Second Referee

Excel As A Communicator
Key Points

- **Primary Responsibilities**
  - Pre-match
  - During play
  - Assistance to the first referee
  - Between rallies
  - Post-match

- **Secondary Responsibilities**
  - Is there *really* a secondary responsibility?

- **Tools of the Trade**
  - Lineup card & communication skills

- **Tricks of the Trade**
  - Memorization, anticipation & be a “student of the game”

- **Summary**
Pre-match Responsibilities

- Arrival time (at least 30 minutes before match)
- Pre-match briefing with first referee
  - Determine ground rules, protocols
  - Communication techniques, including discreet help
  - Attend pre-match conference with captains & coaches
- Pre-match briefing with scoring crew
  - Conducting line-up checks
  - Handling wrong servers
  - Substitution procedures
  - Communication techniques
- Observe warm-ups, 15-second warning whistles
Primary Responsibilities (Rule 5–5–3)

- Determine alignment of receiving team players (5–5–3–b4)
- Net faults on both sides (5–5–3–b5)
- Center line faults (5–5–3–b6)
- Back-row player attack & blocking faults (5–5–3–b7)
- Substitutions and time-outs (5–5–3–b11)
During Play

- View net plays with narrow focus, not “tunnel vision”
- Broader view to see the court when play is beyond the attack lines
- Transition with purpose

The three techniques above will help with:

- Position faults
- Net
- Center line
- Antenna
- Touches at the net

Whistle only the faults for which you are responsible!
During Play

- Assistance to First Referee (5-5-3a)
  - Discreet signals
    - Set point
    - Four hits
    - Back-row player fault (block/attack)
    - Illegal hit/double contact
    - Over-the-net fault
    - Ball hits the floor (“pancake”)
  - Be visible – don’t be a post with arms!
    - Step away from post to establish a line of sight
  - Avoid offering opinions, instead offer fault information
  - Whistle YOUR faults, not the first referee’s, but help the R1 get it right!
Between Rallies

- Substitutions (5–5–3–b11 and b15)
  - Anticipate – when? why?
- Time-outs (5–5–3–b11 and b14)
  - Anticipate – when? why?
- Bench control & awareness
  - Between rallies
    - Scan benches for substitution/time-out requests
    - Address questions from a coach when appropriate
      - Listen – What is the coach’s question? Don’t assume!
      - Respond – Reply to questions with verbiage from the rules
      - Ignore – Coach statements may not require a response
      - Sanction – Some comments/actions may require a sanction
  - During play as well?
    - Anticipate potential questions from a coach, e.g., unusual plays/calls
    - Be ready to answer those questions at the end of the rally
Secondary Responsibilities??

Are there really secondary responsibilities??

**NO!**

- Touches – especially at the net
- Antenna on second referee’s side of net
- Notifying benches of substitutions used
- Notification of time-outs used
Post–Match Responsibilities

- Assist R1 with scoresheet verification

- Leave playing area promptly and avoid discussions with coaches or spectators

- Post–match debrief
  - Honest, constructive feedback between referees
  - What about including line judges and scorer?
  - Maintain a positive environment, conducive to learning!
Tools of the Trade: Lineup Card

- Lineup card
  - What?
    - Starting lineup
    - Subs
    - Sanctions
  - How & When?
    - Less is more, especially if scorer is good
    - NOT during the rally; only between rallies
    - Find the right mix!
Starting lineup from the coaches’ submitted lineup, not the scoresheet

Subs – What about sub tally?

Time-outs – What about score?

Sanctions – Don’t forget they carry over!
Communication with First Referee

- **How?**
  - Be visible; create a “line of sight”
- **When?**
  - During play, when necessary
  - “Center” with the R1 at the end of each rally
- **What?**
  - Fault information, not opinions
  - KNOW what the R1 may need, based upon the play
Tools of the Trade: Communication

- Communication with Scoring Crew
  - Determine scorer’s level of experience
    - Ask, “Have you kept score before?”
  - Ask for assistance & confirmation when checking starting lineups for each set
  - How will improper server situations be handled?
  - Discuss substitution procedures and communication methods
  - Ensure libero replacements & libero serving actions are clearly understood
  - Request scorer assistance when confirming player positions on the court
  - How should the scorer get the R2’s attention?
Communication with Scoring Crew

- **How?**
  - Clear, concise, specific verbiage
  - LOOK at the scorer
  - Avoid talking over your shoulder or through your whistle

- **When?**
  - During play
  - Between rallies

- **What?**
  - Substitution information
  - Assistance with lineup checks
  - Assistance with position faults
  - Special situations
    - Sanctions
    - Exceptional substitutions
    - Unusual occurrences
Tricks of the Trade: Memorize!

- Techniques for Memorizing Lineups
  - Entire lineup
  - Captain
  - Setter
  - Opposites
  - Unique characteristics
    - EX: ponytail, kneepads, hair ribbons, shoe color
  - Front row
  - Back row
  - Help from the scorer
  - Help from the R2’s lineup card
Anticipation

- “Read” the play and be in the right position
- Know team substitution patterns
- Anticipate time-out and substitution requests, especially during crucial moments in the match
- Expect questions after unusual plays; be prepared to answer them
Be a student of the game

- Watch and learn
  - What can be learned from veteran referees?
  - Can we learn from lesser experienced referees?
- Understand serve–reception patterns
- Recognize game tactics and strategies
- Step outside the “comfort zone”
Set a goal to be a GREAT partner!

- Remain FOCUSED; broad to narrow view
- KNOW what the first referee needs
- Offer pertinent information to GET THE CALL RIGHT
- Be ATTENTIVE to bench needs
- Excel as a COMMUNICATOR