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**Canada**

# LINE JUDGE GUIDELINES

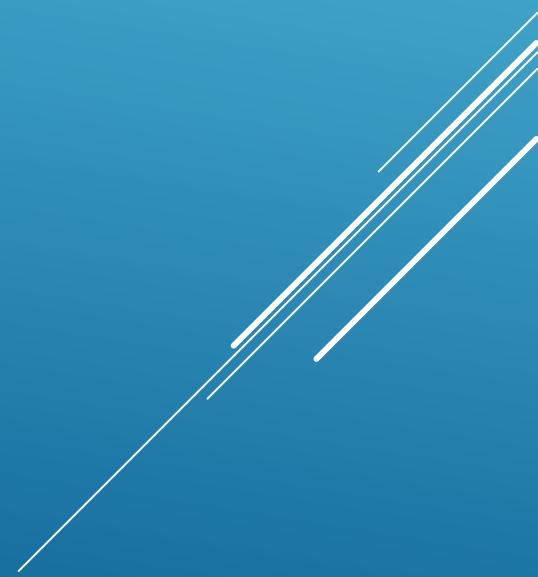
2017 Edition





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# INTRODUCTION



- ▶ All members of the referee corps are trained observers, this is especially true for line judges
- ▶ Line judges play an essential role in the execution of a match
- ▶ Line judges collaborate directly with the first referee, to whom they provide information concerning faults, which are within their area of jurisdiction

## THE IMPORTANCE OF LINE JUDGES



- ▶ Line judges must comprehend that a single decision may impact the end result of a rally, set, or match
- ▶ Line judges must be prepared, knowing their responsibilities and fulfilling the role to the best of their ability
- ▶ Line judges are an integral member in the composition of the referee corps

## THE IMPORTANCE OF LINE JUDGES



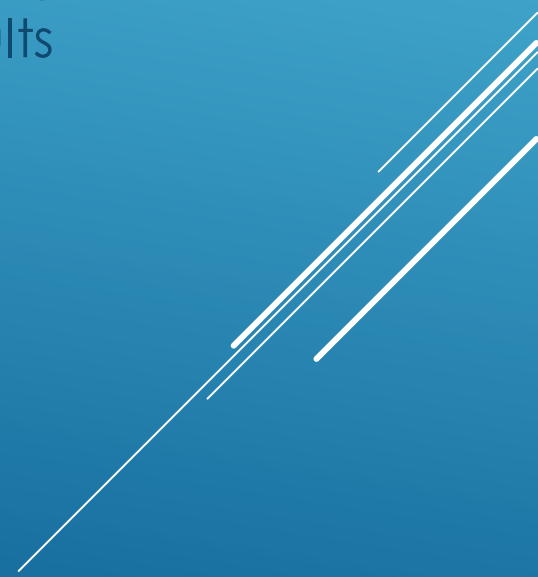
- ▶ Line judges must maintain a professional image of the refereeing corps inside and outside of the competition control area
- ▶ Line judges must show exemplary conduct at all stages (before, during and after) of competition
- ▶ Line judges must be aware of and adhere to the established timetables of a competition

## EXPECTATIONS OF LINE JUDGES



- ▶ The Rules of the Game regulate the functionality of the line judges
- ▶ The Rules of the Game regulate where the line judges are to be located
- ▶ The Rules of the Game provide the foundation of responsibilities for line judges
- ▶ The Rules of the Game regulate what signals line judges must use in accordance to specific faults

## RULES OF THE GAME WITH RESPECT TO LINE JUDGES

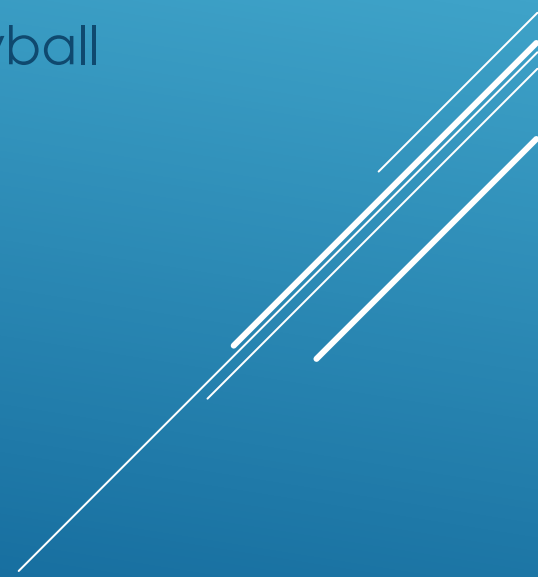




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# RESPONSIBILITIES

Rule 27.2 of the Volleyball  
Canada rulebook



- ▶ The Line Judge performs their function by using flags to signal:
  - ▶ The ball 'in' and 'out' whenever the ball lands near their line(s)
  - ▶ The touches of 'out' balls by the team receiving the ball
  - ▶ The ball touching the antenna, the served ball and the third hit of the team crossing the net outside the crossing space, etc.
  - ▶ Any player (except the server) stepping outside of his/her court at the moment of the service hit

## LINE JUDGE RESPONSIBILITIES



- ▶ The Line Judge performs their function by using flags to signal:
  - ▶ The foot faults of the server
  - ▶ Any contact with the top 80 cm of the antenna on their side of the court by any player during his/her action of playing the ball or interfering with the play
  - ▶ The ball crossing the net outside the crossing space into the opponent's court or touching the antenna on his/her side of the court
- ▶ At the 1<sup>st</sup> referee's request, a line judge must repeat his/her signal

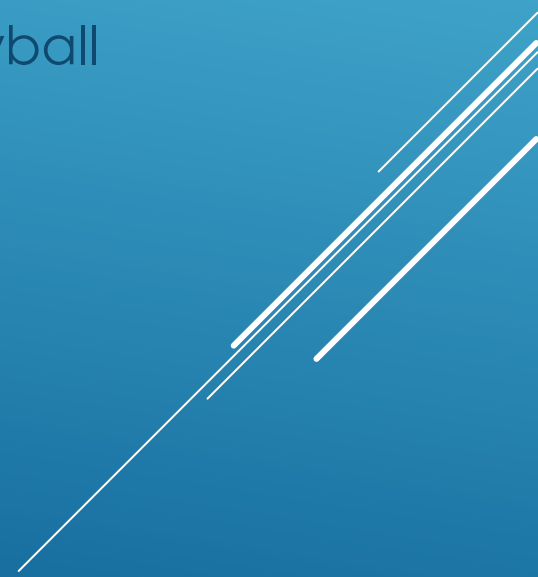
## LINE JUDGE RESPONSIBILITIES



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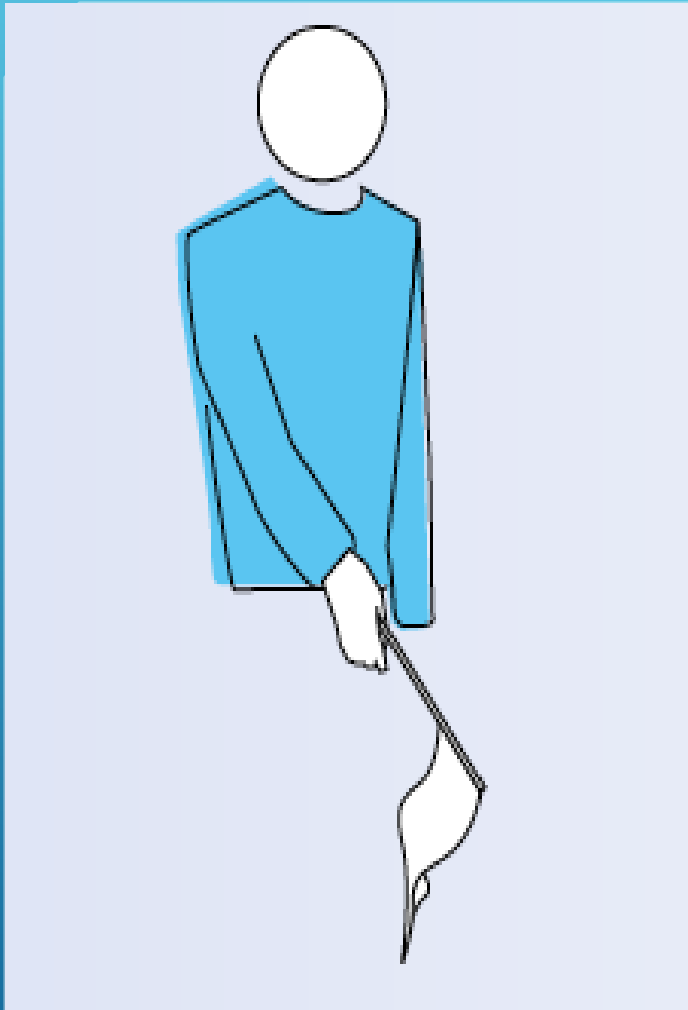
# THE SIGNALS

