

2021 NORTHERN LIGHTS QUALIFIER TOURNAMENT REFEREE GUIDELINES

FR Apr 30, SA May 1, SU May 2 – weekend 1
FR May 7, SA May 8, SU May 9 – weekend 2
FR May 14, SA May 15, SU May 16 – weekend 3

All of the guidelines below are subject to change (even on short notice). We must all be prepared to make adjustments as necessary, when given notice. All information is posted on my website at omnevb.net under the Northern Lights Qualifier tab.

COMMUNICATION

You should always be able to reach me by cell phone. Sue – 402-598-4782

COVID REQUIREMENTS (click on title to see NLQ requirements or view them on my website)

There are no restrictions on the number of spectators at this time for the event. However, all attendees must wear a face mask at all times. **Players will be required to wear masks while playing.**

PLAYING SITE

All matches will be played at the CHI Health Center Convention Center located at 455 N 10th St in Omaha NE. If you are driving, you can park in the dock area behind the convention center. You must have a parking pass that will be given out the night prior. You will **enter dock door 22**. The referee room is in the main hallway – room CC105.2, right outside the entrance to the merchandise area (which is by court 17).

REFEREE FOOD

Food is not provided for referees. But we do have a refrigerator. I will bring bread, mayo and mustard, if you will bring a package of meat and a few pieces of cheese, a bag of chips and a bag of snacks (or cookies), there should be enough for everyone to eat all weekend. I will bring water for everyone, but if you want soda or something else to drink, bring it yourself and mark with your name.

There will be a referee check-in on each Thursday night from 8:00 – 9:00 pm at the convention center. Park in the front drop-off area, bring in your food and pick up your VIK and parking passes, etc. If you are working more than one weekend, you will receive only one VIK item. If you are unable to bring your food on Thursday night, you must bring it very discreetly on Friday morning. Put it in a gym bag, but do not just bring it in a grocery bag.

If you just want to use the refrigerator for your own food and do not want to share, make sure you clearly mark your name on your items.

MORNING MEETING

Every morning there is a daily meeting at 7:20 am to give you final instructions, words of wisdom, kudos, etc. If you are working the 8:00 am match, please be at the meeting.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Is held at 7:45 am. The serving team can start hitting immediately after the anthem.

Prior to each team's first match of the day, both teams will get 5 minutes of shared court time, followed by the 4 minutes by each team separately. Other warm-ups are 2 minutes of shared court time followed by 4 minutes by each team separately.

ASSIGNMENTS

A copy of the assignments will be posted in the officials' room each day. All assignments will be posted each day on tm2sign.com. You will be able to enter the match scores on your phone.

Only a first referee is assigned to every match. Teams **MUST** provide a **ROSTERED ADULT** as the second referee.

- Prior to the first match of each day, the first referee on the court will take one scoresheet, a game ball (if you are working on a 12's court, make sure you take a "Lite" ball), court towel, and pens and pencils.
- The game ball should never be left at the court unattended. After the morning session is complete, return the game ball to the championship desk, but leave the pens/pencils, etc. At the beginning of the afternoon session, take the appropriate game ball out to the court.
- If you are working more than one match in a row, you can take that many scoresheets with you. The scores of each match **MUST BE** entered immediately after the conclusion of the match. Then return the scoresheets as soon as possible.
- After each match, clean up the scoring table. Have the officiating team that is leaving take with them all bottles, food, and other assorted 'junk.' You can throw away the used libero tracking sheets and the used line-up sheets.

All schedule adjustments will be made by the head referee. All matches are paid from the online schedule (and will be cross checked with the information from the scoresheets).

When entering scores, make sure your screen has returned to the starting screen.

TWO (2) VISUAL SCORING DEVICES

There are two flipcharts on each court. One flipchart stays on the scoring table. The other flipper **needs to sit in a chair** on the first referee side of the court (on the opposite side from the scoring table), preferably in the first chair by the referee stand. If a spectator sits in that chair, you must inform them that either they have a new job, or they must let the flipper sit there.

<p>Flip scoreboards will remain on the courts, even at the end of the night. Put the one on the first referee side on the referee stand.</p>

SCORING TABLE

Only 3 workers are allowed to be at the scoring tables. The Baller TV ipad can be worked by a player sitting in a chair by the opposite flip chart.

