

**Minutes of the CEV Referee Seminar**  
**Katarino Spa – Bulgaria**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

NOTE: The following Minutes are supplementary to the Presentations used at the Seminar, published on the CEV website, and should be read in conjunction with them.

The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Jan Rek – President CEV Referee Commission.

**Present:** Fifty-six participants (an increase of 20% on 2008) from forty-three countries (an increase of 27% on 2008)

Following the official welcome by the Bulgarian Volleyball Federation, Mr. Jan Rek showed a short video of 'Beautiful Volleyball' and then asked all delegates to introduce themselves.

**Apologies for Absence:** The President offered the apologies of Mr A. Meyer, Mr. Gaby Kraus, Mr Fred Kroger and other Commission Members who were unable to attend.

**Day 1 - Session 1 – Mr. Jan Rek: President CEV Referee Commission**

With the aid of statistical analysis the President made the following key points:

- Federations are encouraged to send younger referees on Candidate courses, by making it easier to reach the higher grades. The rules could be learned thoroughly in a very short space of time, it is then a case of giving experience at International level as early as possible. In 2003 the average age was 43; by 2009 it has reached 45. The trend needs to be reversed.

Requirements:-

1. The minimum age for Candidates attending a course is now 25 and the maximum age is 41, at any time during the year of the course.
2. Candidates must have been named by their Federations as National Referees for three of the last five years and must pass a medical. (The next course will be in Romania 14-18<sup>th</sup> October 2009)
3. The process to enable Candidate Referees to progress to International has been made easier. Within five years Candidate Internationals must complete a minimum of three International matches in competitions under the control of their Continental Federation. To become International Referees they will require two signatures from members of their Continental Referee Commission.

NOTE:-

- a) The title 'International Referee' is only valid for four years at a time and renewal is dependent on activity and yearly reports.
  - b) On reaching the age of retirement (55) a referee is not permitted to use the title 'International Referee'.
- Federations are encouraged to prepare more female referees and may send a female referee to a course in addition to a male candidate. This arrangement will be in force until 2012. It was noted that a successful experiment had taken place where all referees appointed to an event were female. A seminar was being considered for female referees, with two nominated from the highest National level of each Federation.
  - Referees will no longer be allowed a 'Double Function'. FIVB will no longer appoint referees who are both indoor and Beach.
  - The appearance of the current International Referee uniform is not considered satisfactory and work is taking place on new designs and the method of distribution.

However, an immediate resolution is not expected. All the editions currently produced by Mikasa are valid but where possible the same design should be used.

- Top level International Referees require more experience as 2<sup>nd</sup> Referee. The role of 2<sup>nd</sup> Referee should be promoted by Federations as being of equal value to 1<sup>st</sup> Referee.
- During the Referee Clinic prior to events, the appointed referees will be required to sit a Theory Examination. Referees scoring less than 70% will not be appointed for the first two days – to give them time to study for the retake of the test.
- The Referee Evaluation form R-4 is currently being revised by ERC.
- The next FIVB Referee Commission Meeting will take place February 2010.
- CEV

Match Organisation:

- a) The announcer is instructed to make official announcements during each match to inform spectators of the new FIVB net rule or any new rule changes as they occur.
- b) The E-scoresheet has been a major success for all CEV competitions
- c) The E-scoresheet is mandatory but the paper copy remains the official match document
- d) The E-Scorer's name is to be included in match notes as Assistant Scorer
- e) It is important to ensure that all 1<sup>st</sup> Referee's have their personal CEV password's with them courtside, to confirm the electronic scoresheet.

Personal Record Sheets:

- a) The system of using the CEV Website is working well
- b) Referees need to update the site immediately any changes to personal details or availability occur and not wait.

Medical Reports:

- a) Serious concern was expressed that Referee Medical Reports received from Federations too frequently do not match the Medical examinations carried out at events. Federations were asked to pay particular attention to this matter, particularly as they will be required to pay all costs if a referee fails the medical.
- b) If concerned about the physical well-being of a referee at an event, CEV can ask for a medical examination

Referee Availability:

- a) CEV must be informed of any FIVB appointments – the databases are not currently aligned
- b) If CEV are not informed the referee will be subject to a 3 (three) month suspension
- c) A referee's record of availability must be accurate
- d) The use of the CEV website is strongly encouraged

Champions League:

- a) Only Referees from Groups 1 and 2 will be appointed, and from two different countries
- b) The Reserve Referee must be
  - a current International – not a Candidate International
  - available two hours prior to the match and may depart immediately it is completed
  - paid by the Federation
- c) The Reserve Referee may only officiate as 2<sup>nd</sup> Referee

Travel and Communication:

- a) All flights must be scheduled airline flights. Referees should not be offered flights with low cost operators and should try and rectify with the Federation or club concerned. If this fails they must contact the CEV office.
- b) The use of own car for travel to matches in another country is discouraged. If own car is used it may not be used after arrival at an event and before the end of the event. Transportation is the organiser's responsibility.
- c) National Federations are responsible for travel costs to/from airports in their country
- d) All communication from National Federations must be copied to CEV, not just to the President or Commission members.