Rule 28.2 of the Volleyball  
Canada rulebook



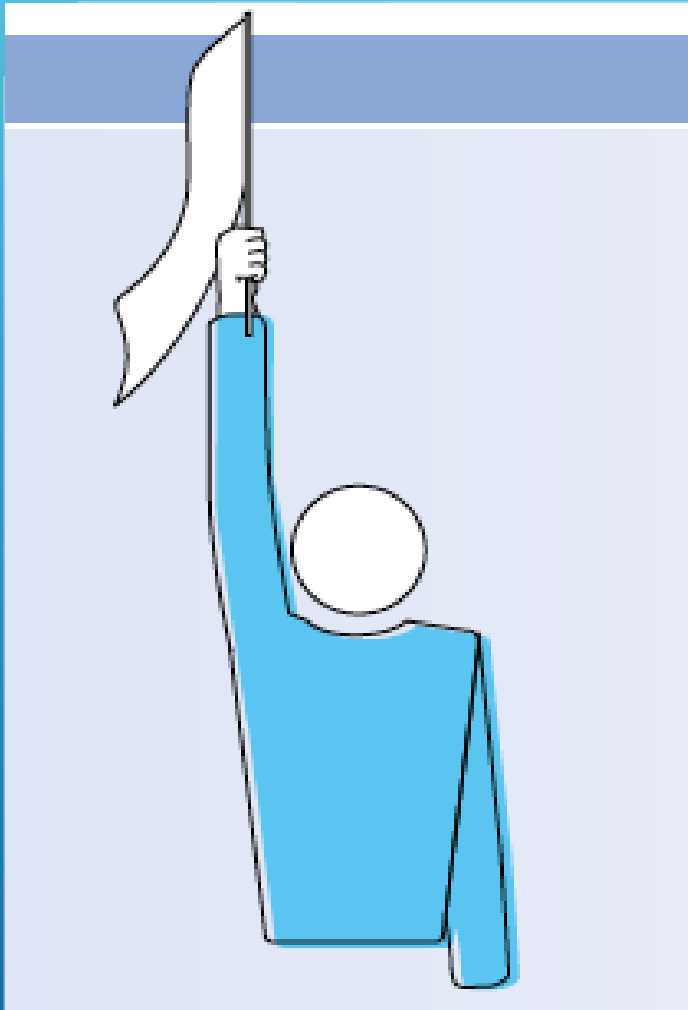
- ▶ The line judges must clearly indicate with the official flag signal the nature of the fault called
- ▶ The line judges must maintain the signal for a moment
- ▶ Signals usage is critical to ensure:
  - ▶ Communication amongst the referee corps is accurate
  - ▶ Communication amongst the participants is accurate
  - ▶ Communication for the spectator base is accurate

# SIGNALS



## SIGNAL 1 – BALL 'IN'

- Point down with the flag



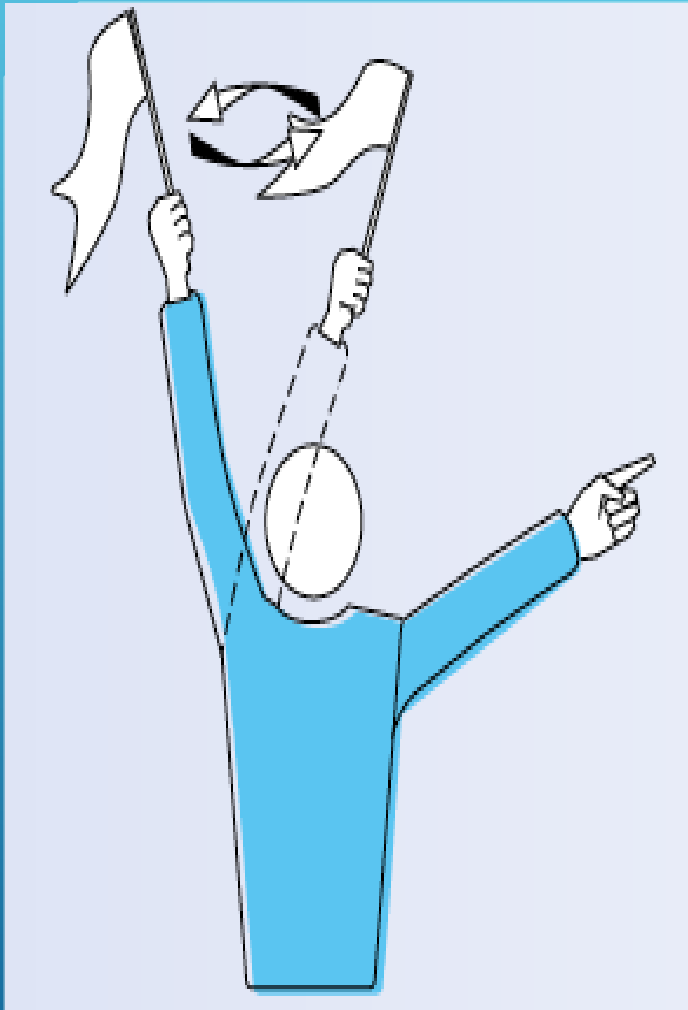
## SIGNAL 2 – BALL ‘OUT’