LINE JUDGES – At this time, the line judges should remain the same throughout the match.

SCORESHEETS - Complete all of the official information on the scoresheet prior to the beginning of the match. If I have to track down one of you because you did not have the scoresheet completely and accurately filled out, you will not be paid for that match.

- Check the court number on your scoresheet as you are walking to your match. Check the team names on the scoresheet before you start the match to make sure they are the correct playing teams.
- Make sure the scorer has written in the correct TEAM names prior to the beginning of the match. The scoresheets have team code names on them, and sometimes the codes can be similar. Make sure you have given the scorer the correct information about which team is which.

- If necessary, you can briefly get off the referee stand between sets 1 and 2 to ensure that the scorer knows what she is doing. Check to make sure she has completed all of the information for the end of Set 1, including entering the winning and losing team names and scores, as well as circling the end score in each of the scoring sections. Also make sure a 'T-Bar' has been drawn over the unused points in the running score column. If this is done between the 2 sets, it makes the end process quicker. As soon as you know the scorer has an understanding of what is supposed to be done, you can return to the stand.

CHECKING THE SCORESHEET

- As soon as the match is completed, you should get off the stand and go to the scoring table. You should get to the table before the scorer leaves the table. Watch the scorer finish the scoresheet, instructing her in correct techniques, if necessary. Do not keep the scorer at the table any longer than necessary, as she will usually be playing in the next match.
- After the scorer presents the completed scoresheet to you, let her join her team, and then you should verify the correctness of the sheet.:

The first referee and the scorer sign the scoresheet at the end of the match to verify the results. Coaches no longer need to sign the scoresheet.

ENTERING THE SCORES

After each match, you will enter the scores of the completed match on your phone or into the iPad setup specifically for that purpose in the officials' room. All scores must be entered **immediately** after the match is completed. Do the coin flip for the next match, then go enter the scores while the warm-up is taking place.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

All play is best 2 out of 3, 0-25, 0-15 in the third set. Teams will NOT switch sides at any time. Occasionally, a pool of 3 teams will play all 3 sets. If that is the case, a coin toss is conducted prior to the start of the third set.

WARM-UPS

For every team's FIRST match of the wave, there will be 5 minutes of shared court ball handling, followed by 4 minutes for the serving team and 4 minutes for the receiving team.

For the remaining matches, the warm-up time is:

- 2 minutes of shared court ball handling
- 4 minutes for the serving team to have the entire court, which includes serving
- 4 minutes for the receiving team to have the entire court, which includes serving

Warm-ups are NOT shortened after the first match.

When one team has exclusive use of the court, the other team must either be at its team bench or shagging balls. Warming up with balls at the team bench or in spectator walkways is not permitted.

TEAM OFFICIATING ASSIGNMENTS

- Each team must provide a rostered adult second referee, 2 scorers (one of which must be the libero tracker and can also act as the scoreboard operator), a second 'flipper', and 2 line judges.
- The first match of each wave must start at the official start time (8 am or 3 pm). After that, if all three teams agree, matches may be start up to 10 minutes ahead of the scheduled start time. The last match of the session can start as soon as all teams agree.

- Late to officiate is defined as not being at the court ready to work at the conclusion of warm-ups. For every minute, a work team is late or incomplete, a point per minute is given to their next opponent up to 25-0 forfeit. A second offense results in the loss of their next match.
- As soon as you know a team could be late, contact me.

LIBERO UNIFORM

Libero uniforms must be clearly contrasting (i.e., light and dark, etc.). Burgundy (maroon) and black are not contrasting, royal blue and black are not contrasting, white and light pink are not contrasting. The Libero shorts may be a different color than the rest of the team. Just because 'you' can tell the difference, does not mean that it's legal. If the Libero uniform is not clearly contrasting, ask the coach if they have another option.

SPORT COURT RULE

- A player must be in contact with their Sport Court while playing the ball that has gone into a non-playable area. After playing the ball, the player may follow through off their Sport Court up to the extended sideline of an adjacent court.
- USAV 12.3: The serve: Both of the server's feet must be in contact with the playing surface before the serve is authorized. If this is not the case, the 1st referee will direct the player onto the playing surface before authorizing the serve. Part of the server's foot/feet may be in contact with the secondary surface/non-playing area. It is a fault when a server steps completely off the playing surface after the authorization to serve.
- Substitutions that are standing at the end of the bench must be standing off the sport court.

