



REGION REF BULLETIN

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Donate to Hall of Fame

Calling all volleyball referees: Support the Game-Changing Exhibit at the International Volleyball Hall of Fame in Holyoke, Mass.

Help the IVHF honor referee legends, recognize great achievements and preserve the history of volleyball through the lens of an official by sharing your stories and artifacts.

You understand the pivotal role referees play in shaping the spirit and integrity of volleyball. Now, we invite you to be a driving force behind an innovative project that celebrates the rules we uphold and the profound impact referees make on the sport.

[Donate today](#) and be a part of something extraordinary.



Schoenick wins state award

Badger Region official Larry Schoenick received the 2023 Volleyball Official of the Year award from the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association in late 2023.

Schoenick is the treasurer of the Wisconsin High School Volleyball Officials Association and formerly served as the referee assigner for the Badger Region Volleyball Association.

The Badger Region would like to send Larry a huge congratulations and thank him for all that he does for officials and the sport of volleyball in the state of Wisconsin.



Larry Schoenick

Power League starts Jan. 6

The Badger Region is excited for the return of the 2024 Badger Region Power League.

Competition starts on Jan. 6 at multiple sites around the state of Wisconsin.

For a link to the schedule, [click here](#).

This year, advancement of officials will take place during the final weekend of the Power League.

For other details on the Power League including sites and the second annual Watchlist, [click here](#).

What officials should know about adjusting, allowing ‘breaks’

By **Jim Momsen**
Badger Region President

We were recently asked some questions about scheduled breaks during tournament play. Here are those questions, the answers, and the rationale behind the answers:

1. How much time is allowed for a “lunch break” if teams are playing and working many matches in a row?

The only pool structure that contains a “mandatory break” is for five-team pools playing on two courts. The break is scheduled after the third round of matches and typically lasts 20 minutes. This is because the one team that is available to work each match and is

covering two courts at once, which usually requires all team members to be working (2 R2s + 4 Line Judges + 2 Scorers + 2 Libero Trackers + 2 Visual Scorers = 12 people working). That doesn’t give anyone time to rest/eat/hydrate.

In the three-team and four-team pools, half of the work team can grab refreshments during the first set and then the workers from the first set can grab refreshments during the second set.

Note: I’ve also seen a couple of instances where a team plays the last match of Pool play, immediately wins in a Quarter Final Match, and then wins a Semi Final Matches (played in three straight matches), and then requests a

break to hydrate and eat before the Championship Match. This break is certainly also allowed.

2. If a court is running behind schedule, can a referee “forfeit time” from a team’s lunch break?

No. The break is scheduled for the safety of the players so they can hydrate and eat. If a break is scheduled, the referee must allow it. The referee cannot eliminate the break or shorten. The only people that can elect to shorten or eliminate a break are the teams that are involved and then ONLY if ALL teams agree.

3. If one team wants to play and another wants their full break, what do we do as refs?

The only people that can elect to

shorten or eliminate a break are the teams that are involved and then ONLY if ALL teams agree.

4. What role does the tournament director have in all this?

The Tournament Director is the individual that should be talking with the coaches to determine if the break schedule is going to be modified. If a coach asks the official if they can shorten or eliminate the break, the official should direct the coach to speak with the Tournament Director.

The officials can certainly contribute to the discussion and point out options, but they should stay completely out of making these decisions, since it is not their responsibility to make them.



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USA Volleyball events seeking officials

Registration for all national events is open now in AES.

To sign up to work the following USA Volleyball nationally owned events in AES by typing in the event titles below. If accepted, more detailed information on officiating at the 2024 National Championships and Qualifiers will be sent closer to the event.

* 2024 Salt Lake Showdown Girls 18s Qualifier February 9-11, 2024 – Acceptances will happen within two weeks of registration for Junior National and National Referees.

* 2024 Sunshine Qualifier March 2-4, 2024 and March 8-10, 2024 – Acceptances will happen within two weeks of registration for Junior National and National Referees.

* 2024 Salt Lake City Showdown April 6-8, 2024 and April 12-14, 2024 – Acceptances will happen within two weeks of registration for Junior National and National Referees.

* 2024 Girls 18s Junior National Championships April 26-28, 2024 – Acceptances for GJNC 18s will begin February 19.

* 2024 Open National



USAVolleyball

Championship May 24-29, 2024 – Acceptances for the Open National Championships will be February 1.

* 2024 Girls Junior National Championship (11s-13s) June 21-24, 2024 – Acceptances for GJNC will happen within two weeks of registration for Junior National and National Referees.

* 2024 Boys Junior National Championship June 26-June 29, 2024 – Acceptances for BJNC will be March 1.

* 2024 Girls Junior National Championship (14s-17s) July 3-11, 2024 – Acceptances for GJNC will happen within two weeks of registration for Junior National and National Referees.

