SITUATION 1: During a timeout, event management personnel go on to the home team’s court to run a promotional event. The referees inform event management that they cannot conduct promotional activities during a timeout.

RULING: The referees’ decision is incorrect. Spirit squads, mascots and promotional activities may take place on the home team’s team area during timeouts and between sets.

SITUATION 2: Team S’s libero, who is wearing a solid-colored gold jersey, becomes injured and cannot continue to play. The coach redesignates a player on the bench for the injured libero. The redesignated libero is wearing a solid-colored green jersey with a unique number (not worn by any teammate). The teammates are in a white jersey. The referee allows the redesignated libero to play.

RULING: The referees’ decision is correct. The redesignated libero must wear a uniform jersey that is immediately recognized from all angles as being in clear contrast to and distinct from the other members of the team. It does not have to be the same color as the original (injured) libero.

SITUATION 3: Team S’s first contact is an errant pass that causes the ball to travel toward the ceiling, where it hits a rotating fan over Team S’s playable area. The ball is recovered by S2 who attacks the ball on to Team R’s court. The referees award a point to Team S.

RULING: The referee’s decision is correct. A ball that contacts an overhead obstruction (moving or stationary) over the team’s playable area may be played as long as it was not the team’s third contact.

SITUATION 4: During the pre-match warm-up the Team R coach is using a whistle to direct the warm-up. The whistle doesn’t distract the opponents and does not interfere with the 15-second warning whistle. The referee allows Team R to continue to use the whistle.

RULING: The referees’ decision is correct. As long as the whistles does not interfere with the referee’s duties or are used to disrupt the opponent’s warm-up, they may be used.

Situation 5: Prior to the start of set 2 of a broadcast match, the coach for Team A requests a timeout. The officials inform both coaches that there will not be a media timeout taken when the 15th point is scored.

Ruling: The referee’s decision and technique is correct. If a timeout is called by either team prior to the 15th point, there is no longer a media timeout taken.

Situation 6: Team A won the coin flip and elected to serve. During the pre-match warm-ups, both Team A and Team B coaches began shouting at each other, using vulgar language. The referee notifies both coaches that
they will each receive a red card penalty prior to the first service. The referee sanctions Team A first and awards Team B a point, then the referee sanctions Team B and awards Team A a point and the ball.

**Ruling:** The referee’s decision and technique are correct.

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**IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE SOLID-COLORED UNIFORM**

Many questions have come up regarding the uniforms pictured above (these uniforms also have a short-sleeved version). Both uniforms meet the requirements of the solid-color jersey rule; for the uniform on the left, the multi-colored trim that runs down the sleeve from shoulder to wrist (with black/red/white decor in this picture) is 1” wide, and on the right, the trim at the hem of the jersey is 1” wide at the widest point. It may appear that the piping/trim or words on the sleeve appear wider and/or larger than the rules allow.

All measured specifications for uniforms are applied to the jersey as it comes from the manufacturer. Once the uniform is on the player, the logo or trim may stretch to a larger size, and that does not change the legality of the uniform. This applies to all uniforms regardless of the manufacturer, not just the two examples above.

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**Challenge Review System (CRS) Interpretations**

**Situation 1:** While the second referee is reviewing a challenge by Team B, the Team A trainer brings water to the sideline for the players on the court. The first referee whistles and signals the trainer back to the bench.

**Ruling:** The first referee is incorrect. The trainer may bring water or towels while the challenge is being reviewed. However, Team A may be at risk of a delay sanction if resumption of the match is delayed by a clean-up of water or liquids on the court.

**Situation 2:** The referees whistle a touch on Team R. The Team R coach asks “who touched the ball”, and the second referee replies “the back-row player”. The coach challenges the touch decision. The video review shows the back-row player did not touch the ball, but the Team R blocker did. The R2 confirms that Team R did touch the ball, and the original decision stands.

**Ruling:** The ruling is correct. The challenge is whether or not a Team B player touched the ball – not whether a specific player touched it. The referees should look for a touch/ no touch during the challengeable action.
Associated Technique: The second referee should verbally confirm with the coach at the time the challenge is requested that the video will be reviewed to confirm (or not) that no player on your team touched the ball.

Situation 3: While the challenge is being reviewed by the second referee, the spirit squad goes on the home team’s court to cheer. The first referee asks event management to have them stop.

Ruling: The first referee’s decision is correct. The spirit squad may stand up and cheer, but they may not be on the court.

Technique Points of Emphasis

New Second Referee Position

The NCAA/PAVO clinic presented a new modified second referee starting position. The clinicians’ instructed the second referee to start closer (laterally) to the imaginary center line extension. Second referees were asked to start three to four feet behind the post, and to start closer to the center line extension – within one to two feet. The intent was to allow for transitions during play that are quick and require less effort. With team’s engaging in quicker offensive systems, the second referee needs to see the play develop, get to the blocker’s side and be stationary, before the setter sets the ball.

However, the second referee should take into consideration the pole padding and net system, as well as their own body type and mobility. Some larger pole pads or counter-weight net systems with a large footprint might not allow you to use the modified starting position. When the new mechanic does not allow you to see through the net or see the complete center line with only a small secondary transition, you should adjust your starting position and transition pattern. While quick and efficient transitions are still a priority, the most important take-away is to make sure you are in position to see the play develop through the net, view the center line, and be visible to the first referee when needed.

When the first referee makes a call, take one step laterally from the pole to ensure that the first referee can see you.