

Volleyball Referee Headset Best Practices and General Use Guidelines

- Headset use is optional.
 - o No referee should feel pressured to use them. Any use of headsets must be arranged in advance between partners.
 - o If in doubt, headsets should not be used.
 - o Using the headsets does not replace **any** established signals; assistance provided to the R1, CRS mechanics and other signals should all be used as normal
 - o Use microphones when required during play or between points, but don't use the system for extraneous communication, it can prove quite distracting
 - o Be careful of facial expressions and body language:
 - A comment made that is not associated with the game might automatically generate a response from your partner that is inappropriate
 - Small laughs or frowns can be misunderstood or misinterpreted that we are conversing with our referee partner and not concentrating on the match
 - Referees should learn to "talk through" your whistle during a rally; practice this at home
 - Remember, the R1 will hear at least the R2's portion of any conversation with a coach, and may be able to hear the coach as well
 - When we are no longer masked... Between points, if the R1 and R2 need to communicate, it may be appropriate to place a hand over the mouth to prevent "lip reading"

When providing help to your partner during a rally, keep the communication as simple as possible and use only one word. Repeat the word three times. For example:

- Say "NO-NO-NO" instead of "NO TOUCH" ... If you say "NO TOUCH" only one time, your partner may only hear "TOUCH"

- Some recommended language for specific in-match situations:**

- o For a libero handset in the front zone === “LIBERO-LIBERO-LIBERO”
- o If there is a libero handset that is behind the attack line === “GOOD-GOOD-GOOD”
- o For a back-row setter that commits an illegal (back-row) attack or back-row block === “BACKBACK-BACK”
- o For a blocker reaching across the net === “OVER-OVER-OVER” or “TOUCH-TOUCH-TOUCH”
- o For a back-row attacker takes off across or on the attack line === “BACK-BACK-BACK”
- o If a back-row attacker takes off behind the attack line: === “GOOD-GOOD-GOOD”
- o On a successful pancake: === “GOOD-GOOD-GOOD” or “UP-UP-UP”
- o If there is an unsuccessful pancake attempt === “DOWN-DOWN-DOWN”
- o If there is a slight touch at the block === “TOUCH-TOUCH-TOUCH”
- o For an “out” ball, especially when the line judge may have been screened === “OUT-OUT-OUT”
- **After a rally has ended, the R2 can use headsets communicate the following:**
 - o Block out off of which team
 - o Antenna fault on which team
 - o Libero service position
 - o R1 can remind R2 of any unusual timeout or substitution requests
 - o R2 can request IR, DW, IWP
 - o Substitution situations when both teams have a sub
- **Scorer use of headset (in the unlikely event there are enough headsets to include the scorer):**
 - o Inform referees of potential wrong server/confirm correct server (including Libero)
 - o Inform referees of set point/match point
 - o Answer referee’s specific questions:
 - How many timeouts has a team used?
 - How many substitutes has a team used?
 - Who is the next server for the serving team? (Be alert to this request initiated by a coach or captain to the R2.)
 - Who are the next three servers for Team X?
 - “Ready” after a substitution or timeout