Instructions

* Go to the AES website to

register for an AES event:

* Search for 2024 USAV “Event Name”

* Click the word “Register” to the left of the event name

* Answer the required questions

Reminders:

* You must be a current member in good standing with a completed background screening and SafeSport training

* All National requirements, including paying of National dues and completing your coursework, must be completed by the start of the tournament

* For Opens, only National Referees and/or National Scorers will be accepted for this event

* If accepted, housing and roommate information will be sent closer to the event

* Do not make any travel arrangements to these events until you have been accepted

To officiate at other qualifiers, reach out to your preferred tournament’s tournament director or organizing committee.

2024 Enhancements

* Match Pay: \$40 National/JN Referee; \$38 National Scorer; \$37 Retired National/JN Referee; \$36 Regional Referee; \$36 Foreign Guest Official; \$34 Provisional Referee

* Costs: Provide possible reimbursement for up to \$20 for associated costs

* Food: Snacks/water

* Food Voucher: \$20/day

* VIK: You will receive a jacket at your first event and one additional surprise item per event

* Housing: Double occupancy housing

* Bonus: \$500 bonus for officials that work at a minimum of three 2024 USA Volleyball nationally owned events; one event must be either GJNC 11-13s, GJNC 14-17s, or BJNC (officials must work the entire event/session(s) WITHOUT conflict to qualify as working the event; working more than one weekend/session of the same event is counted as one event—this includes multiple weekends of an event)

FROM PREVIOUS REF BULLETINS

Officials uniforms

Badger Region and USA Volleyball officials should start using a new website to order approved apparel for upcoming seasons. The website is: <https://vbofficialsgear.com/>

There, you will also find travel accessories, reffing accessories and plenty of apparel options.

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Voigt at sara@badgervolleyball.org.

Accessing modules

All ref training modules are live. To access these modules please go into your training academy and search the appropriate certification training (current certification).

To access:

1. Log into Sports Engine
2. Click on Household
3. Click on View profile
4. Click on View details
5. Click on the blue USA Vol-

leyball Academy at the top

6. Click on content library

7. Click on search and type in first couple letters needed to do search for your certification modules

Rulebooks available

New USAV rulebooks (also known as the DCR) are in that are good through the 2023-25 season.

The Badger Region will be dis-

seminating these at the in-person officials meetings and mailing to those who we may miss those events. Please email



Sara Voigt (sara@badgervolleyball.org) when you have purchased your annual USAV membership and she will put a rulebook

aside for you.

For a link to an online edition of the DCR, please [click here](#).

USA Volleyball SafeSport script for officials

1) All officials should know the concepts of the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy

All interactions with Minor Athletes must be Observable and interruptible

An official should not be speaking behind closed doors (conference room, hotel room, etc.) with Minors without a second adult participant or a parent present.

2) Officials should not share or post videos of Minor Athletes on personal social media accounts unless proper parental consent has been given. Many people enjoy sharing their life on social media, but we must remember the role of an official is one who has power and control over minor athletes. Do not share pictures with yourself and minor athletes or minor athletes alone on social media.

3) Under the SafeSport Code officials are Mandatory Reporters of abuse and are required to report allegations of sexual abuse to the U.S. Center for SafeSport. All other forms of misconduct can be reported to USA Volleyball, such as bullying, hazing, harassment, physical abuse such as forcing an injured player to continue to play.

Officials are asked to provide as much information as you can. This report is confidential.

** Do not report allegations of abuse to your supervisor expecting him/her/them to report the allegations for you. You have a duty to report it yourself. Reports are often not filed because someone thought someone else was going to file it. Let's be proactive and make sure we are doing what we are supposed to do.

**If someone reports allegations of misconduct to you, do not discuss it. Keep it confidential and let the U.S. Center for SafeSport or USA Volleyball investigate.

4) Officials have power and authority over others and are held to higher standards. The Center has jurisdiction over you on duty and off duty. Officials can get in trouble for inappropriately touching others. Fist bumps and high fives are generally acceptable behavior. You should not hug someone if you do not already have a personal relationship with them or if you are in a supervisory role. Don't slap others' butts in front of fellow officials, spectators, or children, that conduct is unprofessional and will not be tolerated. We are here to have a safe and fun event

A FACT SHEET FOR Sports Officials



The information in this fact sheet can help you protect athletes from concussions or other serious brain injuries and know what to do if an athlete might have a concussion.

Understand concussion

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or by a hit to the body that causes the head and brain to move quickly back and forth. This fast movement can cause the brain to bounce around or twist in the skull, creating chemical changes in the brain and sometimes stretching and damaging the brain cells.

Help keep athletes safe

As a sports official, you help set the tone for safe play and can help lower an athlete's chances of getting a concussion or other serious injury. When athletes are overly aggressive or make illegal actions, they can increase the risk for concussion for themselves and other athletes. Here are some ways you can keep athletes safe:

- Enforce the rules for fair play, safety, and good sporting behavior.
- Learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of concussions so you can be confident about when an athlete should be removed from a game or competition.
- Stop play whenever there is a concern for the safety of athletes, and remove an athlete from a game or competition if you observe concussion signs or if the athlete reports concussion symptoms.
- Penalize athletes for unsafe actions, such as:
 - Using their head or helmet to contact another athlete.
 - Making illegal contacts or checking, tackling, or colliding with an unprotected athlete.
 - Trying to injure or put another athlete at risk for injury.
- Use correct terminology, such as concussion and brain injury. Avoid words, such as *bell ringers* and *dings* to describe a concussion because these can make light of a serious problem.
- Use pre-season and pre-game meetings to remind coaches to promote a culture of concussion safety with athletes.

