

Useful information for Captains, Coaches and Players

What Captains, Coaches and Players can do in a nutshell...

Request	Game Captain	Coach	Assistant Coach	Other players
Time-Out	Yes*	Yes	No	No
Substitution	Yes*	Yes	No	No
Rotation check	Yes	No	No	No
Talk to 1 st ref	Yes	No	No	No
Talk to 2 nd ref	Yes (for a rotation check)	No	No	No

(*): normally the coach, but captains can too even if coach present

What roles must teams have for a game?

- It is not required to have a coach, but each team must **always have a team captain**.

Who can be coach or captain?

- Anyone with a valid coaching licence can be recorded as coach on the scoresheet. **The coach can also be a player.**
- Any of the registered players on the scoresheet can be the **team captain, except for the libero(s)**. The team captain must be recorded on the scoresheet before the start of the game.
- Captain and coach can be the same person.**

Team Captain vs Game Captain

- The team captain is the player recorded as captain on the scoresheet.
- It is required to have a **game captain, i.e. a captain on the court, at any time**. If the team captain is playing, he/she is by default the game captain.

- **If the team captain is off court, a game captain must be nominated in his/her place.** If the team captain comes on court again he/she again resumes the role of game captain.

Who can call time-outs and Substitutions?

- If the team has a **coach**, he/she calls Time-Outs and Substitutions. The game captain can also call them, although it is not the preferred option.
- If the team has no coach, the **game captain** inherits these responsibilities.
- Time-Outs and Substitutions requests should be made to the **2nd Referee** although can be made to the first referee also.

Who and how do teams ask for rotation checks and next server?

- Only the **game captain** can ask for rotation check and the next server. Coach and team captain (if not playing) cannot do it.
- The request should be made to the Referees (2nd normally), **not directly to the scorekeepers**. The score keeper should inform the 2nd referee of the next server and the 2nd referee should confirm that to the game captain and do a rotation check if requested.

What can players wear?

- Players must wear uniform jerseys and shorts with jerseys numbered front and back from 1 to 20. The libero must also be numbered front and back but in contrasting colours to the rest of the team's jerseys
- A player is permitted to wear skin tight under clothing under their jerseys with the permission of the match Referee. There must be uniformity between players of the same team i.e. under clothing tops worn by players of team A must all be the same colour and not deviate significantly in style or design of the main team jerseys. Black, white or neutral colours should be selected.
- Leggings or full leg coverings are NOT permitted except with prior clearance from Volleyball Ireland Referees Commission. A medical certificate stating that the player requires full leg covering must be sent to the Referees Commission in advance and also retained to show to match Referee by the team captain/coach prior to each match.
- Players may wear compression pads (padded injury protection)

What else can the team ask for and how?

- Only the **game captain** can ask the **1st referee**, when the ball is out of play:
 - For an explanation on a decision or a call.
 - To change part of the equipment (e.g. the ball is deflated)
 - To check the equipment, ball, net, floor, etc.
- If the **captain disagrees with the referee's interpretation of a rule**, he/she should immediately tell the referee that he/she reserves the right to record an **official protest on the score sheet at the end of the match**;
- If any other player or the coach has a request, he/she should ask his/her game captain to make it for him/her. The player cannot do it. The game captain should ensure their fellow players know this and do not speak to the referees.

What does the captain have to do with the scoresheet?

- The team captain must ensure the list of players on the scoresheet is correct and sign it before the beginning of the match.
 - Once the Team Captain and the Coach signs the scoresheet, no further players can be added to the list; so if you think a player may arrive, include them with a jersey number on your team list and explain to the Referees that they are late and may not arrive.
- The team captain is responsible that the listed players are eligible to play (e.g. registered, not disqualified, etc.)
- The team captain signs the scoresheet after the match, checking that what was recorded is correct.
- If the game captain has requested a protest to be entered on the sheet during the game, they should inform the referee at the end of the match what their protest is and the referee will enter this using the correct wording.
- The game captain is advised to send a report via their Club Secretary to follow-up and give the full background of the protest. The VI will follow-up on these also.
- In Volleyball Ireland, the team captain of the winning team will be given 3 sheets of the scoresheet. The top 2 must be sent to the VI office within 5 working days and the team must ensure the result is phoned into the office that evening.
- **Important note:** once the rotation slip is handed by the coach or captain to the second referee it cannot be changed, and any required amendment must be done after the six is on court as a substitution.

