

Referee Conference Update

November 2010

With the President of FIVB Rules of the Game, Mr. Sandy Steel as guest speaker, and the involvement of a record number of attendees in detailed analysis of Rules of the Game, Referee Guidelines and Instruction, and FIVB Casebook studies, as well as sessions on scoring, player discipline, Sitting Volleyball, details of line judge and scorer training initiatives for 2012 and the 2020 vision, the Conference epitomised the professional approach and qualities of the referee community. Sandy Steel expressed his admiration for the commitment of the attendees, the convivial and invigorating atmosphere, and the very obvious desire of all to learn and progress. In the words of the new Volleyball England branding, there was a great social buzz!

Conference Chairman Stewart Dunne welcomed colleagues from far and wide and reminded them of the necessity to study not only the Rules of the Game but also the NVL Rules, pointing out that Technical Time Outs must be applied at all NVL matches – it is an NVL Rule and non-negotiable. After outlining the Agenda for the day, he introduced President of Referee Commission, Bernard Kilkenny, who in turn introduced the new Referee Commission structure and each commissioner's specific remit:-

Stewart Dunne	Elite, Performance and Marketing
Steve Evans	Staff
Nick Heckford	Technical and Coaching
Diane Hollows	Development
Bert Jones	Publications
Denis Le Breuille	Youth & Junior
Richard Morten	Regional
Martin Shakespeare	Competitions
Debra Smart	Beach Commissioner
Brian Stalker	
Steve Walton	Sitting Commissioner
Dudley Williams	Judicial

Steve Walton, Commissioner responsible for Sitting Volleyball, provided an update on Volleyball England's programme and the expansion that had taken place within a very short time. He outlined the very creditable performances of the Great Britain Men's and Women's teams at the World Championships in July in Edmond, Oklahoma, before going on to stress the high regard for our Referees internationally, and the key administrative roles held by Volleyball England personnel. At the World



Championships Dee Wauchope and Glynn Archibald were both presented with their full International Badges. Steve Walton has reached the age limit and will be required to retire at the end of the year as an International Referee. He has been appointed as Chair of the ECVD (European Zone) Referee Commission and consequently will serve on the WOVD (World Organisation Volleyball for Disabled) Referee Commission. Maciej Chodzko-Zajko has been appointed as ECVD Technical Officer and Denis Le Breuilly has been elected to the senior WOVD role of Competition Manager and appointed by International Paralympic Committee as Technical Delegate for the 2012 Paralympic Sitting Volleyball. As part of his presentation, Steve Walton showed video clips from the World Championships to illustrate the speed of the game and the high level of skills involved.



Former referee Paul Bohannon addressed Conference in his role of President of Competitions Commission. He thanked all referees for the way they had thus far adapted to the new NVL rules and explained the new Match Day Protocol checklist, now available on the website and distributed to teams for them to complete at each home match. Referees were asked to ensure the checklists were completed and signed, so that they could be returned to the office with the score sheet. It was decided that referees would continue to use the Remarks box of the score sheet as per the Rules of the Game and Referee Guidelines and Instructions.

Martin Shakespeare, Lead Scoring Tutor, provided entertainment with a humorous report on some of the issues that had arisen from score sheet completion. This highlighted the need to ensure the score sheet was completed neatly and accurately, and that the Remarks box should have only items entered in accordance with the rules and NVL requirements. Such items must be entered as per score sheet instructions. It was too frequently unclear whether remarks were an 'official protest', according to the rules. The humour continued with Martin's analysis of the most active referees, who issued the most cards and who issued the most delay sanctions!



Guest speaker, FIVB President of the Rules of the Game, Sandy Steel, thanked Conference attendees for the opportunity to inform them of the work of his Commission. He explained the philosophy and reasoning behind the more recent rule changes, in particular to reduce the number of interruptions and to increase 'spectacularity'. He explained that the Libero rule introduced in 2009, using an Active Libero and Reserve Libero and changing only once, had not been working as well as hoped. However, it was a transitional stage to the new 'Free Libero' rule, which was the theme of his presentation.

He also explained the process involved when introducing a new rule, with particular reference to the new 'Free Libero' rule passed by FIVB Congress in September and



being introduced by FIVB from 1st January 2010, in new competitions starting after January 1st, and by Volleyball England from September 2011. Sandy Steel then itemised the new Libero rule changes in detail, and the links to other rules. The session concluded with questions, and discussion regarding the impact on Scorers and Assistant Scorers, as well as the need for FIVB to redesign the Libero Control Sheet. The full rules are to be published at a later date.

It was recognised how fortunate the Conference was to have such an early insight to the pending changes. Sandy Steel continued to provide clarifications throughout the day, and made an extremely valuable contribution to the success of the Conference.



The day prior to the Conference, Sandy Steel delivered a Theory Session for Advanced Line Judges, also attended by some Scorers. The presentation focused on all the Rules related to the work of the NTOs (National Technical Officials). Stewart Dunne reported on the current situation regarding the initial 537 NTO volunteers for the Olympics and Paralympics, and future work for NTOs. Appointments will be made to all 102 League matches in Super 8s, Playoff Events, Sitting Grand Prix events, Student Cup, Last 8s, KO Cup Semi Finals and Finals, and International events – including Olympic and Paralympic Test Events. Thus, before April 2011 there are 1,420 appointments and opportunities for NTOs! Final selections for 2012 are due to be announced in August 2011.



A key element of any Referee Conference is discussion and clarification of Rules. This year's session, thoroughly prepared by International Referee Nick Heckford, proved to be a highlight of the event, and was regarded by many as the best such session they had attended. Attendees were divided into eight groups under pre-selected leaders and provided with some challenging Case Book questions. Each group was required not only to provide their conclusions but to justify them with cross referencing and prioritising of specific Rules, Guidelines and Instructions and Case Books examples. The exercise demonstrated how there are not always black/white answers, and that referees require a thorough knowledge of all the materials made available to them. Each group was required to report back and their spokespersons provided excellent feedback, whilst gaining experience of the presentation skills which can be required of referees in their off court roles.



The Conference concluded on yet another high, with the President presenting upgrade certificates:-

Grade 1 to National

Dominik Biegajlo
Paul Dixon

Grade 2 to Grade 1

Joseph Gore
Richard Morten
Peter Parsons
Sebastian Widlarz
Tony Wood

Grade 3N to Grade 2

Daniel Harrison
Andrew Potter
Ian Potts
Andrew Wildman
Sam Yip

Grade 3R to 3N

Korosh Alikhani
Heiner Alzate Guzman
Patricia Cassidy
Katie Dolan
Tim Hebborn
Jaroslaw Krzykowski
Elizabeth Marier
Carl Padayachee
John Roffey
Bloo Sparrow
John Topham
Jeanette Tsang
Dale Walkden

Sitting Volleyball:- Grade B to Grade A

Patricia Cassidy
Pete Parsons
Tony Wood

The President presented Dee Wauchope and Glynn Archibald with their WOVD International Badges, and their uniforms as newly appointed Staff Referees, and Nick Heckford with his FIVB International Badge. Bernard Kilkenny concluded by thanking the Commission Members and speakers for their contributions to the smooth running of the Conference, and all for their work on all aspects of volleyball, including NVL, Cup and International programmes.