The Chairman stressed that the seminar was no longer solely for International matters and that CEV had a responsibility to offer advice and make recommendations to National Federations regarding the adaptation of rules and regulations for National competitions.

### **Day 1 – Session 2 – Medical Commission – Mr. Manfred Holzgraefe**

The President of EMC Dr Holzgraefe re-emphasised Mr Rek's points regarding medical checks and particularly the discrepancies found between Federation declarations and full CEV medical checks made prior to competitions. Delegates were reminded about the 2009 FIVB Medical Document.

- It was reported that Referees *are* being stopped from refereeing on medical grounds. Three key indicators being used are:
  - a) The current maximum B.M.I. of 25 - calculated as weight in kilograms divided by metric height. As recognised by the World Health Organisation. Note that age is not relevant to the calculation.
  - b) Abdominal Circumference - recognised as a better indicator than the B.M.I. - should be below 1m 08cm.
  - c) Sight
- CEV BoA is to decide on the future. Regular testing, in and out of competition as in other sports, is a firm proposal.
- In the case of Candidate International Referees a medical certificate needs to be sent to CEV Medical Commission in addition to FIVB. Certificates apply at National/CEV/FIVB levels
- It is recognised that doping may be a problem in refereeing. Doping control has been requested by Beach and is being considered. Referees were warned that drugs such as valium take 40 (forty) hours to clear so care must be taken when using any prescribed or over the counter medicine. In unsure referees should seek advice from their Federations

### **Day 2 – Mr. Sandy Steel – President FIVB Rules of the Game Commission**

Before moving on to specific Rules and Guidelines Mr Steel stressed that

- the rules are a framework and do not provide every answer
- the rule changes undertaken in the past and in recent years were designed to help 'keep the ball flying', increase the number of net crossings, and extend the length of rallies, which had been no more than 4.5 seconds.
- the new rule changes *are* working and have been good for players, TV, spectators etc.
- tests continue e.g. shorter sets; up to four players in any position; how to reduce service errors, new versions of the Libero Rule.

- National Federations may run tests without permission but should share information with FIVB Rules of the Game Commission in case the test was being run elsewhere.
- Mr Steel stressed that referees should know the philosophy behind the rules and not just apply them: to understand the reasoning allows better application.
- Volleyball as a sport must adapt to the ever changing market and provide entertainment.
- Only one in six rallies are extended in today's volleyball – we need to find a way of extending the rallies and the numbers of net crossings.
- The flying time of the ball has fallen from 17% of a match to 14% in 3 years

Mr Steel summarised the rules changes of the past 2 decades and indicated that all are based on keeping the ball flying and developing a sport that is easy to understand for spectators, TV, etc.

### **NEW SUBSTITUTION PROCEDURE:**

Purposes:-

- Prevent conflicts with coaches
- Unify application with regard to delay
- Prevent delay and maintain this idea of match tempo
- Speed up the substitution process
- Keep the ball flying – longer playing time for spectators and participants

The agreed process described below is a compilation of instructions given and the responses to questions following group sessions and questions.

### **Substitution process in 25<sup>th</sup> Universiade**

1. The scorer sees the player enter the substitution zone while the ball is out of play and before the whistle for service>

Scorer action or actions	2 <sup>nd</sup> Referee action/ actions	Player action/ actions	1 <sup>st</sup> Referee actions
<p><b>Presses the buzzer</b>, but only <b>AFTER players enter the substitution zone</b>, starts the checking and recording process. <u>No eye contact or raised hand is necessary.</u></p> <p>Scorer raises two hands when substitution record is completed. Makes eye contact NOW.</p> <p>Scorer only presses buzzer a second time if there is an illegal substitution.</p>	<p>On hearing the buzzer, the second referee moves towards the player or players with paddle and with a hand movement controls the exchange. <b>PRIORITY: control the placement of the players! No eye contact is necessary yet since scorer is empowered to press buzzer again if there is a mistake.</b> After completing each substitution, 2<sup>nd</sup> referee looks to scorer for two hands OK, then after all substitutions, turns to 1<sup>st</sup> Referee to repeat two hands OK.</p>	<p>Must <u>enter the substitution zone.</u> Under direction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> referee, player exchanges paddle with player on court corresponding to the number on the paddle</p>	<p><u>Makes the official substitution signal for public.</u></p> <p>Starts the next rally with the whistle.</p>