- Raise the flag vertically



## SIGNAL 3 – BALL TOUCHED

- Raise flag and touch the top with the palm of the free hand



SIGNAL 4 – CROSSING SPACE  
FAULTS, BALL TOUCHED AN  
OUTSIDE OBJECT OR FOOT  
FAULT BY ANY PLAYER  
DURING SERVICE

- Wave flag over the head  
and point to the antenna  
or the respective line



## SIGNAL 5 – JUDGEMENT IMPOSSIBLE

- Raise and cross both arms and hands in front of the chest

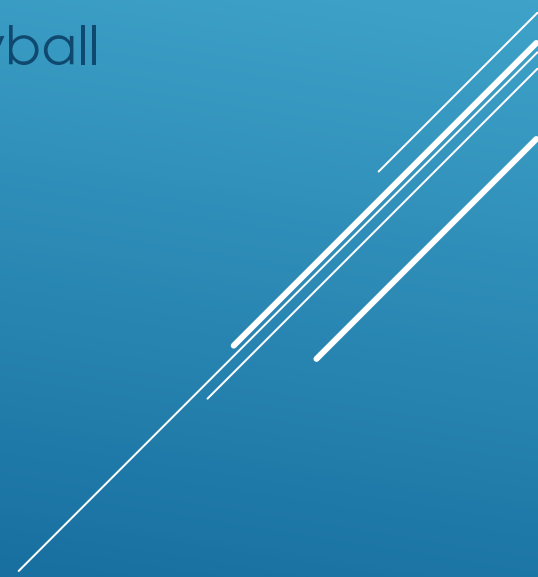




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# LINE JUDGE STRUCTURES

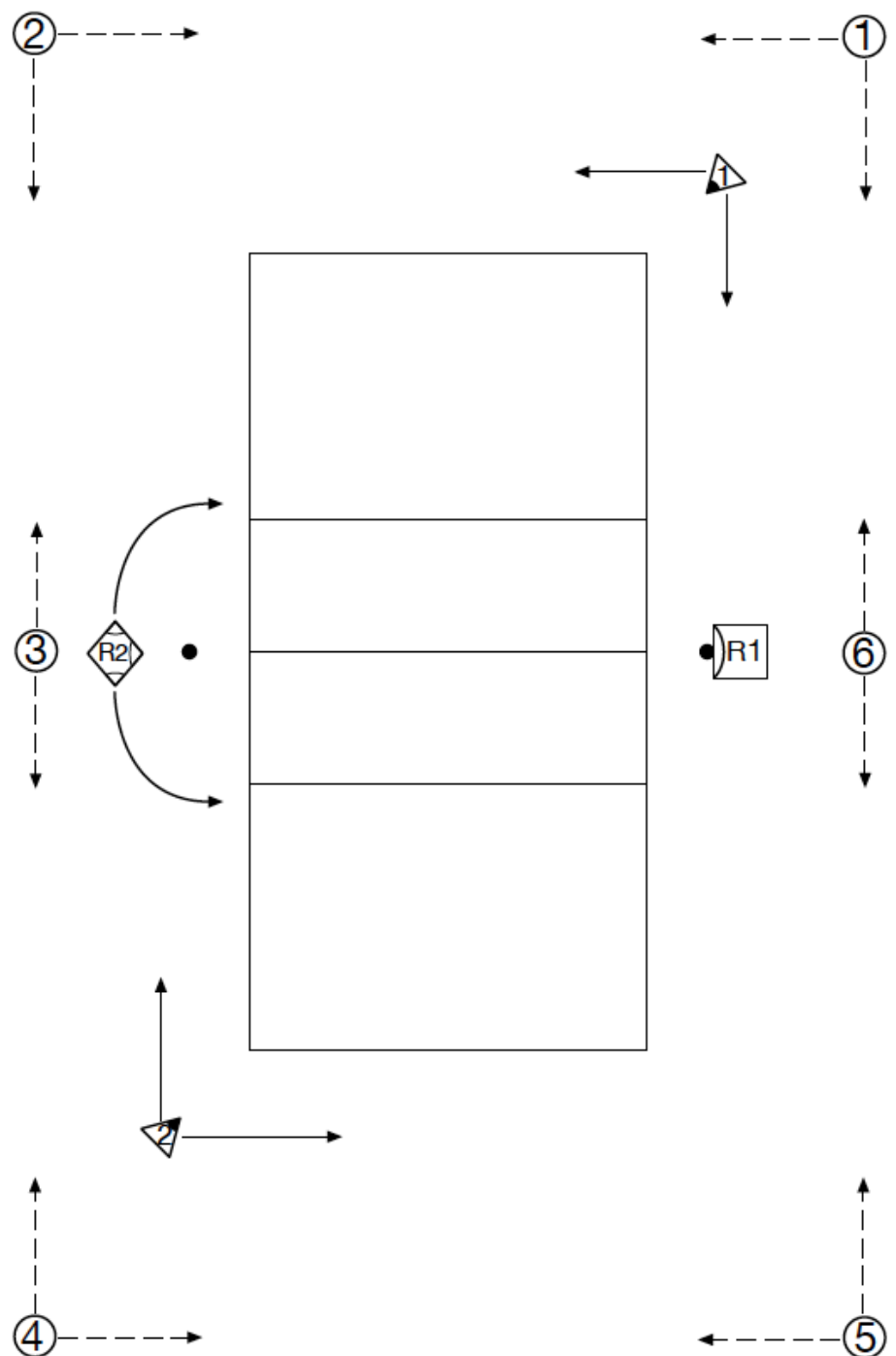
Rule 27.1 of the Volleyball  
Canada rulebook



- ▶ Rule 27.1 – Location
  - ▶ If only two Line Judges are used, they stand at the corners of the court closest to the right hand of each referee, diagonally at 1 to 2 m from the corner
    - ▶ Each one of them controls both the end line and side line on his/her side
  - ▶ Four Line Judges – they stand in the free zone at 1 to 3m from each corner of the court, on the imaginary extension of the line that they control
  - ▶ The locations of the line judges are maintained throughout the entirety of the match

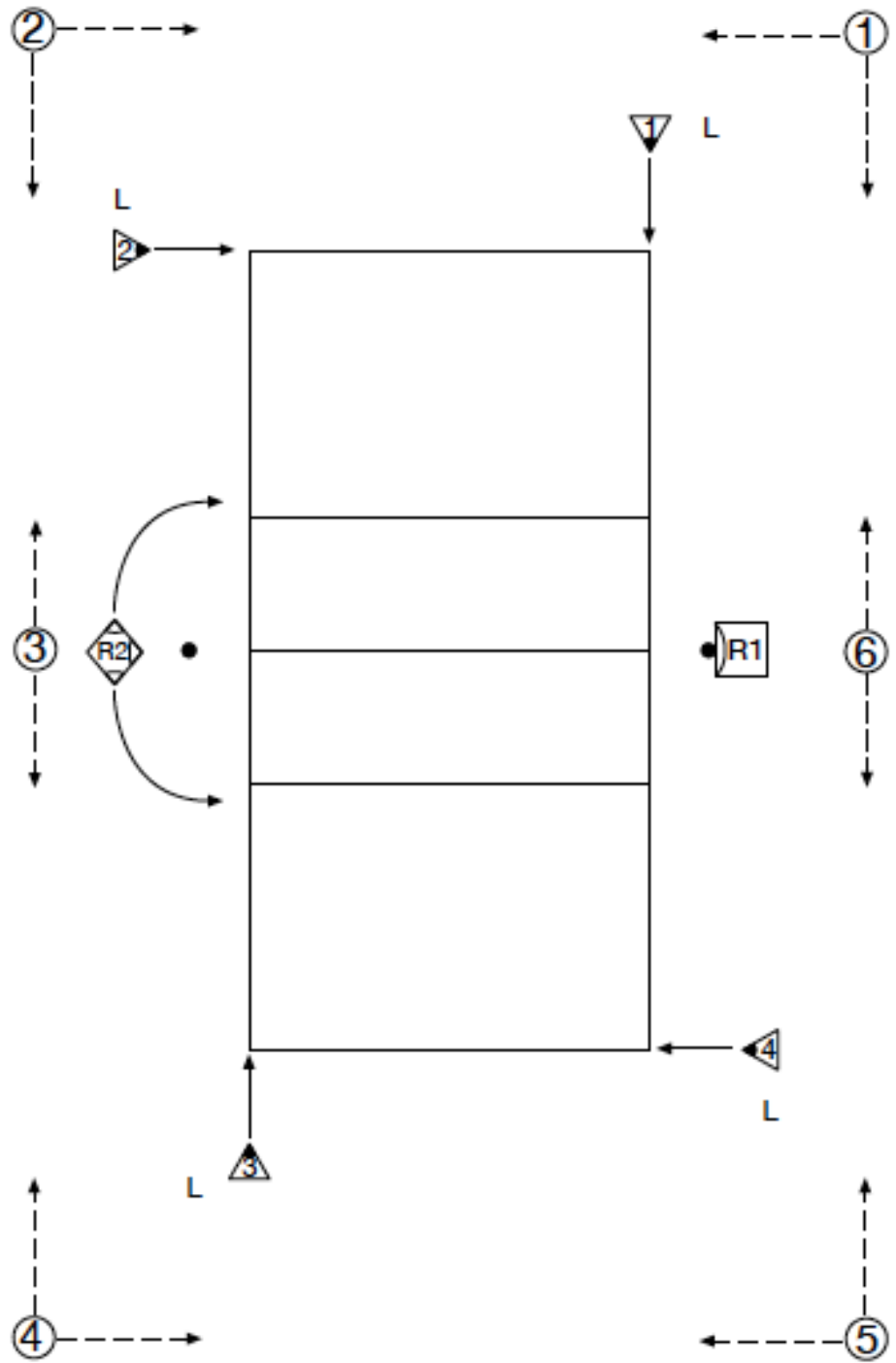
# LOCATION AND POSITIONING





## LOCATION FOR 2 LINE JUDGES

- Positioned to the right hand of each referee
- Stands diagonally at 1 to 2 m from the corner
- Controls both the end line and side line on his/her side



## LOCATION FOR 4 LINE JUDGES

- Stand in the free zone 1 to 3 m from each corner of the court, on the imaginary extension of the line that they control



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PRIOR TO THE  
MATCH



- ▶ Just like the referees, line judges must prepare themselves before the match in order to achieve:
  - ▶ The best level of concentration possible
  - ▶ The best level of personal conditioning for conducting the match in a good manner
- ▶ Line judges must present themselves (in uniform) at the Scorer's table at least 45 minutes before the start of the match

# PROFESSIONALISM



- ▶ Before the match begins, the first referee will meet and provide instructions to the members of the referee corps
- ▶ The instructions of the first referee will:
  - ▶ Cover all facets of game management
  - ▶ Initiate the communication process amongst the referee corps
  - ▶ Provide the designated positional assignment for the duration of a match
- ▶ It is critical that the instructions of the meeting are comprehended concisely to eliminate miscommunication during a match
- ▶ If an instruction is not clearly understood, the line judge must respectfully request clarification