Who can talk to the referee(s) after the match (after the final whistle or even after the scoresheet is signed)?

Volleyball in Ireland is a very small community and most likely you know the referees – they could even be your best buddies – or even worse, your husband or wife. So of course everyone can talk to them but remember, the rules of the game and VI still apply post-match regarding players speaking to the referees about the game; discussing the application of the rules or the referee’s performance/their abilities/their calls should not take place. Any such discussions/confrontations could be considered unsportsmanlike conduct and could end up in a misconduct sanction even post-match.

Have a think and a read of the few scenarios below... what would you do?

Scenario	If...	This will happen...	
Team A thinks the refs did not see a net touch by team B	A player on Team A bursts into a rant, shouting at the ref(s) that there was an obvious touch of the net and everyone except them saw it.	The referee will not change his decision and the player may be sanctioned.	
	The captain goes to the 1 st ref and asks why he thought that the net touch was not to be called. He can also suggest that the second ref may have seen it.	The captain has implicitly and politely stated there was a net touch. The 1 st ref may decide to ask the 2 nd ref and possibly revert his/her decision.	
A player from team A keeps on insulting a player from team B without the referees noticing	The player from team B responds to the provocation by kicking the ball at the opposition.	The referees may actually see his reaction and sanction him/her and the team.	
	The player should go to his/her captain and explain the situation. The captain will then go to the 1 st ref and report the case. If the captain is not satisfied with the decision	Most likely the referee will call the captain of team A and ask him/her to end this behaviour. The referees will also pay more attention to the actions of the abusive player from	

	of the 1 st ref, he/she can state that he/she reserves the right to record an official protest on the scoresheet.	team A. If a formal protest is recorded, the Commissions will review the case and may decide, if substantiated, to apply penalties, fines or take other actions against team A.	
The referee calls a double touch on the first touch for Team A	The game captain on team A starts giving out to the referees that they don't know the rules, walks up to the 2 nd referee and shouts at him/her that you can double touch the first ball on the first touch.	The referee will see this as unsportsmanlike offensive conduct and will immediately sanction the player with an expulsion penalty (red and yellow card together and the player must be substituted for that set). If there are no players to sub or remaining legal substitutions for that set Team A is deemed incomplete and they lose the set.	
	The game captain on team A expresses some disappointment with this call but quickly calms down and asks to speak to the 1 st referee. He asks for the interpretation of the rule that a double touch is allowed on the first touch. He is not happy with the referee's explanation that it is not allowed on the first touch and requests a formal protest to be put in at the end of the game on the scoresheet	If all the procedures are followed and the entry put on the scoresheet that the referee stated that a double touch is not allowed on the first contact, this matter will be investigated and a likely outcome is that the match could be replayed as the referee was clearly mistaken and if he/she continued to call this throughout the match has incorrectly influenced the outcome of the match.	 (☹ - for the referee)

What do sanctions mean to us in Volleyball Ireland?

Sanction	In-game consequence	VI Discipline
Yellow Card	None	2.5 Disciplinary Points
Red Card	A point and service to the opposition	10 Disciplinary Points
Expulsion (Red+Yellow together)	The player leaves the court for the rest of the Set	15 Disciplinary Points
Disqualification (Red+Yellow separately)	The player leaves the court for the rest of the Match	20 Disciplinary Points

Scoresheets are monitored by the VI office and Competitions Commission that will track the disciplinary points. The cumulative effects of the disciplinary points are as follows:

Cumulative points in season, per person	Penalty
< 15 disciplinary points	None
≥15 disciplinary points (except disqualification)	1 match suspension
≥15 disciplinary points due to disqualification	2 match suspension

- After a Penalty is applied, the points are reduced by 15.
- This applies to players, coaches and medical personnel too.

Additional penalties are also applied at Team level:

Cumulative points in season, per Team	Penalty
20	Fine
40	Fine
50	League Penalty Point
60	Fine
80	Fine
100	2 League Penalty Point + Fine

Team disciplinary points do not reset after the application of the penalty.

And finally.....

Referees, coaches and players are non-professionals who dedicate part of their free time to do something they are passionate about. Although we are trying to set a consistent standard across all referees in Ireland, every referee has a different style and may have a slightly different standard they apply to the rules. This is absolutely normal and players and coaches should respects this. **There are only 2 referees** for each match. If clubs would like to provide 2 or 4 line judges at matches this would be a great help to everyone, but is not mandatory.