

Self-Officiating, Match Dispute and Line Judging Policy

Open Net League matches are primarily self-officiated, with assistance from assigned line judges. The goal is to maintain competitive play while ensuring calls are handled fairly, consistently, and respectfully

These rules outline the general volleyball rules for league play. For more information on how matches are officiated, please [click here](#) to review the Self-Officiating, Match Dispute & Line Judging Policy.

Officiating Responsibilities

- Each team will be assigned officiating responsibilities throughout the season.
- During an assigned match, two players from the scheduled team must serve as line judges.
- Line judges are responsible for in/out calls and may assist with touches, antenna violations, and line violations when clearly observed.
- The teams playing the match are responsible for honestly calling their own faults, including net violations, lifts/carries, doubles, rotation faults, illegal attacks, and other infractions.
- All players and line judges are expected to make calls honestly and consistently, regardless of the score or situation.

Disagreements & Disputed Calls

If there is reasonable disagreement about a call and the players and line judges cannot clearly determine what occurred, the rally should be replayed.

If the teams cannot agree to replay the rally or the disagreement continues, the team captains must take control of the situation. Captains should step away from their teams and speak directly with the League Coordinator to discuss the play and reach a decision.

Once the captains and League Coordinator are addressing a dispute, other players are expected to step back and allow their captain to represent the team.

Player Conduct During Disputes

Players may respectfully communicate their perspective, but they may not overstep their captain, repeatedly argue a call, interfere with the resolution process, or escalate the disagreement.

If a player continues to interfere or instigate after their captain or the League Coordinator has taken control of the situation:

1. The player will receive a warning and be instructed to step away from the dispute.
2. If the player disregards the warning or continues the behavior, they will be required to sit out for the remainder of that match.
3. If the player refuses to sit out or continues to cause a disruption, they may be dismissed from the league without a refund.

The purpose of this process is not to discourage competitive play or respectful disagreement. It is to ensure disputes are resolved quickly and appropriately so that one disagreement does not interfere with the match or the experience of the other players.

Final Authority

The League Coordinator has final authority regarding rule interpretations, disputed calls, player conduct, and match-related decisions. Once a final decision has been made, play is expected to resume without further disruption.

Line Judge Policy

Each team will be assigned line judge duties throughout the season unless they are scheduled to play a doubleheader. Line judge assignments may be scheduled during either the 7:00 PM or 8:00 PM time slot.

Teams assigned to line judge are responsible for providing two players. Both line judges must be present and ready at the start of the assigned match.

5-Minute Grace Period

Teams will have a 5-minute grace period for both assigned line judges to arrive.

For example, if your team is scheduled to line judge at 7:00 PM, both line judges must be present and ready by 7:05 PM.

If both line judges are not present by the end of the 5-minute grace period, the first set will automatically be considered missed, and the scheduled officiating team will forfeit one set of its next scheduled match.

Penalty for Missed Sets

For each set missed during the assigned line judge shift, the team will forfeit one set of its next scheduled match.

For example, if your team is assigned to line judge at 7:00 PM and both line judges do not arrive until 7:40 PM, and two sets have been missed during that time, your team will forfeit two sets of its next match.

Line Judge Expectations

Line judges are expected to actively pay attention to the match and remain focused throughout the entire set. Line judges should not be distracted by their phones, conversations, other games, or other activities that prevent them from properly observing the court.

This is important to ensure that calls are made accurately and consistently and that all teams receive the same level of officiating and fairness throughout the league.

Teams may switch which players are serving as line judges between sets. However, line judges may not switch in the middle of a set except in the case of an emergency or with approval from the League Coordinator.

All team captains are responsible for making sure their assigned line judges understand and follow these expectations.