## REFEREE MEETING

- ▶ Line judges are responsible for studying and understanding their responsibilities towards protocols associated with:
  - ▶ Presentation of the teams and match
  - ▶ National anthems
  - ▶ Post-match protocols
- ▶ Line judges must understand that domestic competition protocols may be different from league to league, province to province and nationally

## MATCH PROTOCOLS

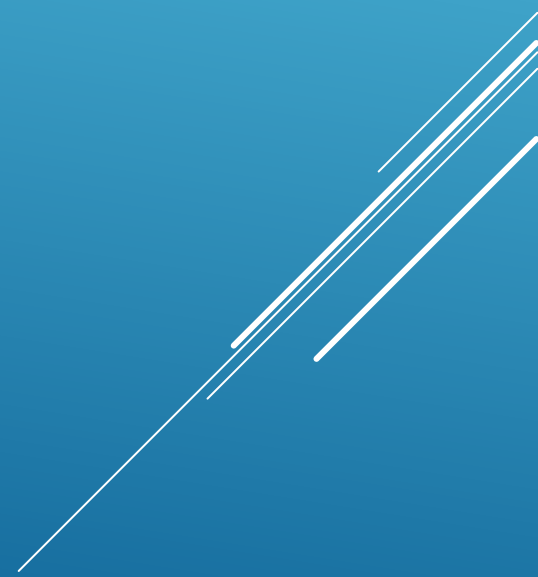






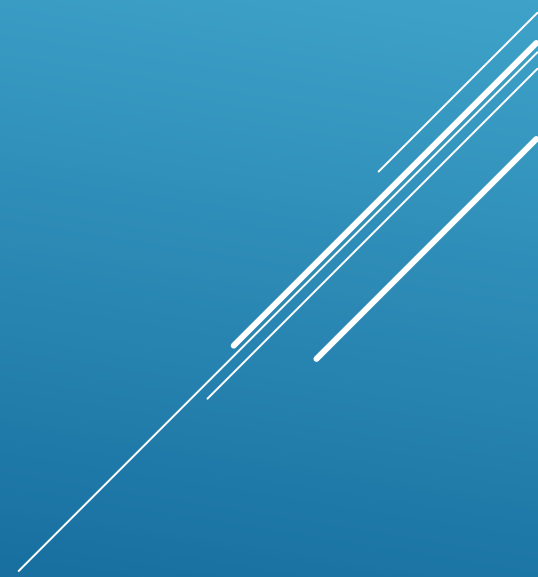
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DURING THE  
MATCH



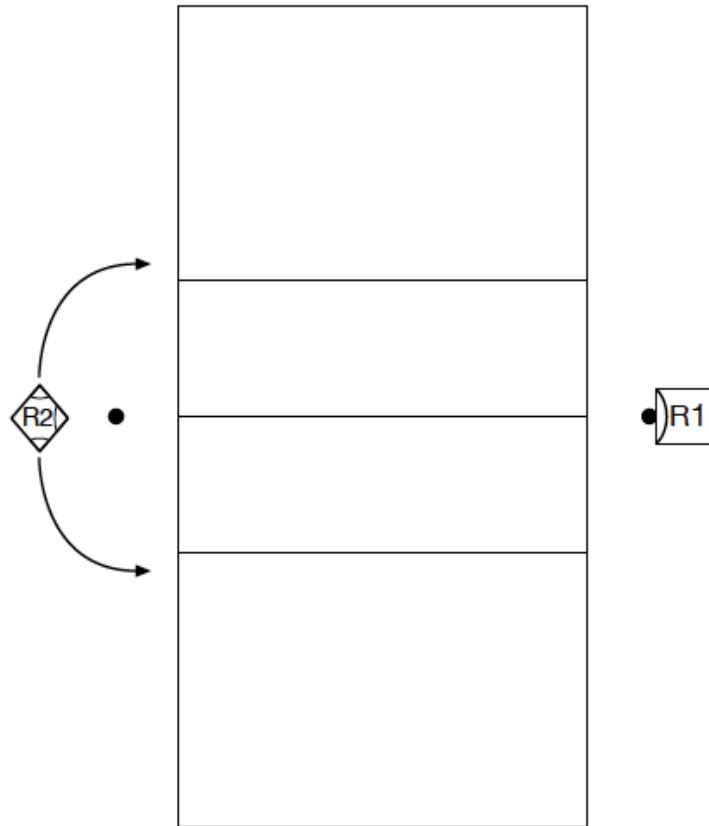
- ▶ Volleyball can be characterized by three phases:
  - ▶ Playing actions
  - ▶ Intervals between rallies
  - ▶ Interruptions
- ▶ During these three phases, the line judge must actively adopt different body positions:
  - ▶ Position of rest
  - ▶ Position of attention
  - ▶ Position of flag signal execution
  - ▶ Corner position

## BODY POSITIONING



- ▶ Position of Rest
  - ▶ Standing upright in a relaxed manner with the flag resting against the outside of the leg
- ▶ Position of Attention
  - ▶ An athletic position with the left foot in front of the right and a bend at the knees. The flag sitting against the outside of the leg
- ▶ Position of Flag Signal Execution
  - ▶ Standing erect, feet together with the flag positioned to display the correct signal
- ▶ Corner Position
  - ▶ Used for specific interruptions, intervals and extended delays

# BODY POSITIONING



## CORNER POSITION

During time-outs, technical time-outs, set intervals and extended delays to the match, the line judges position themselves at the corner of the playing area, in order not to interfere with players' warm-up and not to cover advertising panels.

- ▶ During playing actions, there are three time segments to consider:
  - ▶ Prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> referee's whistle authorizing service
  - ▶ After the 1<sup>st</sup> referee's whistle authorizing service
  - ▶ At the end of the rally
- ▶ This is the most important phase of a line judge's function
- ▶ The quality of judgment depends on concentration and the ability to direct attention to the point or area concerned, using small appropriate movements

## BODY POSITIONING PLAYING ACTIONS



- ▶ At the end of a rally, one (or more) line judge(s) will be required to make an official signal
- ▶ When making an official signal, there are several factors a line judge needs to consider:
  - ▶ The signal must be made quickly
  - ▶ A good flag signal can be heard
  - ▶ The signal is maintained for a moment
  - ▶ The line judge communicates directly with the first referee via eye contact

## BODY POSITIONING FLAG SIGNAL EXECUTION



- ▶ Preparation is critical to the role of a line judge
  - ▶ Actively review the responsibilities as per the Rules of the Game
  - ▶ Actively review the signals as per the Rules of the Game
  - ▶ Actively review additional resource materials that are available
  - ▶ Ensure that mental and physical capacities are not inhibited in any manner

## TECHNIQUES OF LINE JUDGES



- ▶ Recognizing and understanding the key areas where a rally takes place allows for correct judgment at the end of rally
  - ▶ Play at the net:
    - ▶ Attack hit contact with the blocker(s)
    - ▶ Ball crossing through the external space, especially considering the imaginary extension of the antennae
- ▶ The ability to maintain a heightened span of attention is of major importance to the role of the line judge

## TECHNIQUES OF LINE JUDGES



- ▶ To improve attention spans, the line judge must adopt a viewing technique by which they can continuously verify the measures concerning the area within their competence
  - ▶ Line judges shall visually scan the end line or side line and alternatively move their eyes two or three times from it to the running ball
  - ▶ This provides a temporary, automatic evaluation of the end line or side line distance from the action
  - ▶ When an attack hit occurs the eyes will automatically fixate on the end line or side line before the ball's arrival
  - ▶ Auto fixation eliminates the need to search for the line and to lose focus while the ball passes through the line judges field of vision

## TECHNIQUES OF LINE JUDGES

- ▶ During a rally, line judges may need to move from their assigned locations:
  - ▶ To avoid interfering with players even if this causes temporary loss of attention
  - ▶ To provide a better observation angle of balls crossing the net near to the antenna
  - ▶ To provide a better observation angle of attack hits contacting the blocker(s)
  - ▶ To accurately observe the ball contacting the court
  - ▶ To keep their body facing the action at all times

## MOVEMENT OF A LINE JUDGE

## ▶ 2 Line Judge System

- ▶ At the start of every rally, the responsibility of a line judge is to observe the foot faults of the server.
- ▶ The line judge on the serving team's side must position themselves in the free zone off the extension of the end line
- ▶ After the service contact, they quickly move back to position to observe their respective side line

