# PAVO/USAV FIRST REFEREE CRITERIA

Here are the expanded descriptions of the elements on the rating sheet:

## A. Judgment

- 1. Exhibits consistent judgment as follows:
  - a) Maintains standards from set to set within a match.
  - b) Applies the same standards for both teams.
  - When teams have different degrees of skill, maintains consistency appropriate to both sides.
  - Judges all players the same, regardless of whether they are setters, hitters, defensive specialists, etc.
  - e) Allows appropriate length of contact for various actions (1and 2-handed sets, passes, blocks, tips, attacks, etc.).
- Allows appropriate latitude on sets & judges them correctly as throws or double hits.
- Allows appropriate latitude on passes & judges them correctly as throws or double hits.
- 4. Allows appropriate latitude on first team contacts & judges them consistently.
- Allows appropriate latitude on tips and attacks, & judges them consistently.
- 6. Allows appropriate latitude on net and block recoveries.
- Allows appropriate latitude on blocks that are given impetus & direction; judges other illegal block actions appropriately.
- Makes judgment based on actual contact rather than body position or technique. Avoids "automatic" calls based on a particular situation. Avoids preconceived judgments.
- Recognizes & calls back row player faults & illegal attacks from libero sets. Shows awareness when these plays occur.
- Calls net faults appropriately, but gives second referee time to call most nets. Allows appropriate & consistent latitude on net contacts that do not interfere with play.
- 11. Calls a fault if a ball touches or illegally crosses over/outside an antenna.
- 12. Detects & calls touches off the block.
- 13. Is observant for screens or potential screens & appropriately prevents. Calls screening when needed.
- 14. Recognizes & calls position/rotation faults on serving team.
- 15. Adjusts judgment to the level of competition.
- 16. Follows fast play at the net & adjusts to tempos within a rally.
- 17. Makes quick, accurate judgment calls; not influenced by ball spin, crowd or participant reactions, etc.
- 18. Anticipates unusual situations antenna plays, pancakes, etc.

## B. Mechanics

- 1. Scans benches, court, & officiating team prior to each serve.
- Uses the correct hand signals. Signals are executed clearly & held long enough to be seen by everyone.
- 3. Exhibits solid knowledge of current officiating techniques.
- 4. Uses correct signaling sequence in appropriate tempo.
- 5. Whistle is clear, sharp, authoritative & audible. Varies whistle tones to differentiate match situations (for example, timeouts versus infractions versus an object on the court).
- 6. Has quick reaction time with the whistle.
- 7. Mimics signals initiated by the second referee, such as timeouts or substitutions. Mimics second referee fault signals (NCAA); repeats as a clarification when needed (USAV).

# C. Positioning

- Adjusts view appropriately:
  - Narrows focus to the plane of the net as the play moves into that area.
  - Expands view as the play broadens.
- Sees each contact of the ball, particularly third team hits near the first referee's stand
- Does not follow ball (too high into the air), but utilizes a lateral eye movement to adjust focus to each point of contact.
- Quickly adjusts position between plays to obtain the best view.
  Maintains a stationary position when ball is being contacted.
- 5. Maintains proper positioning & posture.

#### D. Match Control

- Inspects playing site & ensures that equipment & facilities meet accepted standards for play & for safety.
- Oversees warm-ups or delegates warm-up supervision to second referee.
- 3. Follows specified match protocol; efficiently manages time.
- Gives verbal warnings at appropriate times with an appropriate demeanor.
- Assesses sanctions when warranted or when requested by second referee, using appropriate procedures.
- 6. Protects other officials from abuse by participants/spectators.
- Demonstrates awareness of bench activity, including sub or timeout requests, second referee communications with bench personnel, substitute locations, libero exchanges, etc. Is aware of bench conduct & assists second referee with bench control if necessary.
- 8. Maintains awareness of on-court happenings interference, injuries, spectators and/or media.
- 9. Stays alert to safety issues from arrival to departure.
- 10. Establishes & maintains a brisk, but unhurried match tempo.

### E. Communication with Match Participants

- Conducts pre-match meeting and coin toss in a clear, concise manner.
- Addresses team members respectfully & maintains a dignified manner.
- 3. Maintains an approachable demeanor & a positive attitude.
- 4. Initiates conversation with captains or other team members when appropriate; interacts professionally & efficiently without causing unnecessary delay. Displays & executes superior verbal & non-verbal communication skills; avoids inappropriate body language.
- 5. Acknowledges concerns of coaches & captains when they disagree, but minimizes delay of the match.

### F. Communication with Officiating Team

- Fully briefs second referee on techniques & responsibilities. Instructs line judges & scorekeepers clearly & completely.
- 2. Displays superior verbal & non-verbal communication skills, avoids inappropriate body language.
- 3. Frequent eye contact with second referee & line judges.
- 4. Interacts well with co-officials, & accepts their assistance.
  - Encourages line judges to make their calls.
  - Allows time for scorekeepers to record events.
  - Allows the second referee to deal with his/her primary responsibilities (net, center line, antenna, etc.), & duties (requests for timeouts & substitutions or addressing concerns from the bench) when possible.

### G. Professionalism

- Wears the correct uniform that is clean & pressed. Appearance is well-groomed and professional.
- Treats the match & participants with respect & attention. Displays dignified conduct.
- 3. Recovers after controversial or adverse situations & maintains appropriate tempo for the established level of play.
- 4. Displays a calm, decisive manner & a low-key, cordial attitude.
- 5. Projects confidence in oneself & the entire officiating team.
- 6. Displays a spirit of cooperation toward officiating team, coaches, players, event management, & the media.
- 7. Maintains appropriate attitude throughout match.