

Officiating Tips: Scoring Issues

February 20, 2023

During the past several weekends, we've noticed a couple of things that all referees might want to consider adding to their bag of (officiating) tricks. So, for this "Tip of the Week", we'll focus on some scoring issues:

#1 - The scoreboard / flip score on the table is your best friend! Parents/spectators constantly yell "point!" or "the score is wrong!" If you make it a habit to see EVERY point go on the score board, you'll have confidence that the work team is on top of things at the table.

#2 - To see every point go on the board, you need to figure out where to fit this into your scanning routine at the end of each rally. This will depend on whether the kids at the table put each point up quickly, or whether they're slower to do so. It's usually pretty easy to add a quick look at the scoreboard when you are centering with the R2 as you signal the point and fault. The scoring crew does NOT adjust to your scanning routine - instead, you need to adjust to their routine of awarding points on the scoreboard so you can look at the proper time.

#3 - If you know that the scoreboard is correct because you've watched every point go on the board, it will be easier for you to sort through scoring issues on the scoresheet, especially if a coach/team feels the score is wrong. If you are certain the scoreboard is correct, figure out where the scorer might have missed a point or added one incorrectly.

#4 - Based on some of the scoresheets we've seen recently, our junior scorers need more instruction from us during our pre-match meeting with the work team. Review the handouts from our pre-season clinics to help you establish a consistent pre-match routine with each work crew.

#5 - Although the R1 typically does not come off the stand between sets, we probably should start doing this a little more frequently, especially early in the day as you get to know the skill level of each scoring crew. The number of scoring mistakes we've been encountering at large GCCC events suggests that referees are encountering the same scoring mistakes at smaller local tournaments.

#6 - When checking a scoresheet for an error during a match, here are a few things that often identify problems quickly:

- Ensure the starting line-ups have been recorded correctly, especially if the issue is a possible wrong server.
- Ensure an "X" has been placed in the first Service Rounds box for the receiving team.
- When the receiving team is serving, that team should be one service rotation ahead of the serving team's last exit score. EX: If position IV (4) was the last server for the serving team, the current server for the receiving team is position V (5).
- Make sure there are no duplicated consecutive exit scores, i.e., there can't be two servers in a row (on the same team) with the same exit score.

Attached is a PDF with some additional scoring nightmares! These tips will also be posted on our Officiating Tips page: <https://www.ovr.org/officiating/memos/tips.php>

If you've consistently encountered other scoring issues that should be shared with our referee cadre, please share them with me. Also, for any significant issues with an "under-trained" work team, please contact Jim Hammar - Hammar@ovr.org. He'll work with the club to help improve that situation.

Hope this helps!

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