

**MVOA / VM BEHAVIOR POLICY**  
(In accordance with V.C.RULES 20 and 21)

In recent years, it has become evident that behavioral issues are becoming more prevalent in the game of volleyball. As such, a tolerance policy was implemented by the MVOA/VM in the 2010 high school, club, university, league and any other programs serviced by the MVOA.

This policy is meant to serve as a reminder of the **CODE OF ETHICS FOR REFEREES, THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARTICIPANTS**, and as well as a guide in the appropriate measures for applying sanctions (RULES 20 and 21).

### **PARTICIPANTS**

Participants should recognize that individual officials have a varying perspective on what is and is not considered an emotional reaction .The following scenarios are examples of actions that will be dealt with appropriately through sanctioning.

- The use of foul language: Should match officials (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, lines people, scorer) hear foul language used by a participant that is loud enough to be heard by anyone, regardless of where the language is directed, it will be sanctioned.
- A coach yelling across the court to question a referee's decision.
- Verbal comments or gestures by participants directed at match officials in regards to a call made.
- When a ball or object is thrown, kicked or deflected in anger by any participant.

The match official does not have the ability to determine the intent of the offence. If considered minor, the 1<sup>st</sup> referee may limit the sanctioning to an official verbal warning. Only one official verbal warning is given to a team for the duration of the match .Repetition of minor offences by the same team in the same match will be sanctioned progressively.

If considered major, the 1st referee shall consider the action in relation to the sanction scale and will apply the appropriate sanction. Sanctions are applied based upon the following:

- **RUDE CONDUCT:** actions contrary to good manners or moral principles or expressing contempt
- **OFFENSIVE CONDUCT:** defamatory or insulting words or gestures. Repeated rude conduct.
- **AGRESSION:** physical attack or intended aggression

**NOTE: THERE DOES NOT HAVE TO BE A WARNING TO AN INDIVIDUAL OR TEAM BEFORE THE OFFICIAL APPLIES AN APPROPRIATE SANCTION.**

## OFFICIALS

It is critical that the referee is able to distinguish the difference between a reaction made in the “heat of the moment” and an action the aims to make a participant in the match appear in bad light. The intent here is not to have the official make the behavior policy the priority or focus of the match ,but rather have the official be able to recognize sanctionable offences and enforce the policy as appropriate. Match control is the key factor.

Every official will interpret an action slightly different. In trying to bring some conformity to the application of this policy, the officials should keep the following in mind:

- A team captain is allowed to question an application or interpretation of the rules, but this must be done with respect.
- The above mentioned examples in the participant section generally demonstrate flagrant abuse and disrespect for the game and the match officials.
- Distinction between a reaction that is in the “heat of action “ versus an action that informs everyone in the facility that the individual perceives the OFFICIAL TO BE WRONG is important
  - I.E. captain questioning a call versus a participant yelling across the court, a coach or player throwing a clip board or kicking a chair etc.
- COACHES BEHAVIOR: Once the exuberance on the court moves to the point of attempting to influence the official, a decision must be made. We encourage and expect participants to show emotion during the course of the match , but we also expect the same emotion TO BE CONTROLLED when an individual perceives a call to have gone against them.
  - I.E. a coach staring at an official for an extended period of time then forcefully making a hand gesture (pointing at a line, ball handling signal) goes beyond the limits of emotional reactions.

Officials must evaluate their own judgment and use everything at their disposal to administer the game to the best of their ability .This also means that they MUST SANCTION any player or coach who attempts to gain an unfair advantage over their opponent as the result of an illegal action.

Participants MUST study the applications of sanctions and officials MUST not hesitate to use them.

## SPECTATOR INTERFERENCE

Parents and friends must realize that a CODE OF SPECTATOR BEHAVIOR does apply at all times. Officials must not be influenced by the behavior of spectators toward their decisions. Should the need arise the official must inform the site supervisor of any inappropriate actions or comments by spectators and any action that follows MUST BE CARRIED OUT BY THE SITE COORDINATOR AND NOT THE OFFICIAL.