

Referees -

As we get the season started, I've received a couple of questions about handling the playing format when a scheduled team does not show up for the first match of the day.

Most importantly, this is a TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR issue! I know tournament directors often ask referees how to handle situations, but ultimately we need to avoid getting involved with most TD decisions. If they can't sort things out, here are a couple of suggestions:

#1 - If it is one of the two playing teams that doesn't show up for the first match but the other three teams in the pool are there, the tournament director should adjust the schedule and play the first match with the teams that are present -- two playing teams and one work team.

#2 - By the end of the second set of that first match, a determination will need to be made about any change in playing format. Tom Kohl helps the TD make those decisions and they are covered in more detail in the Junior Tournament Procedures document, which we specifically covered at our clinics.

All you need to know as the referee is whether you need to play additional sets after Set 2 has completed. If the match will remain a best 2 of 3 sets, then the match is either completed (2-0) or the deciding 15-point set will need be played. If the match will become a best 3 of 5 sets, then the third (and fourth) set will be played to 25 points, as usual. If the teams split 2-2, then the fifth set will be a normal 15-point deciding set.

#3 - Under no circumstances are the referees responsible for imposing a penalty to a late playing team in this situation. IF a penalty is necessary, the tournament director is responsible for notifying the referees and enforcing the sanction. The tournament director will need to contact Tom Kohl and/or include comments in the Event Report in this regard.

The bottom line for us as referees is that WE ARE NOT TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS. I know we want to help when the TD asks for assistance, but we have procedures in place and tournament directors need to contact appropriate OVR staff when unusual situations arise. Do not make any decisions on your own or base any decision on "what we did at the GCCC in Columbus" (or at any other OVR-run event). Wrong decisions lead to problems with regional seeding, among other things, so we need to stay out of it.

Thanks in advance for your work! The season is under way...

Brian Hemelgarn
OVR Referees' Chair