

The Other Side of the Coin

Interacting with Tournament Organizers

As referees, for the balance of our volleyball season, the host for the most part will be Volleyball Alberta. For the first half our season many of us found ourselves at different venues across the province, which varied from very large 4A city schools to possibly a small 1A rural school. Not only is the level of ball very different from venue to venue, but the type of hospitality we see is just as different. How do we interact with organizers or tournament coordinators?

Now, when I refer to the “tournament organizer or coordinator” that person may be a Volleyball Alberta Representative, fellow senior referee specifically assigned to the event as a Volleyball Canada Supervisor, or very often, the tournament organizer is the coach of the host school. Now the job of the Volleyball Canada Supervisor or Volleyball Alberta Supervisor may not be to deal with many of the issues I’m mentioning, but they are your liaison with those who will deal with any concern you may have.

For any event, we as referees must always do our part to be prepared. When you receive confirmation of your assignment from our assignor, often they send an email with instructions for protocols or particular rules that will be enforced. You may even be directed to a website that will lay out those protocols. PLEASE READ THIS INFORMATION AND DON’T ASSUME YOU KNOW!

Your role as a referee is to referee so please remember:

- The schedule is not your problem. Should a team ask for information about the schedule, or concerns such as moving a match; that should be directed to the tournament organizer. (That being said; should the tournament organizer ask for your assistance, be willing to share your expertise - but expertise only and not opinion.) Again, if the request for tournament scheduling information come from a participant, refer them to the tournament organizer.**
- We should never “expect” to be have food made available by the event. Should we, as referees, be invited into a coaches and officials room where food is provided that’s only a bonus! I understand that sometime, due to scheduling or transportation, you may not have an opportunity to actually go out and get food during a tournament day. Always be prepared and bring food of your own.**
- Please be respectful at all times as in your uniform you are representing our association. Use manners such as please and thank you!**
- Unless specifically requested by the tournament organizer, it is not up to us to enforce where and when teams can warm up outside the parameters of our assigned match.**

Some of the points mentioned above are listed as a result of actual concerns coming from event organizers, so please be conscientious of what your job is and in turn, is not!

Let’s go out and represent our association in a professional manner and please - Keep smiling!

Until the next toss of the coin.