

# **FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY – INTRAMURAL SPORT**

## **4v4 Volleyball Training – The UP-REF’s Job**

### **The Up-Ref’s Job**

The head referee, otherwise known as the “up ref,” has the most responsibility of all the referees on the volleyball court. He or she is the most visible member of the refereeing crew and players will likely turn to the up ref when questioning a rule or call. He or she is responsible for conducting the pre-game captains’ meeting, the official’s meeting after the first game, and, if necessary, the captain’s meeting before the third and final game. Most calls will be whistled and signaled by the up ref. The up ref is positioned on the referee stand, opposite the down ref. The up ref should make calls consistently throughout the game, no matter the situation.

### **Pre-game Meeting**

The first responsibility of the head referee is the pregame captains’ meeting. This meeting is primarily in place to conduct a coin toss which will decide who will serve first and on which side of the court. This meeting should also be used to meet each of the captains, introduce yourself, and let them know that all questions about rules and calls should be channeled through them, the captains. This meeting is also an excellent opportunity to explain and clarify rules.

#### **Know This:**

The most important aspect of judging ball contact is **consistency**.

### **Pre-Serve**

Before the ball is served, the up ref should pause and check certain conditions before starting play. Check to see if all players are on the court, in the correct formation, and ready for the point to start. If a new team is serving, make sure they have rotated properly. Check to make sure no foreign objects have entered the court, such as basketballs or other volleyballs. Safety is your NUMBER 1 priority; you need to make sure it is safe to play before each point. If you determine that it is time to start the point, blow your whistle and signal to the server that it is OK to serve.

It is the responsibility of the up ref and down ref to make sure the ball is served legally. The ball may be served underhand with a closed fist or overhand with an open or closed fist. The ball must be served before the player steps on or over the end line. If the player does a jump serve, the ball must be served before the player lands on the other side of the end line. If the server steps on or over the line before serving, the up ref will blow the play dead and award the point to the opposing team. The server is allowed to toss the ball up and let it hit the floor one time, provided it did not land in-bounds. If the server mis-tosses more than once, or if the ball lands in-bounds when it hits the floor, the ball and point is rewarded to the other team.

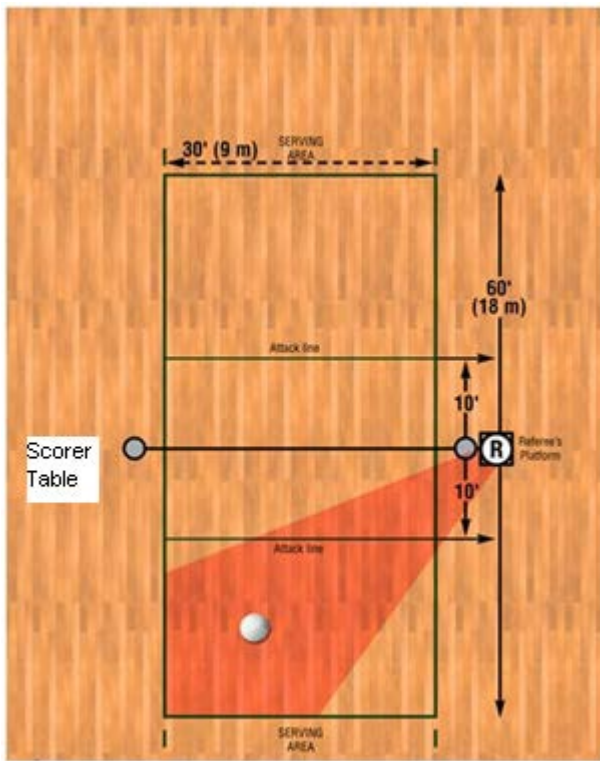


Authorization to Serve Signal

### **During Live Balls**

During a live ball, the up ref's responsibility is to watch ball contact by players. Every time a ball is touched by a player is subject to the head ref's judgment. It is the head referee's responsibility to call ball contact fairly and consistently. The criteria for what is a legal and what is an illegal hit can be found in the training material labeled "Judging Ball Contact."

The up ref may not always have the best angle for certain calls. However, you should never guess based on sound or player reaction. If you are unsure of a ball contact call, look at the down ref for help. If you are unsure if a ball landed in bounds or out of bounds, again look at the down ref to be able to make a call. It is always better to not call something that happened than to call something that did not happen. When the ball becomes dead for any reason, it is the up ref's job to blow the whistle and signal what happened to alert the players on the court as to what happened. A dead ball occurs when it touches the floor or outside boundary, touches or goes around the antenna or touches the net or pole outside the antenna, if it is contacted illegally, or if a centerline or net violation is called. The ball is NOT dead if it hits the ceiling but does not go over the net. When a dead ball occurs, the up ref blows a loud short whistle, signals (in bounds, out of bounds, lift/carry, etc.) and signals which side earned the point. The up ref should make sure the scorer's table has awarded a point to the correct side before starting the next point. Note that for net and centerline violations, the down-ref may whistle the play dead, especially if the up ref isn't looking in the down ref's direction.



## Up Ref Responsibilities

### Ending the Game

Volleyball games are best 2 out of 3 games, with the first two games going to 25 points and the third game, if necessary, going to 15 points. When a team is one point away from winning a game, the up ref should say loudly “Game point!” or “Match point!” if they are a point from winning the match. If teams are tied at 24 points apiece (or 14 for the third game), the up ref should remind teams that they must win by 2 points. Once the game is over, the up ref should signal for the end of game and ask captains to sign the scoresheet. He or she should also monitor players to make sure good conduct is maintained.



End of Game Signal

### UP REF Job Quiz:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Nb5B08k\\_bAp2iuJvtl6edHzUR4sulaQhNLgbn2Zuw\\_xU/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Nb5B08k_bAp2iuJvtl6edHzUR4sulaQhNLgbn2Zuw_xU/viewform)