2. The scorer sees a player approach the substitution zone, e.g. from warm up zone, some moments after his/her colleague and attempts to make a second substitution request

**A. 2nd Referee is pro-active - player does not get opportunity to enter the substitution zone, so no formal request has been made**

Scorer action or actions	2nd Referee action/ actions	Player action/ actions	1st Referee actions
NO ACTION!	Note: it is preferred if the referee is clever and rejects before such late players cross the dotted line to the substitution zone, so that no improper request is formally made.	Player returns to bench	Can support 2nd referee if necessary to reject. Starts the next rally with the whistle

**B. Player physically steps into the substitution zone, so a formal, late and therefore improper request has been made**

Scorer action or actions	2nd Referee action/ actions	Player action/ actions	1st Referee actions
NO ACTION!	2nd referee rejects without penalty this second request and looks to scorer for two hands OK, then turns to 1st Referee to repeat two hands OK. Although without penalty, <u>this is still an improper request, and 2nd referee will instruct scorer to mark an X on the score sheet at the section headed IMPROPER REQUESTS, but at the end of the rally. Note: improper request is not a penalty!</u>	Returns to bench	Can support 2nd referee if necessary to reject.  Starts the next rally with the whistle

3. The substitution request is double substitution / i.e. two players approach clearly at the same time

Scorer action or actions	2nd Referee action/ actions	Player action/ actions	1st Referee actions
<p>Presses the buzzer, starts the checking and recording process. No eye contact or raised hand is necessary.</p> <p>Scorer raises two hands when FIRST substitution record is completed.</p> <p>Scorer starts the second recording process. Scorer does NOT press buzzer two times for a double substitution as this could be confused with illegal substitution. Scorer WILL press buzzer again if the opponent team also make request during the same interruption.</p> <p>Scorer raises two hands as OK</p>	<p>On hearing the buzzer, the second referee moves towards the player or players with paddle and</p> <p><b>*directs one of them to stand a little back from the side line</b>, then</p> <p>*with a hand movement controls the exchange. First one set of players, *THEN LOOKS FOR OK signal from scorer before</p> <p>*making second substitution or subsequent substitutions, to avoid confusion or mistakes.</p> <p>2nd referee looks to scorer for FINAL two hands OK, then turns to 1st Referee to repeat two hands OK.</p>	<p><u>BOTH Must enter the substitution zone. One player stays back a little from the side line.</u></p> <p>Under direction of the 2nd referee first pair of players exchanges paddle.</p> <p>Second pair of players are called together for second substitution.</p> <p>Referees must apply with common sense – for politeness, a player stays just outside the zone, assume his/ her intent was to enter together with colleague.</p> <p>There is enough space to enter together but 2<sup>nd</sup> referee must allow scorer to see!</p>	<p>Makes the official substitution signal or directs attention of the second referee to another team requesting substitution.</p> <p>Starts the next rally with the whistle</p>

4. After the whistle for service, a player or players enter the substitution zone:

Scorer action or actions	2nd Referee action/ actions	Player action/ actions	1st Referee actions
<p>In case the scorer presses the buzzer, the match must not be interrupted!</p> <p>Take direction from the second referee about how to record.</p>	<p>2nd referee rejects without penalty. This is an improper request, as it was in the previous rules / however, 2nd referee will instruct scorer to mark an X on the score sheet at the section headed IMPROPER REQUESTS, but at the end of the rally</p>	<p>Return to bench or warm up area</p>	<p>Since buzzer is only an attention device it must not stop the play</p>

5. In due time a player or players enter the substitution zone, but is/ are not ready (wrong paddle, not ready to play/ attempt to make illegal substitution):

Scorer action or actions	2nd Referee action/ actions	Player action/ actions	1st Referee actions
<p><b>Scorer will buzz.</b></p> <p>Take direction from the second referee about how to record.</p>	<p>2nd referee rejects - 1<sup>st</sup> referee will sanction for delay. 2nd referee will instruct scorer to mark the delay sanction on the score sheet at the section for misconduct and delays</p>	<p>Return to bench or warm up area</p>	<p>Show correct signal for delay – either warning or penalty – to the team.</p>

*Note 1:* where a substitution is requested by the coach prior to a set, as a result of an incorrect line up with the wrong player on court, it is not necessary for the player to enter the court to make the exchange. To aid communication the coach should on this occasion make the request by sounding the buzzer.