# POSITIONING DURING SERVICE



## ▶ 4 Line Judge System

- ▶ The line judge who controls the side line of the serving team must position himself/herself behind the service player, regardless of where the server is in the service zone
- ▶ The line judge who controls the side line of the serving team may also have to step out of the service zone if the server starts their action near to the side line they control.
- ▶ After the service execution, the line judge immediately returns to position

# POSITIONING DURING SERVICE

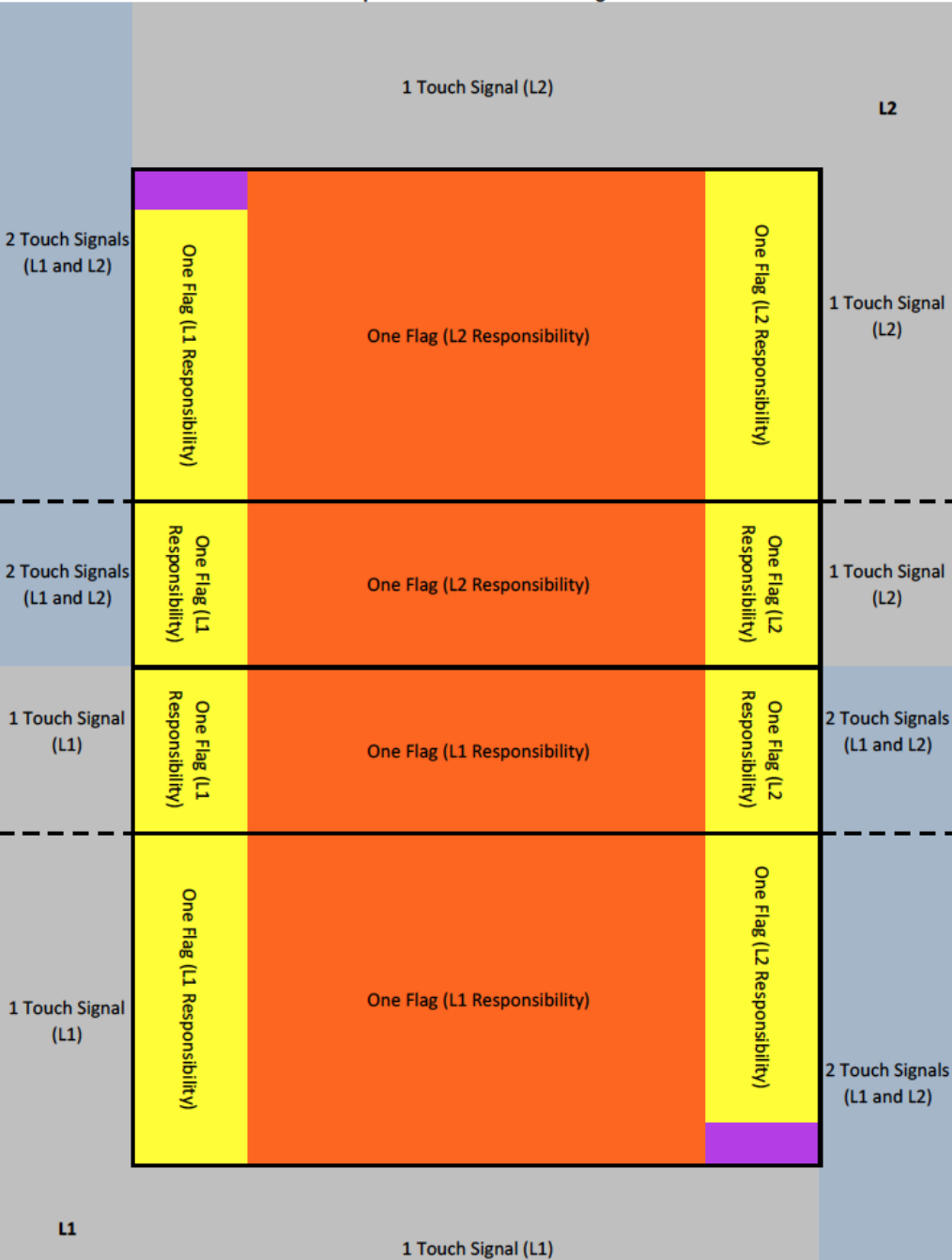




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RESPONSIBLE  
SIGNALING

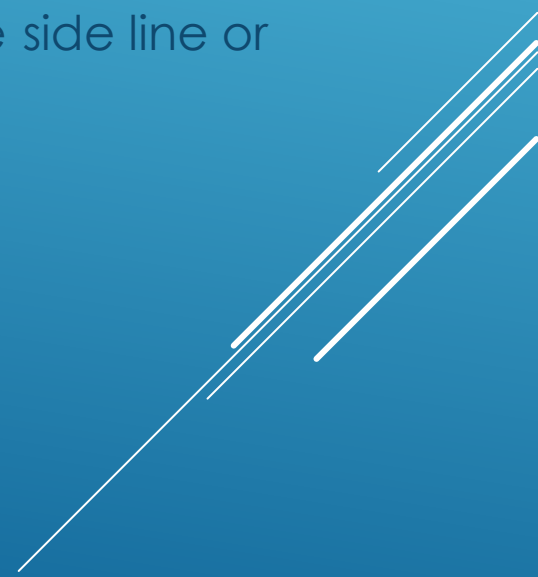




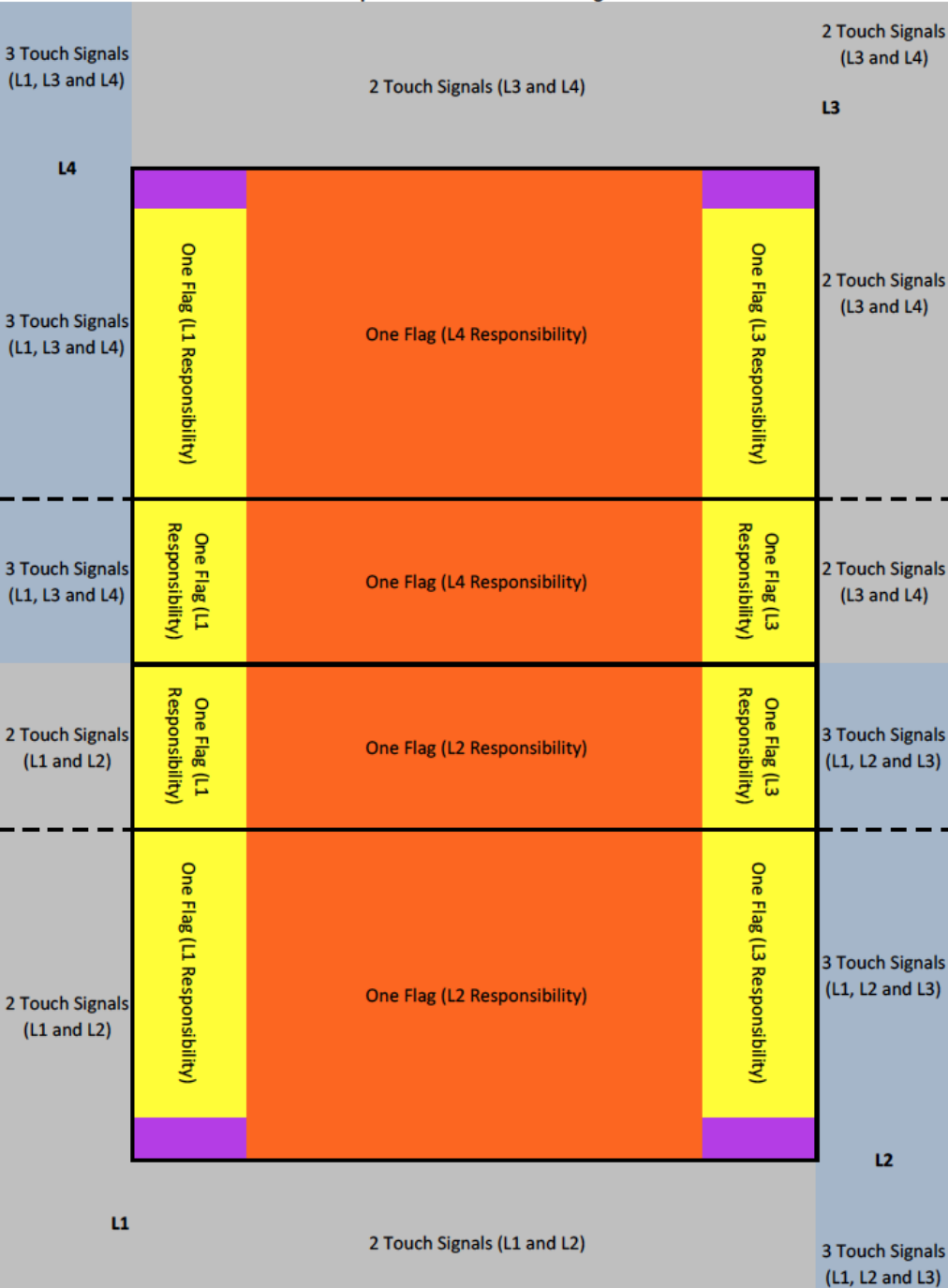
# TWO LINE JUDGE SYSTEM RESPONSIBLE SIGNALING

