

Understanding the Officials' Hand Signals

In volleyball, there are generally 2 officials. The first referee directs the game from a stand and a second referee stands opposite near the net. A whistle is blown to initiate and to end each play. The official will first signal the fault or cause of the play ending, and then the signal which team won the point. This is a summary of hand signals that accompany the whistles.



Point

Winner of the rally. One finger raised on the side of the court that won the rally



Ball in bounds

Pointing to the area of the court where the ball landed.



Out of bounds

Ball is out of bounds, outside antenna or player illegally in adjacent court.



Touch

Ball is out of bounds after contacting a player.



4 contacts

Four fingers up. You only get 3 contacts.



Carry

Held, thrown or carried ball. Too much contact time.



Double hit

Two fingers up. Ball contacted more than once by a player. The block does not count.



Begin Service

The official indicates that the server may now serve.



Net violation

The serve or a player touches the net.



Play over

Two thumbs up. A fault by both teams, a serve over or official's inadvertent whistle or mistake.



Time out

Each team gets two 60 second time outs per game.



Over the net

Contacting the ball before it has broken the plane of the net or before the opposition hits it.



Out of rotation

At the time of service you must not overlap the person directly next to you.



Back row attack

Attacking the ball above the net and leaving from in front of the 3 meter line.



Sanction card

A yellow card is a warning. A red card is a point. Red and yellow together is an ejection.



Change sides

Between games or halfway through a deciding game.



Game over

Same for the end of the match.