

2017 TOURNEY NOTES



Many of the following notes are what could be called good practices. In officiating, it is a good idea to adopt practices that will help the official to be more efficient and be in the best position to make the right call. You will not find some of these practices in your rule or casebook, but they are some great ideas to make you a better official.

1. Sometimes on a “bang-bang” play, the R2 can help the R1 where there might be a question as to which team won the point by transitioning to the side of the net of the team who committed the fault WITHOUT signaling. This helps to “lead” the R1, and is a good way to assist. If the R1 doesn’t notice your help, then the R2 should signal.
2. R2 – remember to stand and stay square to the court prior to the serve. Do not stand diagonally as this turns your back on one of the benches. During play, put your outside foot slightly in front of your inside foot, so that you are turned slightly towards the net and looking through it to be able to pick up activity on both sides of the net. Newer techniques also suggest the R2 take a position only 3-4 feet back from the pole. Among other things, this helps with antenna plays (see #6 below).
3. When the R2 communicates numbers to the R1, there is a simple way to accentuate 2 different numbers that use the same integers. Ex. If the number is 9, hold up both hands simultaneously – right hand-5, left hand-4. If the number is 54, show the right hand-5 followed by the left hand-4. This practice differentiates a 9 from a 54. Other options are to separate the numbers vertically and/or horizontally.
4. R1, be patient. Whenever possible, let the R2 take the lead on net violations. If the R2 fails to make the call, then the R1 should make the call. Similarly, let the R2 finish signaling his/her fault (and, if necessary, number) before awarding the point.
5. When the R2 makes a call, make yourself more noticeable by taking a step or 2 out from the net. Doing this increases the chances of the R1 seeing you. Even when the R1 initiates a call, the R2 can step away from the pole to be more visible and make centering and eye contact with the R1 simpler.
6. If the ball is shanked behind the R2 and players give chase, the R2 should move close to the standard to be able to look up and make an antenna call if a player brings the ball back toward the court. This practice should be used either with or without line judges, as a line judge may not be in a good position to see the path of the ball as it comes back to the court.

7. With the new timing rule, if the timeout runs down to 5 seconds or under, even if the players are on their way out to the court, or already out on the court, tell the timer to just let the time run out and the horn will sound.
8. When providing discreet help such as 4 hits, do not transition while providing the help. This makes it harder for the R1 to see the help and puts the R2 in a worse position should the R1 allow play to continue. Instead step slightly out from the pole on the side where you are positioned and give the discreet signal.
9. For discreet signals placed near the shoulder (e.g. 4 hits), remember to use the hand on the side of the team at fault as that hand will then be on the outside shoulder (which is easier for the R1 to see) and will be used to mimic the fault if one is called.
10. R2 should pick up the ball while transitioning. Watch the play develop on the other side of the net, and then refocus toward the net.
11. When a rally gets “ugly” (pinball rally), don’t make a call just because it is ugly. Most of these are good no-call situations.
12. If the ball crosses the plane of the net behind the R1, this is an “out” call and not “touch”. It’s only a “touch” call IF it doesn’t cross the plane. In this same situation, the line judge would make the “antenna fault” signal.
13. R2 start your transition on the contact of the serve. Don’t wait until first contact by the receiving team. This allows you to be in position earlier.
14. R2 – if you see an upset coach heading toward the court to voice their opinion to the R1, head him/her off and address the issue that this coach has. Do the same if the coach is headed toward you (R2).
15. Don’t forget to blow your whistle when you are giving yellow or red unsporting cards.
16. Line judges – if you move up a line to make a call, make your call from that spot. Make eye contact with the R1 to make sure he/she sees you, and then return to your corner.
17. As a line judge, be sure to use the correct signal when a blocked ball lands out of bounds. If the ball land out on the blockers’ side of the net, the correct signal is “touch”. However, if the ball returns to the attackers’ side of the net and lands out of bounds, the correct call is “out”.