The diagram indicates which line judge is responsible to signal when only 2 line judges are used

The purple corners are areas where both line judges **must** provide a signal in relation to their respective side line or end line



Responsibilities of Four Line Judges



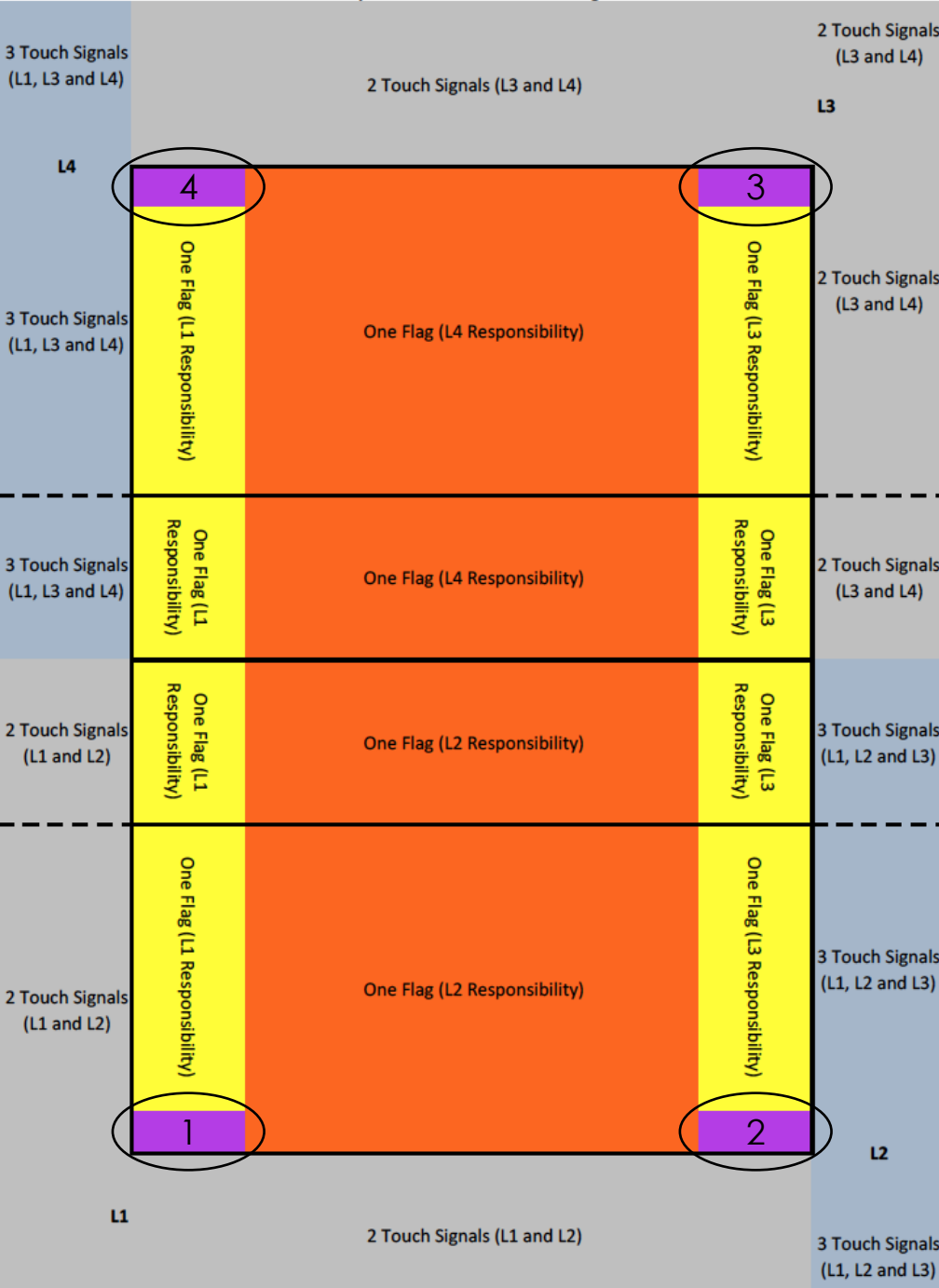
# FOUR LINE JUDGE SYSTEM RESPONSIBLE SIGNALING

The diagram indicates which line judge is responsible to signal when 4 line judges are used

It must be understood that line judge 2 or 4 may not always effectively observe the ball landing inside the court.

In these cases, line judge 1 or 3 is authorized and expected to signal ball 'in'

Responsibilities of Four Line Judges



# FOUR LINE JUDGE SYSTEM RESPONSIBLE SIGNALING

The purple corners are areas where two line judges **must** provide a signal in relation to their respective side line or end line

- 1: Line Judge 1 and 2
- 2: Line Judge 2 and 3
- 3: Line Judge 3 and 4
- 4: Line Judge 1 and 4

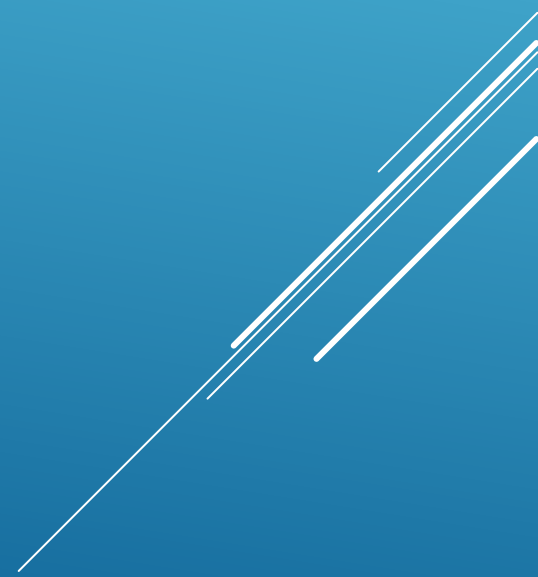
In the case of contrasting signals (one ball 'in', one ball 'out'), the line judge signaling ball 'in' quickly removes their signal to avoid prolonged confusion





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BEING OVER-  
RULED



- ▶ As a line judge, the official flag signal provides information to the first referee based on judgment and observation
- ▶ The first referee may not agree with the judgment and observation of the line judge and therefore may decide otherwise
  - ▶ The line judge must not insist further on their signal
  - ▶ The line judge quietly returns to the position of rest without expressing disagreement
  - ▶ The line judge must refocus for the start of the next rally

## BEING OVER-RULED

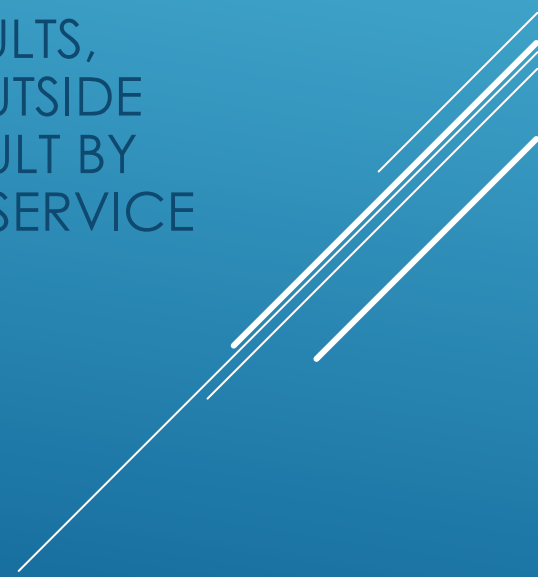




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# LINE JUDGE SIGNAL #4

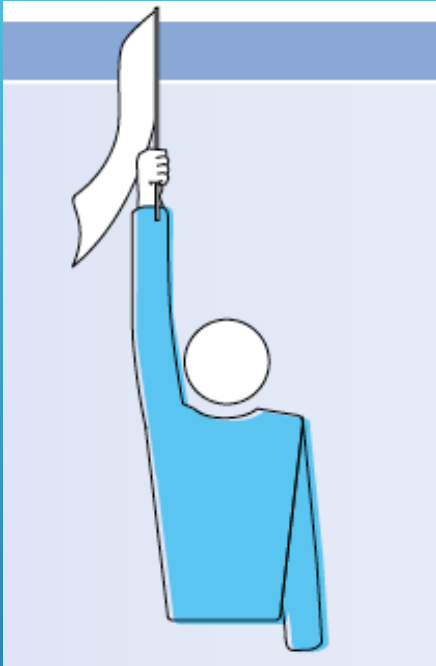
CROSSING SPACE FAULTS,  
BALL TOUCHED AN OUTSIDE  
OBJECT, OR FOOT FAULT BY  
ANY PLAYER DURING SERVICE



