

Participant Conduct

This document is meant to serve as a reminder of the [Code of Conduct and Ethics](#), as well as guide to the referees in the appropriate measures for applying sanctions (Rules 20, 21 and Misconduct Sanction Scale as presented in the Rulebook for the [current year](#)). Participants are expected to know the “Official Volleyball Rules” and abide by them and accept referees’ decisions with sportsmanlike conduct. Participants must behave respectfully and courteously in the spirit of fair play towards other officials, the opponents, team-mates, and spectators.

Participants should recognize that individual referees have a varying perspective on what degree of conduct may or may not be considered within a normal emotional reaction. The following scenarios are examples of actions that must be addressed appropriately by the first referee through sanctioning.

- Verbal comments or gestures by participants directed at any member of the referee corps regarding a decision.
- The use of profane or foul language that is loud enough to be heard by spectators, regardless of where the language is directed.
- A team member (sitting on the bench or staying in the warm-up area) protesting or contesting the referees’ decision.
- When a ball (or object) is thrown, kicked or deflected in anger by any participant.

The match referee has the ability to determine the extent of the offence. If considered minor misconduct, the 1st referee may limit the sanctioning to a stage 1 (verbal) or stage 2 warning (yellow card). Repetition of minor offences by the same team/individual in the same match must be sanctioned progressively.

Minor Misconduct Scale

- **Stage 1 Warning:** Verbal warning issued through the game captain
- **Stage 2 Warning:** By use of a yellow card to the team member(s) concerned. This formal warning is recorded on the score sheet but has no immediate consequences. It serves notice that the team member (and by extension the entire team) has reached the sanctioning level for the match. Any additional forms of misconduct will be addressed with at minimum, a penalty (red card).

There does not have to be a stage 1 or 2 warning issued to an individual or team before the official applies an appropriate sanction. Incorrect conduct by a team member towards officials, opponents, teammates, or spectators is classified in three categories according to the seriousness of the offence.

- **Rude Conduct:** actions contrary to good manners or moral principles
- **Offensive Conduct:** defamatory or insulting words or gestures or any action expressing contempt
- **Aggression:** actual physical attack or aggressive or threatening behavior

Sanctions Scale

Penalty (Rude Conduct): By use of a red card to the team member(s) concerned. The application of a penalty results in a point and service to the opponent

Expulsion* (Offensive Conduct): By use of a red and yellow card (jointly) to the team member(s) concerned

- A team member who is sanctioned by expulsion shall not play for the rest of the set, must be substituted legally and immediately if on court, and must remain seated in the penalty area with no other consequence.
- An expelled coach loses his/her right to intervene in the set and must remain seated in the penalty area

Disqualification* (Aggression): By use of a red and yellow card (separately) to the team member(s) concerned. A team member who is sanctioned by disqualification must be substituted legally and immediately if on court and must leave the Competition Control Area for the rest of the match with no other consequences.

*Note: In the instance of an expulsion or disqualification, the first referee must submit a separate report to his/her RRC and the Volleyball Alberta staff member responsible for officials. An expulsion or disqualification may result in further sanctioning at the discretion of the Volleyball Alberta Executive.