

# The Other Side of the Coin

## Details

### **“DETAILS”**

**Our loved game of Volleyball is a game of structure and in turn, much of what we do as a referee is about the ‘details’. It is our job to outline the parameters of this structure as we are given in our rulebook. Yes, it’s our JOB!**

**These are details that every athlete and coach deserves to learn: regardless of level of ball, age, location or event. Some of these details that we may be neglecting are:**

- Captains bar; the captain is required to start the match with a stripe underlining his/her number. (Rule 4.3.4) It is understood that because tape is most often used for this, the stripe may not stay on for the whole game, but the captain must begin the match with it.**
- The head coach must complete the line up card with game number and his signature. (Rule 5.2.3.1) When you take a line up card from the coach, check it and if it’s not complete, politely ask that he sign it for example.**
- Removal of all jewelry (including rubber bracelets)**
- Location of players at the bench; either sitting on the bench or standing in the warm up zone; not standing in front of the bench!**
- Libero exchanging in the proper zone (between the 3 meter line and the end line)**
- Coaches position on the bench (Either standing or in the chair nearest the scorer) (Rule 5.2.3.2) He cannot sit in any chair unless you are at a USport match. We ask that they are located in that first chair so that we can easily accept their request for a time out for example.**
- The head coach must be identified prior to the match begins by his signature verifying the roster. He/she is the only one that can act as head coach in that match. Two coaches cannot ‘share’ the responsibility from set to set.**
- Having teams actually line up on the end line at the conclusion of the game or match.**
- Of course one of the biggest details is the proper completion of a score sheet. Again: it’s our JOB.**

**We may not ‘like’ some of these rules, (some may say we’re ‘nit picking’) but the bottom line is that they are VC rules and we are being paid by the institution to apply these rules. It is our responsibility to teach players and possibly those less experienced coaches these components of our rulebook. Start early in the season; teach players when they’re young.**

**When implementing these details, it’s much more effective not having the attitude of an enforcer. Approach this as a teacher. It’s not simply a matter of showing everyone that we know the rules. We do not sanction one toe outside the warm up zone, but teach the players that it’s their responsibility to utilize the warm up zone rather than stand in front of the bench.**

**For every detail, there may be a situation where we must be flexible. As the intro to our guidelines state; Refereeing cannot simply be the mechanical or automatic application of the rules. Consider this example: A coach is required to sit in the chair nearest the scorer. I came across a coach that because of a back injury needed to lean on something. Of course I allowed him to stand behind the bench. Or if you are at an event where you have no governing body in attendance and you have a team with no front numbers on their jerseys. By the rule, they should not be allowed to play, but is that in the best interest of the game? Of course, we allow the game to continue and have a chat with the coach in question and let him/her know the rule and that when they order new uniforms, they need to have front numbers.**

**Always consider what is in the best interest of the participants and use common sense.....**

**If we are all consistent with the application of these details, we avoid players saying to the one referee who does apply these details correctly: “But I’ve done this all year without issue”.**

**We are paid to referee. Regardless of the level of competition, we must always fulfil our duties as referees to the best of our abilities. Always!**

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

**Debbie**