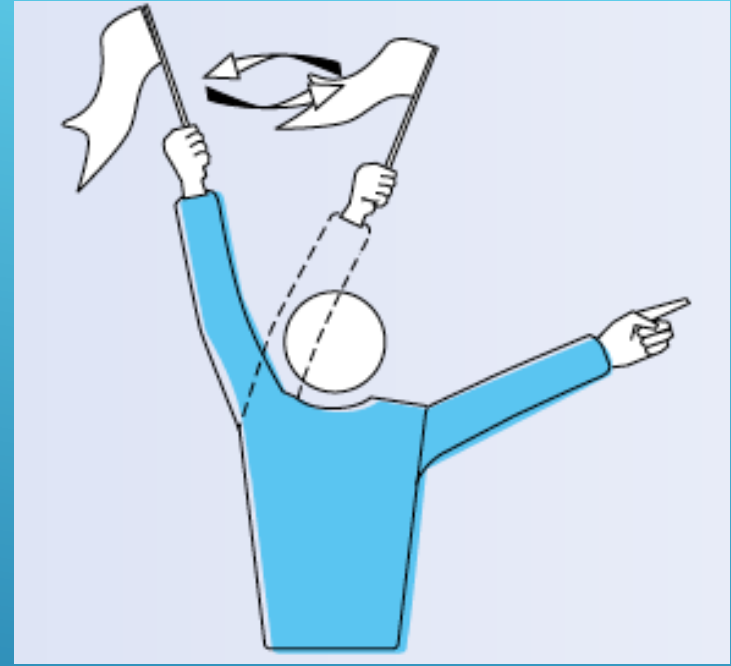
- ▶ In preparation for a match, the line judge must have a significant understanding of their responsibilities
- ▶ This includes regular review of the terminology that comprise the Rules of the Game and understanding what fault corresponds to the correct signal
- ▶ The terminology of Rule 8.4 (Ball 'out') is very specific regarding the distinction and usage of line judge signal 2 and line judge signal 4
- ▶ The reference of rule to signal is emphasized by the additional notes on the right hand side of the rulebook
  - ▶ D12 (2) = Diagram 12 (Line Judge Signals), Signal 2
  - ▶ D12 (4) = Diagram 12 (Line Judge Signals), Signal 4

## RULE 8.4 – BALL 'OUT'

SIGNAL 2



SIGNAL 4



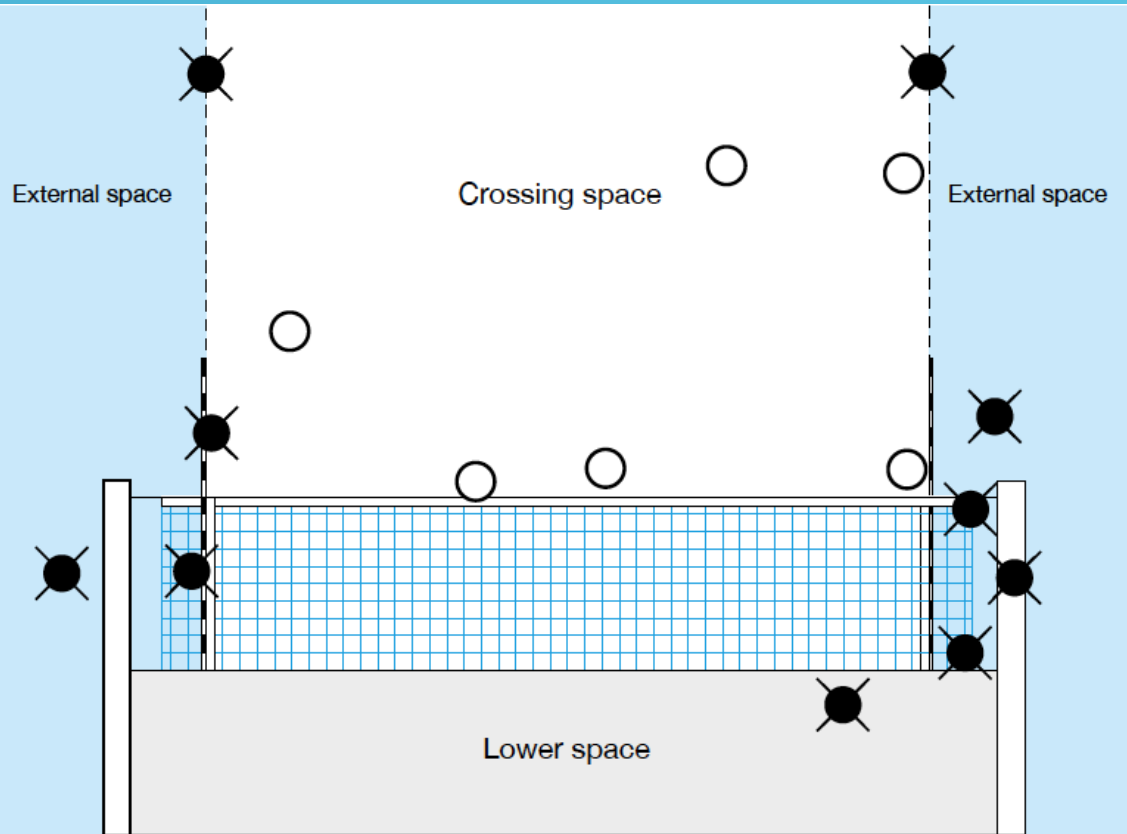
LINE JUDGE SIGNALS FOR BALL 'OUT'

- ▶ The ball is 'out' when:
  - ▶ All parts of the ball which contact the floor are completely outside the boundary lines: D12 (2)
  - ▶ It touches an object outside the court, the ceiling or person out of play: D12 (4)
  - ▶ It touches the antennae, ropes, posts or the net itself outside the side bands: D12 (4)
  - ▶ It crosses the vertical plane of the net either partially or totally outside the crossing space, except in the case of Rule 10.1.2: D12 (4)
  - ▶ It crosses completely the lower space under the net

## RULE 8.4 – BALL 'OUT'

- ▶ The ball is 'out' when:
  - ▶ All parts of the ball which contact the floor are completely outside the boundary lines: D12 (2)
- ▶ Expanding our knowledge on this single aspect of the rule, the line judge must consider the following:
  - ▶ Did the attack hit legally pass through the crossing space
  - ▶ Did the parts of the ball contacting the floor do so completely outside the boundary lines
  - ▶ Only in the case where both conditions are are met will signal 2 be used by the line judge

## RULE 8.4 – BALL 'OUT'



## CROSSING SPACE

The crossing space is defined by:

Below, the top of the net

At the sides, by the antennae, and their imaginary extensions

Above, by the ceiling



- ▶ The ball is 'out' when:
  - ▶ It touches an object outside the court, the ceiling or person out of play: D12 (4)
- ▶ Expanding our knowledge on this aspect of the rule, the line judge must consider the following:
  - ▶ Was the object outside the court, but still within the free zone (E.g. referee stand)
  - ▶ Was the person out of play outside the court, but still within the free zone (E.g. referee or coach within the free zone)
  - ▶ Was the contact with the ceiling above the playing area
  - ▶ If the answer to any of these considerations is yes, line judge signal 4 must be used

