



## CORNY'S CORNER

### *Second Referee Duties*

*Corny Galdones, August 1997*

A second referee (R2) is as important as a first referee (R1). While the R1 orchestrates the match, the R2 does the grunt work. Serving as an R2 requires your attention to other key functions besides the basics of overlaps and net/centerline violations.

- ***Pre-match procedures.*** Obtain the match equipment. Assist the R1 in checking the match equipment setup, team rosters, and player uniforms. Ensure distribution and completion of lineup sheets. Monitor the warmups. Confer with the R1 to discuss potential game violation situations and actions preferred from you.
- ***Communication with scorekeeper.*** Before the match, discuss with the scorekeeper the information you desire on scorekeeping problems or delays, time outs taken, and individual and team substitutions taken. Confirm when it is game point so it may be signaled to the R1.
- ***Positioning.*** Before each serve be on the receiving team's side to detect its overlaps. Both team benches should be within your peripheral vision. Throughout a rally, continually switch courts to be on the blocking team's side and stationary before the second ball contact by the attacking team. Stay on the attacking team's side if you might miss a net play during a switch. At the end of the rally, side step away from the net to establish clear communication lines with the R1. Mimic the R1's signals.
- ***Team requests.*** Scan the team benches before and after each rally. Anticipate requests. Fulfill them without delay. For substitution requests, be positioned at the attack/side lines intersection before the subs; face the scorekeeper, call the player numbers, and release the players right away; return straight to your pre-serve station; and signal to the R1 when ready. For time out requests, signal to the R1 the number of time outs taken; monitor the teams and elapsed time; whistle when five seconds remain and when time expires; and prompt the teams to return to the court if needed.
- ***Assisting on potential violations.*** Be on the constant alert for back row attacks from the attack line, attacks and blocks by a back row setter at the net, opponents reaching over the net, ball handling violations screened away from the R1, unsuccessful pancake digs, and other potential violations discussed in your pre-match conference with the R1. Perform the pre-agreed actions, e.g., whistle, side step and signal, etc., if a potential violation arises.
- ***Serve and protect the R1 by controlling the bench.*** Address and settle any bench misconduct right away. Use tact and verbal/motion/whistle commands. Request the R1 to issue a sanction if needed. Always reinforce the R1's decisions if they are questioned or criticized. Remember, you're a team.

The duties of a second referee are not to be taken lightly. The actions and decisions of a second referee directly influence the administration and outcome of the match. The position is as important as a first referee and should be given the proper regard it requires.