

## MVOA GOALS TO CONSIDER

1. **BE COMPETITIVE** - always give the same maximum effort as the players do every time you officiate a match, regardless of the level of play. Refereeing is an intense and demanding profession and you must give it the effort it requires to do an excellent job.
2. **PREPARE FOR EVERY MATCH** - adopt an attitude that keeps you in the right frame of mind. Prepare yourself mentally and physically for every refereeing assignment, regardless of your function in the match.
3. **MAKE THE CALLS** - your function as an official is to make the required calls, however uncomfortable and difficult they may be at the time. The integrity of the game and your application of both the letter and spirit of the rules depends upon this.
4. **KEEP THE MATCH UNDER CONTROL AT ALL TIMES** - volleyball is a competitive sport and if not officiated within the rules of the game, it may lead to unacceptable behaviour by coaches and players (confrontations/arguments). Your function is to control the match according to the rules.
5. **HAVE YOUR HEAD ON RIGHT** - your uniform does not grant you immunity from taking a little criticism. As officials, we must realize we will make mistakes. However, do not allow these remarks to influence your decisions during a match. Accept that constructive criticism is part of the game. This must never occur during the match. Whether it is given during an evaluation after the match by your evaluator, another referee or a coach it should be done in a civil manner.
6. **DO NOT BE A TOUGH OFFICIAL** - only use your authority to sanction a participant when it is warranted. The first referee in any match has complete authority to control and sanction inappropriate behaviour by the participants and punish according to the rules. This authority must be used wisely and not be used to intimidate the players/coaches. Do not bait them. The relationship between the coach, players and officials should be one of mutual respect and acceptance of their individual roles.
7. **DON'T BARK/YELL AT THE PARTICIPANTS** - always use a firm and relaxed voice when communicating with players and coaches. You can get your information across more effectively in a calm firm manner and there will be less of a chance of a negative reaction to your tone and manner. Referees do not appreciate nor accept players and coaches barking at them over their decisions. Shouting by an official usually indicates a loss of personal control. It may suggest that you are losing your ability to remain calm and in control of the match. Consequently, you may make some incorrect decisions that can affect the outcome of the match.
8. **SHOW CONFIDENCE** - cockiness has no place in officiating. There is a distinct difference between cockiness and confidence. A swagger or demeaning tone of voice or a sarcastic remark may evoke a negative reaction by the player/coach. Show confidence when you communicate. Confidence comes with having a clear understanding of the rules and their application. Your presence on the court should command respect. Your manner goes a long way in establishing your credibility not only in the match at hand, but in future matches. You must show to the participants, the fans and your officiating crew that you are in control by your manner, your

approach and your firm, objective and impartial application of the rules of volleyball.

9. IT IS OK TO ANSWER REASONABLE QUESTIONS - if a question is asked by a player about your decision in a courteous manner, you should answer briefly if you think the question is appropriate and falls within the allowable rules of the game. Avoid loud and prolonged and inappropriate discussions. Loud responses may suggest that you maybe unsure of your decision and losing control of your behaviour and most importantly the match. Regardless, remember never discuss your judgement calls. Different officials and participants may judge the same action differently depending on many factors - position being a major one. It is your judgement as the match official that counts.
10. CHOOSE YOUR WORDS CAREFULLY - this is especially important when talking to players and coaches. Never threaten or intimidate. If a players /coaches actions must be dealt with because of a serious action, then you must respond according to the rules of the game. Most participants know the consequences of inappropriate behaviour. If asked by the captain, you must respond with the reason why. Do not threaten to discipline a participant and then do not do so. Your credibility as an effective official is lost.
11. GET INTO THE FLOW OF THE MATCH IMMEDIATELY UPON ENTERING THE GYM - each match is different and approach each match accordingly. Be aware of the importance of the match and the history between the teams. Be aware of tempo changes in the match which could result in questionable behavior by players and coaches. Note how the teams react to the decisions of the officiating team. Ragged matches differ from smooth flowing matches. Ragged matches have more potential for team, player, and coach inappropriate behaviour.
12. THE FANS/SPECTATORS - fans who attend matches may exhibit: a) an understanding of the rules and their application b) ignorance of the rules c) emotional partisanship d) critical evaluation of the officials based upon any combination of a/b/c. Any negative interference in the course of the match must be dealt with immediately. Communicate with site coordinator and do not get into a verbal conversation with them.
13. STAY CALM, COOL, AND COLLECTED FOR THE WHOLE MATCH - you should always establish a calm environment for the match. You can accomplish this by keeping your own emotions and behaviour under control. You set the standard of allowed conduct in the match. Your calmness will create a positive environment. Avoid confrontations. It is fine for you to feel excited about a match and observing a well-executed play, skill by a player or team or want to shake your head or laugh about an error/decision of a player /coach or team, but you must avoid any action that may show these. You must always appear and be impartial.
14. POST MATCH EVALUATIONS - always be prepared for constructive comments. Listen, ask questions, and take notes. Always try to improve on your performance each match. If your performance is below par, learn from your mistakes.
15. READ THE RULE BOOK, REFEREE QUIDELINES AND HAVE ACCESS TO ALL REFERENCE MATERIALS MADE KNOWN TO YOU.
16. HAVE A SUCCESSFUL AND REWARDING YEAR OF OFFICIATING