*Note 2:* A coach may change his/her mind about the number of substitutions without consequence, provided there is no delay to the game. This does not constitute an Improper Request.

*Note 3:* It may be a delay if a player exits the court slowly, but because of the wording of the rule, this would not constitute the cancellation of the substitution!

In matches at National level where there may be no paddles and/or scorer's buzzer. It is recommended that the following amendments are made:-

- The Scorer is equipped with a sound device or 2<sup>nd</sup> Referee will use his/her whistle
- The Scorer will additionally use the 'one hand' process to announce and show that the substitution is acknowledged.

## **LIBERO and 14 PLAYER RULES**

Following a brief history of the libero rule and the fourteen player rule, the following key points were made:-

- The 14 player rule (4.1.1) is being reconsidered and any changes will be ratified by the FIVB BoA in Spring 2010.
- There are implications for the scoresheet. In particular it was noted that because CEV allow later announcement of team liberos, on CEV score sheets all players are listed on the team list and then the names of the libero(s) are repeated in the slots provided, thus if the rule is amended as expected, fourteen spaces may be required on the team list. On FIVB scoresheets the libero(s) is/are only named in the slot(s) provided.
- CEV currently only allow 12 players, who may include up to two liberos e.g. 10+2 liberos, 11+1 libero or 12 players and no libero
- The coach may be a libero. When on court the coach is not 'absent' from the team (Rule 5.1.2.3).
- Mr Steel outlined the re-designation process which has only been used in exceptional circumstances

## **NET TOUCH – INTERFERENCE**

The President of Rules of the Game Commission stressed that the new net touch rule must not be seen in isolation, but as part of a complete package. The concept of 'Interference' involves more than the net fault rule and includes:-

- a) Beneath the net
- b) The net itself
- c) Around the net.

In addition to the points made in the FIVB video on the new net touch rule, the following points were made:-

- Strong net touches which are not faults according to rule 11.4.4 must not be whistled
- Beneath the net a player could be interfering with the opposition's ability to play the ball by
  - a) lying totally or partly within the opponent's court,
  - b) by distributing sweat on the opponent's court
- Touching the top band of the net during his/her action of playing the ball, refers to the net band between the antennae and not outside them
- When a player chases a ball around the net and his/her play of the ball is interfered with by an opponent, the 1<sup>st</sup> Referee should signal side to serve and indicate the player at fault.
- Actions that lead to the net touching an opponent player are not the fault of the player being touched by the net; however, compare this with the player who deliberately prevents the natural rebound of the ball. This would be a fault.

## **FURTHER RULE CLARIFICATIONS**

Dr Rek commented that very few Federations had provided in advance questions they wanted clarification on. Mr Alain Fischbacher [SUI] had provided questions and was therefore allowed to ask of Mr Steel & RC his questions. In Addition Mr Montesi & Mt Achille [ITA] provided the

seminar with a very well prepared presentation of issues that FIPAV had encountered last season in their domestic competition and Mr Lotan [ISR] had a series of questions prepared. All of the above and questions from the delegates were tabled and the answers are summarised below

