



R2 Training for a Junior Volleyball Match

Being a down ref (or as it is officially called, a R2 and second referee) is a very important job on the work team.

Your first responsibility before the match starts is to check the lineups on both sides. *A tip here is to turn the lineup sheet so the zones match how you are looking at the court.* Then you can quickly check the numbers without having to think which rotation is where. Once you confirm they are in the correct starting line up, let the libero know they can enter the court, and signal to the referee who the captain is like this. In the rest of the sets, if the captain is the same, you don't need to do this.

After both lineups are checked and everyone is on the court and ready, roll the ball to the server. It shouldn't be the line judge taking the ball to their side to give to the server. Once your work table is ready to go, give the 'Ready' signal to the referee. This is you "giving the court to the R1 to start the match or rally".

Throughout the match, when a team is serving, you are responsible to be looking at the receiving side, not the serving side. You will be looking to make sure the team is not out of rotation.

After the serve is contacted, transition to the other side of the net. You always want to be standing on the receiving side. Make sure you're not standing behind the pole and being blocked from the referee's vision.

Here is an important tip so you never miss a net fault or center line fault:

- As one side is hitting, your eyes are on the block. Watch as they jump, that's the first chance they might touch the net on the way up.
- Then watch the top of the net when the blockers are at the peak of the block and the hitter is hitting the ball, that's the second chance there could be a net fault. At this point, the ball's already been hit and is probably being dug up. Do not look at the ball. Your job is to stay on this action at the net while the R1 referee is looking at the ball. If you look at the ball, then no one is looking at the net and you could miss something happening.
- As the blockers are landing, look around middle to bottom of the net, this is a third chance a net fault could happen.
- Then as the hitter and blockers land and start transitioning away, look at their feet. You're looking for any center line faults. Remember, the center line is shared by both

sides. A body part has to be completely over the center line and either interfering with the opponent or a safety concern to be called.

- When they finally transition away from the net, this is when you can look to see where the ball is.
- If it is still in play, transition to the other side of the net. At this point, the setter is probably about to set the ball. Then just keep repeating throughout the rally.

Substitutions and Time Outs

It is your responsibility to whistle for subs and time outs. Between plays, make sure you're glancing over at the coaches and benches to anticipate for subs, time out requests, or any general questions.

Have you ever been focusing on one side of the net and weren't paying attention to a coach basically begging for a time out? Whistle twice, and then here's what the time out signal looks like.

After that, give the referee a signal of how many timeouts each side has USED, not how many they have left. If you're unsure, check with the scoresheet.

After a coach has used two time outs, let the coach know.

For subs, you only whistle once the player coming from the bench has entered the substitution zone. From there, whistle twice, give the sub signal, then tell your scorekeeper the sub and what side. If you have multiple subs at once on both sides, make one side wait while you take care of the subs on one side so your scorekeeper can get them all. Here's a tip, make sure you don't say "a number for a number" when calling the sub. For example, "Twenty for thirteen". Is that "Twenty subbing in and thirteen subbing out or is that twenty four subbing in and thirteen subbing out?" I always say "Twenty, thirteen"

Another thing on subs, ask your scorekeeper to let you know when a team uses 9 subs, at this point, you will be giving a heads up to the coach that they've used 9 subs. Let them know after each subsequent sub how many subs they've used. 10, 11, then 12.

Once a team has used all 12 subs, let the R1 know.

At the end of a timeout and a substitution, make sure your work table is all ready, then give the ready signal back to your referee.

Keep track of the score throughout the match.

When it is set point, verify with your scorekeeper that it is indeed set point, don't go off the scoreboard since the score sheet is the official score. Then give this signal on your shoulder to signify to your R1 it is set point.

Here are some overall other things an R2 should be doing during the match:

You should be mirroring your referee's signal. Your signals will be slightly delayed from theirs, like in this clip. When a serve goes into the net, you only need to mimic the point signal, not the "in the net" signal.

If the ball hits, goes above or around any part of the pole and net outside of the antennae on your side, blow the whistle to end the play and signal "Out".

As a down ref, you are there to support your referee. Help with anything you may see, for example, if you see a non-obvious touch off a block, let them know.

If you see a hit and it definitely did not touch the block and the same team digs it up, give a discrete 4 touch signal on your shoulder if it was a 4th player that touched it. If it was the same player, give a discrete 2 touch signal. Don't give this signal for ball handling, that's for the R1 to determine. Or if you see the ball land on the court (for example an attempted pancake) and your referee may have been blocked from seeing it, give a "down" signal. Again, only if it was not obvious.

This is definitely a lot, but if you can master these things, you can help out your referee and the match so much as a down ref.