



World ParaVolley (WPV)

Referees: General Administrative Responsibilities and Code of Conduct

The WPV Referee Commission is committed to equality of opportunity for all individuals, without prejudice to racial or cultural background or sexual orientation.

Referees must continuously be aware of their educational role in the promotion of volleyball as both a participant and spectator sport; this aspect is an integral part of the role of impartial arbitrator.

The WPV Referee Commission believes that referees who set high standards of personal behaviour, both on and off court, can act as examples for both less experienced colleagues and other participants to follow. Referees should always demonstrate courtesy, politeness and respect in their dealings with other parties. Referees must also avoid actions that could bring discredit to the reputation of referees, WPV, the WPV Referee Commission, and its Staff.

General Administrative Responsibilities:

Referees should make every effort to reply to any WPV correspondence promptly. In particular:

- Respond promptly to correspondence from the WPV Referee Commission, their Zonal Referee Commissioner, or event organizers (while copying the relevant officers as required).
- If unable to accept a nomination, inform the relevant officers as soon as possible and provide the reasons for declining. In certain cases, this may be given in confidence to the WPV Referee Commission Chairperson or their Zonal Commissioner, depending on who officially nominated them.
- Maintain commitments to officiate, only withdrawing under exceptional circumstances.

Code of Conduct:

1. When refereeing Youth Competitions, referees must be aware of child protection issues. In all competitions, referees must be aware of and champion SafeGuarding per current WPV policies and procedures.
2. Referees must understand that they represent WPV from the moment of their arrival until their departure. Because of the need for neutrality and professionalism, the standard of behaviour required by WPV on and off the court is higher than that expected from other participants.
3. Referees should only work in the current WPV referee uniform.
4. During competition, the referees should follow the current versions of the *WPV Rules of the Game* and the *Refereeing Guidelines and Instructions*, and the match protocol for the specific competition.



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5. Referees should arrive for their nominated matches in due time in the proper uniform so that the necessary checks of equipment / facilities / etc. can be completed.
6. Referees should never participate in an official match in any capacity while under the influence of alcohol or any other prohibited drug. Referees may be tested for alcohol before any official match and at any time during the competition day.
 - a. Any refusal to be tested will be interpreted as a test failure and will result in the referee being removed from the match and possibly the event.
 - b. A referee who withdraws from a match after being nominated will also be required to take an alcohol test.
7. Referees should always participate with total impartiality, making all decisions based solely on the evidence presented and without considering any incidents from an earlier date. The referee should always work within the true spirit of the game, not only to the simple letter of the rules. Over-friendliness with players, coaches, and bench personnel before, during and after a match (actual or perceived) can be a problem and is discouraged as this can lead to accusations of non-neutrality.
8. During a match, referees should deal with players and coaches showing respect, even where this courtesy is not returned. Heated arguments and debates with players, coaches, bench personnel or spectators, whatever the cause and under any amount of provocation, are to be avoided at all costs. In cases where a participant is expelled or disqualified from a match, the referee is required to make a full written report to the Jury/Referee Delegate and to the Referee Commission if so requested.
9. *In Relation to Other Referees:*
 - a. Referees should refrain from criticizing fellow referees in public, either by words or by gestures. If they comment to others during an official competition, these comments should be inaudible to those not involved in the discussion.
 - b. Referees should never make public comments / public statements concerning the performance of other referees or other participants unless formal comment is required by the World ParaVolley Referee Commission, the Zonal Referee Commissioner, or the competition Referee Delegate.
 - c. Referees should never make public comments about their own performance.
 - d. Any statement / comment(s) made by referees, or articles / statements / comments written for the intended purpose of publication should be phrased in such a way as to NOT be likely to cause offence or be detrimental to the reputation of others or WPV. This includes comments on all forms of social media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, X, Threads, etc.).
10. Shouting loud abuse or unwarranted advice, or deliberate distraction and heckling aimed at participants during a game may be a violation of this Code of Conduct and may lead to disciplinary action.



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11. Referees should ensure they do not wear or use any item of clothing that identifies them with their nation or national team and that they do not socialize with the members of their national delegation (except for reasons of formal consular occasions or protocol).
12. Referees should restrain themselves as much as possible (i.e., do not show excitement / joy in success or despondency / despair in failure) when observing performances of the members of their national team.
13. *In Relation to Nominations:*
 - a. When nominations are not made by the WPV Referee Commission or the Zonal Referee Commissioner, it is the referee's duty to verify that they may participate in any tournament that they are invited to by contacting their Zonal Referee Commissioner before confirming their participation.
 - b. WPV referees may not participate in unofficial competitions in any capacity (those that are not sanctioned by WPV or by the relevant WPV Zone). This includes events that are in contravention of WPV's policy on unacceptable sponsorship, or the host nation's laws.
 - c. WPV referees must not accept nominations to events outside their Zone without first consulting their Zonal Referee Commissioner to determine that the event has been sanctioned by WPV, the WPV Zone, or the WPV Referee Commission.

Any referee deemed to have caused an offence by written, electronic, or verbal communication, or via any public action or demonstration will be disciplined according to WPV policies and procedures.

A WPV Referee automatically agrees to abide by this Code of Conduct.