

LINE JUDGES

Good line judges are essential for a volleyball match. Poor line judges put both teams at a disadvantage. **It is the school's responsibility to select, instruct and train line judges.** Well in advance of the beginning of the volleyball season, school personnel should recruit and select line judges (**preferably adults**) who are willing to volunteer their time and services. Paying line judges will not solve the problem of the need for better line judges. Proper instruction and training will! The line judge must be able to ignore spectator criticism and maintain complete concentration on the game.

It is impossible for the R1 to instruct and train line judges in the short time allotted just prior to a match. Time permits only a brief, general review of their duties and responsibilities.

Coaches should communicate to players and fans the fact that line judges are assistant officials. They **assist** the R1 but do not make decisions. As the head official, the R1 makes all decisions. The R1 merely considers the calls made by the line judges. The R1 may overrule a line judge's call at any time. **It is highly recommended that line judges use red flags.**

Characteristics of a Good Line Judge:

1. Reports to the R1 no less than 20 minutes before the scheduled starting time of the match.
2. Reports promptly to the prematch meeting with the officials.
3. Is properly instructed and trained in all duties and responsibilities.
4. Performs duties in a confident, quiet, efficient manner.
5. Is appropriately dressed.
6. Is always courteous to other line judges, officials, coaches and players.
7. Is cooperative and responds in a positive manner to suggestions and directions from the R1.
8. Remains aloof from players and spectators during the match.
9. Refrains from reacting as a spectator to anything that occurs during the match.
10. Makes objective calls that are both quick and decisive, using the correct signals.
11. Concentrates on duties and responsibilities without distraction from other people.
12. Is always alert and ready to move quickly into the best position to make a call without interfering with play.
13. Shows respect for the calls of other line judges.
14. Shows respect for and accepts, without question, all decisions of the R1.

General Guidelines:

1. Line judges are assigned their positions by the R1.
2. Line judges shall hold these same positions relative to the court throughout the match.
3. Line judges are to make calls for balls landing on or near the sideline and end line closest to them prior to retrieving the ball.
4. In general, a line judge should be in a position near the intersection of the sideline and the end line.
5. Line judges **MUST MOVE** to be in the best position for an unobstructed view to make the call.
6. Line judges never enter the playing area.
7. Line judges must be alert to avoid being struck by the ball or interfering with a player's opportunity to make a play.

Specific Duties (Rule 5) - Line judges shall:

1. Determine at the moment of contact for the serve whether the server touches the end line or the floor outside the lines marking the width of the serving area.
2. Indicate when the serve, or any played ball, crosses the net not entirely between the net antennas.
3. Indicate when the ball touches the net and/or net supports not entirely between the net antennas.
4. Indicate whether a ball is in bounds or out-of-bounds when it lands near any line for which the line judge is responsible.
5. Indicate when a player touches a ball that is going out-of-bounds on the player's side of the net.