

R2R COMMUNICATION DEVICE POLICY

- *The use of headsets is not required and only used by mutual consent of the officials. Officials should inform coaches and address any questions they may have when headsets are used.*

Introduction

This policy addresses the use of Bluetooth-enabled headsets by volleyball officials. Headsets provide improved communication between the R1 and R2 by allowing direct verbal communication for the officials. This policy will address headset use during training and regular competition.

Background

Technological advances have become a part of the growing game of volleyball. Headsets for wireless communication have been used at the international and college level for several years with great success. Their use allows real-time direct communication to officiate a volleyball match more efficiently. Direct communication augments the discrete signals used by referees and may stop the instances where the R1 does not see the discrete signals provided by the R2. There are several manufacturers of headsets available from which to choose. Bluetooth-enabled headsets create a peer-to-peer connection which prevent others from hacking into the connection.

Guidelines

- Headsets do not replace any established signals the R2 uses.
- Use headsets when required during play but not for needless chatter.
- Use of Bluetooth enabled headsets that must be paired.

Use During Training

Chapters may use headsets to provide real time training of new officials. This may be done during off-season training sessions as well as during scrimmages. The use of two or three connected devices can allow a chapter trainer to guide a new official during live action. Immediate feedback to new officials can correct problems such as improper use of signals, back row attack violations, possible 4-hit violations, or position faults. This communication should be limited to critical corrections and not distract the new official from focusing on the match.

Use During Matches

Officials will provide the headsets and both officials must agree on their use. Officials should test connectivity and volume levels during warm-ups so there is no delay during the match. A thorough pre-match should be conducted by officials to include discussion on what will be communicated via the headset. Conversations between officials should be kept to a minimum and relate to the match in progress. Headsets are always open but there is a short delay from when a voice is first detected to when it is transmitted. The R2 may use the following verbiage guidelines during the match.

Situation	Suggested Verbiage
Libero handset in the front zone	LIBERO-LIBERO-LIBERO
Libero handset behind the attack line	GOOD-GOOD-GOOD
Illegal back-row setter	BACK-BACK-BACK
Reaching Over	OVER-OVER-OVER
Back-row player takes off on or in front of attack line	BACK-BACK-BACK
Back-row player takes off behind the attack line	GOOD-GOOD-GOOD
Successful pancake	GOOD-GOOD-GOOD
Unsuccessful pancake	DOWN-DOWN-DOWN
Slight touch at the block	TOUCH-TOUCH-TOUCH
Ball out, when line judge may have been screened	OUT-OUT-OUT
Illegal contact fault (ONLY if the R1's view is blocked)	BAD-BAD-BAD
Potential 4-hit violation - (ball did not contact blocker)	FOUR-FOUR-FOUR

Between rallies, the R1 and R2 can communicate pertinent information to each other. Some examples:

- Can confer regarding a specific rule.
- Can confer regarding a specific play.
- Substitution situations when both teams have a sub or one may be requesting a time-out.
- Request for delay or unsporting sanction on a team or player.
- Can confer as to the reason for a lengthy delay.

Summary

- Watch facial expressions as coaches and fans are always watching and may misconstrue what has occurred.
- Maintain professionalism at all times during the match. Conversations between officials may be heard by players standing near you.