule 11 in the DCR. This will also cover center line/penetration faults. Also check the USAV casebook for related scenarios. Then re-read ALL Of Rule 11 in the DCR.

Some of these junior R2s might be better than some of our professional referees! They've been working only as R2 their entire junior playing career. They are fully capable of handling the job.

Yes, there are times when a junior player may apply the rule incorrectly, or they may miss a call. This happens to ALL of us, not just a junior player official. (Re-read ALL of Rule 11 in the DCR to make sure YOU don't misapply the Net Play rules.) In the absence of clear, compelling information to the contrary, TAKE THEIR CALL. If there's truly a concern that a junior R2 incorrectly applied the net contact rule, it may be ok to call them to the stand to ask what they saw. Two important things if you do this:

#1 - Don't lead them with, "Did the player do [this]?" or "Did [this] happen?" Instead, simply ask them, "What did you see?" If their description is consistent with the rule, their call stands. You must know Rule 11 in the DCR to know if they have applied the rule correctly, so re-read ALL of Rule 11 in the DCR.

#2 - Minimize these discussions when they aren't necessary. Don't call a kid over to the stand multiple times in a match. It makes you look overly officious, it will make the kid doubt herself, or others may question the ability of BOTH of you.

Remember, THESE ARE KIDS. If you support them, they will support you. Take their calls. Encourage them. If their whistle tone is soft, that doesn't mean you don't take their call. If you think they MIGHT have made a mistake, take the call and clarify the rule with them later. Remember, there must be clear evidence that a mistake was made in order for a call to be over-ruled or changed/replayed.

The future generation of volleyball referees is coming from our junior work teams. Don't limit your praise to the really impressive work teams -- instead, encourage and praise the mediocre ones so that they get better. Our next International referee may be on the other end of the net with you.

Smile! Enjoy it! They're kids! And re-read Rule 11 in the DCR.

Thanks,

Brian