Take action for a possible concussion

If you suspect that an athlete might be experiencing concussion symptoms, pull them from play. **When in doubt, get them out.**



An athlete who is allowed to continue playing with a concussion, or who is returned to play too soon, is at risk for a repeat brain injury. This can lead to a longer recovery and poorer health outcomes.

Stay up to date on concussion policies and information

- Review your state, league, and organization's concussion policies. Be aware that concussion policies may vary by location and sport. Most policies state that an athlete cannot return to a game or competition on the same day the possible concussion occurred and cannot return before being cleared by a healthcare provider.
- Take a training course on concussion. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers free concussion training for sports officials at www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP.
- Talk with other sports officials to share strategies that enforce safe and fair play.

GOOD SPORTING BEHAVIOR
MODEL IT. EXPECT IT. ENFORCE IT.



ENFORCE SAFE PLAY. SPORTS OFFICIALS SET THE TONE FOR SAFETY.

Spot a possible concussion

Athletes with one or more of the signs and symptoms listed below after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body may have a concussion or other serious brain injury.

Concussion signs that sports officials, parents, or coaches might observe in athletes:

- Appearing confused, dazed, or stunned
- Looking unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moving clumsily (appearing off-balance or dizzy)
- Being slow to answer questions
- Being unable to remember events before or after the hit, bump, or fall
- Losing consciousness (only occurs in about 10-15% of concussions)
- Showing behavior or personality changes

Concussion symptoms that athletes might feel and report:

- Having a headache
- Feeling nauseated or vomiting
- Experiencing balance problems or dizziness
- Seeing double or having fuzzy vision
- Feeling sensitive to light or noise
- Feeling sluggish
- Feeling mentally foggy
- Having difficulty concentrating or remembering plays
- Being confused about what play it is or what part of the game it is

Signs of a more serious brain injury

Have someone call 9-1-1 if an athlete develops one or more of these danger signs after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body:

- Drowsiness or inability to wake up or inability to stay awake
- Repeated vomiting
- Convulsions or seizures (seizures can include violent, uncontrollable shaking or twitching)
- Unusual behavior, increased confusion, restlessness, or agitation
- Slurred speech, weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination
- One pupil larger than the other
- A headache that gets worse and does not go away

The information provided in this fact sheet or through links to other sites is not a substitute for medical or professional care. Questions about diagnosis and treatment for concussion should be directed to a physician or other healthcare provider.

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To learn more,
go to cdc.gov/HEADSUP





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E.S.P. program recognizes sportsmanship

Officials can give wristbands given to adults being great role models

Sportsmanship isn't a suggestion for the way every player, coach and fan should act on and off the court. It is the expectation.

To reward those exceeding expectations, the Badger Region wants to recognize you.

The 2023-24 marks the eighth year of the "Enthusiastic. Supportive. Positive." program that highlights volleyball enthusiasts, specifically fans in the stands.

Last season, tournament directors throughout the Region distributed close to 250 wrist-



bands at events and tournaments, and we're looking to hand out hundreds more.

Then, at the Badger Region Championships in March, anyone (adults/spectators only) who was awarded a wristband throughout the year, will be eligible to win Badger Region gear such as T-shirts, water bottles, mini volleyballs and other cool swag.

So, what do you have to do to get a wristband? Support your team! Be positive! Show character that would make your mother proud!

Get a little crazy. Go the extra mile. Recognize the good in your team and others. Get excited when even your opponent makes an amazing save or play.

Don't cheer against another team. Don't taunt or heckle officials, coaches or players. Don't give your club or team a black eye with any "in your face" cheers.

Tournaments directors, Badger Region staff, referees and board members are watching.

If you get one of our colorful "ESP" wristbands, come to the Championship Desk at the Badger

Region Championships for prizes. Anyone with a wristband gets one entry into the raffle. At certain points throughout the day, names will be drawn for the prizes.

The only rule: You must have your wristband on at the time of the raffle to receive your gift.

The ESP program is designed for recognition of adults or other individuals who are "outside the lines." Winners do not have to be Badger Region members.

If you have someone like an athlete, coach or official who is deserving of recognition, please fill out a nomination form for the "Caught Doing Good" program.

If you are an official who would like to request a package of wristbands for distribution at your event, contact Program Director Brian Sharkey at brian@badgervolleyball.org.

BECOME A HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL OFFICIAL!

STUDENT-ATHLETES NEED YOUR HELP SO THAT THEY CAN CONTINUE PLAYING THE SPORTS THEY LOVE. ADDITIONALLY, THERE'S NO BETTER OPPORTUNITY TO EARN EXTRA PART-TIME INCOME. AS AN OFFICIAL, YOU'LL BE PART OF THE GAME, WITH THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE.

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE ● GIVE BACK TO THE SPORT
DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS ● EARN EXTRA INCOME

SIGN UP TODAY AT
WHSVOA.NET/JOIN