

# **The Other Side of the Coin**

## **Rule Knowledge**

**A good referee must have a thorough knowledge of the game. Coaches make game plans, athletes train and referees must learn the rules**

**We begin our refereeing career by passing a written exam and by participating in a practical evaluation. That's only the beginning. The task of becoming a referee will continue through your your refereeing career, for no matter how good you are, you will always be learning. You must constantly be improving your understanding of the game and the people around you as well as continually refining your skills. The moment you stop learning, you will stop growing as an official and the moment you stop growing, whatever skills you have developed will begin to fade.**

**It is key to utilize all of our resources and we have many:**

- The obvious resource is our Rule book and by this time of year, your hard copy rule book should be dog eared and obviously well used. We once had a Level 4 Candidate come to the Theory Clinic who admitted he hadn't opened the rule book that year and needless to say, that candidate struggled! Read and re-read your rule book. Make notes in it - maybe about an area where you struggle, use a highlighter where needed and I even add tabs to make it easier to quickly access areas. Our rule book is also available online for those who rather at [http://www.volleyball.ca/sites/www.volleyball.ca/files/Officiating\\_Arbitres/Resources/2016-2017Rulebook\\_EN.pdf](http://www.volleyball.ca/sites/www.volleyball.ca/files/Officiating_Arbitres/Resources/2016-2017Rulebook_EN.pdf)**
- Included in your tool box should be a copy of our FAQ's. These can be found at <http://www.volleyball.ca/content/faq> These were created at the National level to address those areas that we repeatedly saw there was confusion. They are constantly being updated with input from each of you through your ROC.**
- A huge resource we all should be using is our Referee Guidelines which can be found at <http://www.volleyball.ca/content/ref-guidelines> Print those out each year and as with your rule book - read and re-read these, make notes in them, highlight areas of concern, etc.**
- The FIVB website is also full of great information at <http://www.fivb.org/EN/Refereeing-Rules/> Their Guidelines, multi media teaching material and articles should be viewed. The FIVB Casebook is full of interesting situations and can be found at [https://www.fivb.org/EN/Refereeing-Rules/Documents/2016\\_Volleyball\\_Rules\\_Casebook.pdf](https://www.fivb.org/EN/Refereeing-Rules/Documents/2016_Volleyball_Rules_Casebook.pdf) With all of the FIVB information, keep in mind that our domestic rules vary slightly from the international game, but there is still lots to learn from these tools.**

**Don't forget to utilize your fellow official! Talk about rules and ask questions when you're not sure. Sit with other officials at matches that you're not working and take every opportunity to discuss rules.**

**In our modern game of volleyball, knowing and understanding the rules is necessary. If we expect participants to know the rules, we better know them! The point to remember is that Knowledge is Power!**

**Until the next toss of the coin.....**