OTHER SPECIAL RULES

Liberos may be designated 2 per match or 1 per set. Both Liberos can serve as long as it is in the same serving rotation position.

There is NO step-in service line for the 12's. However, the net is shorter and a light ball is used.

Spectators (or cameras) are NOT ALLOWED to stand by the netting in between courts 16 & 18, 15 & 19 and 14 & 20. Those courts are closer together than other courts. The netting is there to prevent balls going from one court to the other. There is NOT enough room for spectators or cameras.

TIME MANAGEMENT

Be courtside when the previous match is completed. Do not have the referee that is supposed to be off come looking for you. TIME MANAGEMENT is a key factor. I know all of you can handle this concept. Let's make it work this weekend and get out of the gym at a reasonable hour.

- Unless you have a very competent second referee, you must time all timeouts and the time between sets. (If you do not have a watch with a stopwatch feature, you should invest in one. If your watch only has a second hand, you will not always be able to remember when the timeout actually started or must end—especially as the day goes on.)
- You do not make the game go faster by making your signals faster, but you can speed up the entire match by being ready to signal for the serve as soon as the server walks into the service area. (You must be careful not to rush the server, but the server should not control the tempo of the match either.)

The shared court time should start as soon as you arrive at the scoring table (or as soon as the scorer leaves the table). The serving team's court time should start immediately after the coin toss.

SPECTATORS

Spectators should be in the spectator area (opposite of the team bench). If there netting on the end of the court, no cameras nor spectators are allowed at the netting. There could be subscription tv filming from different areas of the court. Spectators are NOT allowed the same privileges as the paid filmers.

PROFESSIONALISM

- The coaches and players are not your friends.
- You should not make comments about how a team previously played, about any of the players' skills, etc.
- You cannot comment to coaches, players, fans, etc., about another referee's performance.
- While you might address officiating team players by their first name during the match they are officiating, it is not necessary to address them personally at any other time.
- You have plenty of duties to take care of between matches which leaves little time for chit-chat.
- It is okay to just stand by and watch (without talking); it is not necessary for you to engage someone in conversation every single moment during warm-ups
- Touching players is prohibited (not on the shoulder, not on the arm, not anywhere, anytime).
- At no time, should you give information to a team about where they play next or how they finish. If they ask your opinion about where you think they finished, send them to the championship desk.
- Phones at courtside can be used to call the head referee if there is a problem or to check the time (actually you SHOULD have watch with a stopwatch feature).
- You can take a **small** bag (only) that contains your whistles, cards, etc to the court. Leave all large bags in the officials' room. Briefcases, backpacks, and rolling suitcases cannot be taken to the court.

PROTESTS

If a protest is properly made (*i.e.*, the captain requests a protest in the older age groups, or the coach requests a protest in the 12's, 13's or 14's age groups) prior to or concurrent with the first serve of the match, the first referee must find a head referee. The protest will be resolved before the match commences.

If a protest is made and accepted by the first referee during the match, the set is immediately suspended. You should get off the stand and send one of the players from the officiating team to the championship desk to get the head referee (or you may call them, if you have a phone). The referee should return to wait beside the stand. While waiting for the head referee to arrive, the match referee should not discuss the issue with the coaches, players, or spectators.

UNUSUAL SITUATIONS

If any unusual situation (unruly/aggressive spectator) presents itself during a match, the referee should immediately recruit a responsible messenger to report the incident to me or the Championship Desk. Someone will return to the court to manage the situation. There should be little or no delay in the match.

FINALS DAY

- Matches may start as soon as both teams are ready to play. Losing team stays on the court to officiate the next match. Tell them that at the coin toss.
- We do not have any extra people to cover for officiating teams that leave. If you let a team leave, you will be responsible for finding acceptable replacements
- When your court is finished, leave the flipcharts on the court as they get tucked in the referee stand. Return all other court supplies (pens, pencils, game ball, towel, etc) back to the Championship desk.