- At Time-Outs the second referee does not have to be static. He/she may move to check teams are close to the bench, check the work of the moppers, liaise with the scorer with regard to monitoring hidden libero replacements etc. The default position is still with back to the post.
- No instruction has been given, either by FIVB or CEV, that a screen could not be called if the serve was a jump serve. Referees should apply the rule regarding screening. The examples shown in Italy by Mr Montesi & Mr Achille were for the most part obvious screens and although not “fashionable” should be whistled as faults. The President added that the screen rule actually prevented many outlandish actions by teams, but if referees whistled this very early in a match or competition and maintained the consistency the problem would be minimised.
- Mr Montesi & Mr Achille showed examples of a player touching the antennae that was missed by the referee [s] and line judge [s]. Pay attention as the ball on the net at extremis of the net at each end is the responsibility of the referee closest and the calls must be accurate. Use line judges here if the ball is away from the net when a player contacts the net. One of the line judge duties is to signal PLAYERS’ contact with the antennae.
- ERC can offer no precise instruction as to what is a screen; referees must blow what they see. If we do not blow then the coaches/players are winning the psychological battle and this is not correct.
- Rule 5.1.2.3, 5.3.2 – the coach is not defined as absent if he/she enters the court as a player or libero.
- If the coach is absent and the game captain does not request that the Assistant Coach replaces him/her then it is the Game Captain who calls T-Os.
- A coach entering the court is not the same as one being expelled for example. When not on court the coach can resume his/her role as coach. When on court is only a player.
- A player, while preparing to serve, throws the ball into the air and the ball hits the ceiling. While falling down from the ceiling the player hits the ball and completes the serve. This is an error
- The ball travels outside of the “crossing space” after the first hit of the receiving team. None of the players from the receiving team tries to retrieve the ball back to the receiving team’s area. The player from the opposing team steps out of the court and catches the ball. This ball is deemed to be out.
- The first referee calls a double fault and decides to replay the rally. Before he whistles for service, the coach of Team A requests a time-out. Is this allowed? NO
- The first referee calls a double fault and decides to replay the rally. Before he whistles for service, the coach of Team A requests his first substitution in this set. Is this allowed? NO
- The assistant coach of Team A gives the line-up sheet to the second referee before the start of the second set. The starting line-up is then written in the score sheet. When controlling the starting line-up on the court, the second referee finds a discrepancy between players’ positions on court and on the line-up sheet, # 5 is on court instead of # 2. What he didn’t see in time was that the line-up sheet wasn’t signed by the coach. When he approached the coach of Team A to ask him whether to rectify or to substitute the wrong player, the coach stated that he didn’t sign the line-up sheet and he would insist on letting # 5 play without substitution. What is the correct answer of the referees? The delivery of the line up sheet by a team official is the important part – the team must revert to the positions on the sheet or will be charged for a substitution.
- What if the coach himself gives the line-up sheet to the second referee? As above

- Team A makes two substitutions at the score 17-22 (Team B leading and ready to serve). After one rally, which Team A wins, the game captain of Team A asks the referee which player is to serve. After the second referee has checked on the score sheet who is to serve next, he also realises that he missed the fact that Team A had committed a positional fault during the last rally (in the moment of the last service hit of Team B).  
If missed, in this case the earlier mistake is now over in the same way that a fault of ball touch was missed earlier. The referee cannot now rule on the matter.
- A player of Team A is with his whole body on the court of Team B under the net, but his feet are in the air, *not* touching the floor/court of Team B. Presuming the player does not interfere with the opponent's play, is this a legal position? Yes, correct, as the new rule states "in contact with or directly above the line" is legal.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Referees should whistle and signal back row block faults
- When the serve fails to cross the crossing space the 2<sup>nd</sup> Referee must repeat the 1<sup>st</sup> Referee's signals? Mr Kraus did not insist on this in Beijing. However, all other signals were to be repeated.
- It is part of the 1st Referee's responsibilities to whistle if an attack hit is completed higher than the top of the net from an overhand finger pass by a libero in his/her front zone. The position of the libero is judged according to the position of his/her feet. This is not part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> referee's tasks at present.
- All were reminded that the action of blocking can result in the fault of "CATCH".
- If during a substitution the entering player has an incorrect paddle (for example his/her own number) this is deemed to be "not ready to play" and the substitution is cancelled and the delay sanction scale must be followed.
- Mr Casanova [POR] asked if the new casebook as well as the new guidelines reflected the current rules. Mr Steel confirmed they did.
- Blood injuries are covered in the case book. Can all referees use the case book as it is very important way of gaining interpretations from FIVB Rules Commission.
- There was a long discussion regarding a match where a brawl took place. If possible the referees should establish the facts and should expel and disqualify as they see fit. However some felt the jury member or control committee should decide if it is a mass brawl!!!

#### **For Information:**

- Diagrams to accompany the rules are currently being developed. These are now on the FIVB website with rules English/French
- The 'Definitions', also pending publication will include a new definition of 'Outside Objects'.

At the conclusion of the Seminar, Mr. Jan Rek thanked the Bulgarian Volleyball Federation for their excellent hospitality and organisation, and expressed the hope that CEV would be invited again in the future. He also thanked Mr. Sandy Steel for his extremely valuable contribution, as well as delegates who had given presentations or contributed questions, and all delegates for their participation in a very successful seminar. The 2009 CEV Referee Seminar was then declared closed.