## RULE 8.4 – BALL 'OUT'

- ▶ The ball is 'out' when:
  - ▶ It touches the antennae, ropes, posts or the net itself outside the side bands: D12 (4)
- ▶ This aspect of the rule is very specific with respect to ball contact and certain objects
- ▶ If the ball touches any of the listed pieces of equipment, line judge signal 4 must be used

## RULE 8.4 – BALL 'OUT'

- ▶ The ball is 'out' when:
  - ▶ It crosses the vertical plane of the net either partially or totally outside the crossing space, except in the case of Rule 10.1.2: D12 (4)
- ▶ Rule 10.1.2 states:
- ▶ The ball that has crossed the net plane to the opponent's free zone totally or partly through the external space, may be played back within the team hits, provided that:
  - ▶ The opponent's court is not touched by the player
  - ▶ The ball, when played back, crosses the net plane again totally or partly through the external space on the same side of the court
  - ▶ The opponent team may not prevent such action

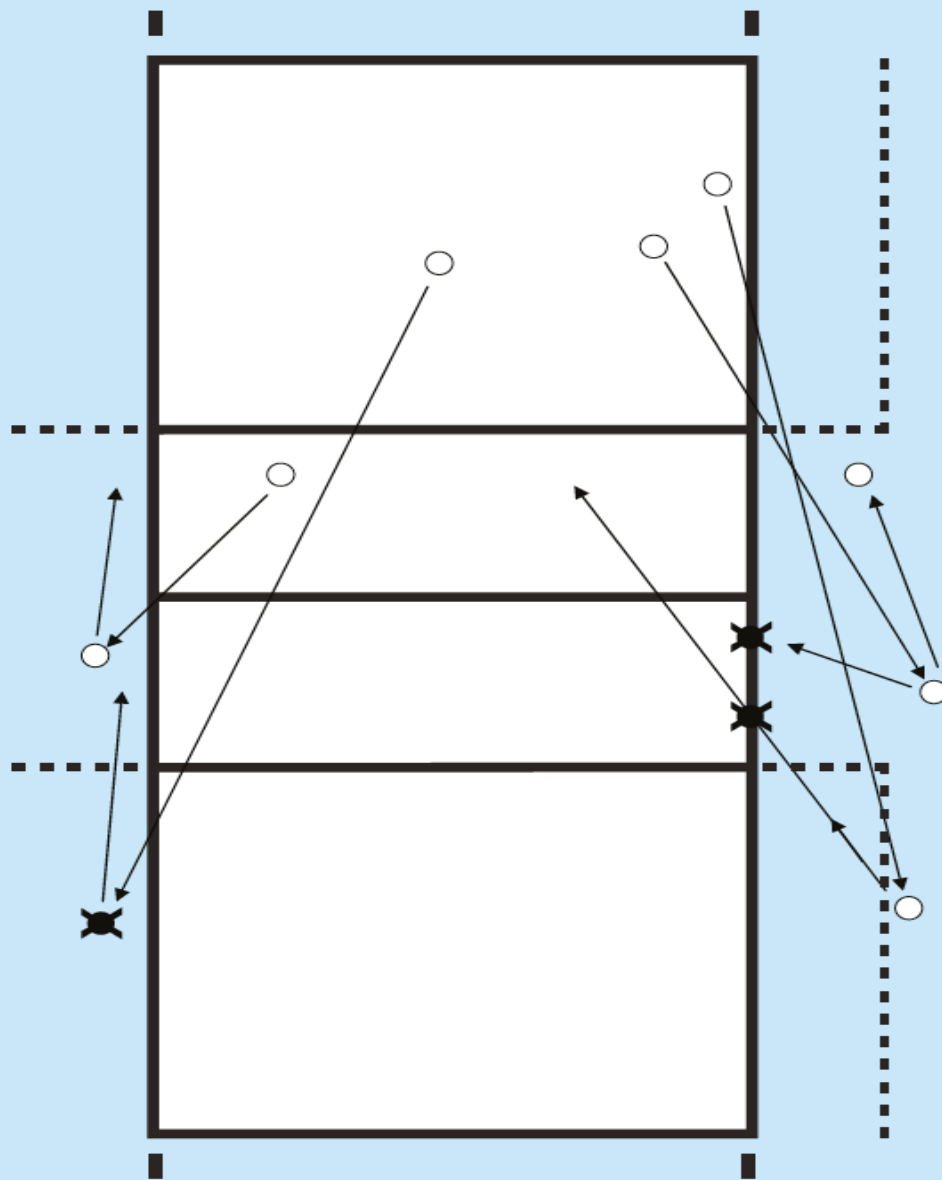
## RULE 8.4 – BALL 'OUT'

- ▶ Expanding our knowledge on these two rules, the line judge must consider the following:
  - ▶ Directionality of the attack hit.
    - ▶ Does the ball travel through the external space into the opponent court
      - ▶ If yes, a fault is committed and signal 4 must be shown by the line judge
      - ▶ If no, no fault is committed and the line judge must continue to observe the rally
    - ▶ Does the ball travel through the external space into the opponent's free zone
      - ▶ If yes, no fault is committed and the line judge must continue to observe the rally
      - ▶ If no, a fault is committed and signal 4 must be shown by the line judge
  - ▶ Directionality of the ball determines whether or not a team may pursue and retrieve the ball from the opponent's free zone

## RULE 8.4 – BALL 'OUT'

- ▶ Expanding our knowledge on these two rules, the line judge must consider the following:
  - ▶ Directionality of the ball retrieved from the opponent's free zone
    - ▶ Does the ball travel back from the opponent's free zone through the crossing space
      - ▶ If yes, a fault is committed and signal 4 must be shown by the line judge
      - ▶ If no, no fault is committed and the line judge must continue to observe the rally
    - ▶ Does the ball travel back from the opponent's free zone through the external space
      - ▶ If yes, no fault is committed and the line judge must continue to observe the rally
      - ▶ If no, a fault is committed and signal 4 must be shown by the line judge

## RULE 8.4 – BALL 'OUT'



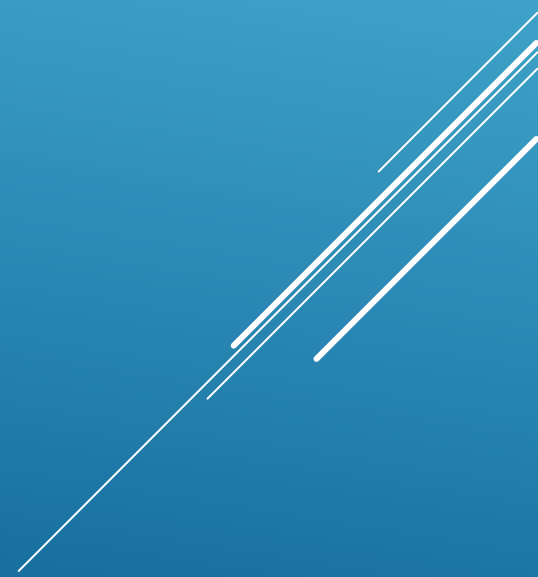
**X = Fault**  
**○ = Correct**

## BALL CROSSING THE VERTICAL PLANE OF THE NET TO THE OPPONENT COURT

Samples of ball directionality and the ability to pursue and retrieve the ball from the opponent's free zone

- ▶ The ball is 'out' when:
  - ▶ It crosses completely the lower space under the net
- ▶ This aspect of the rule is unique in that no line judge signal correlates to the fault, thus all line judges return to a position of rest

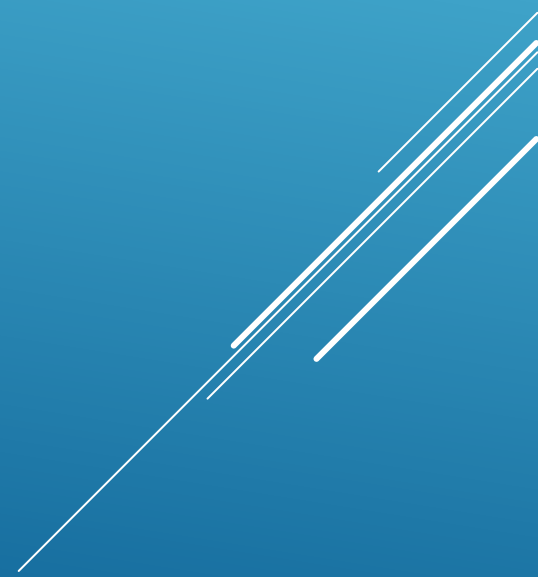
## RULE 8.4 – BALL 'OUT'





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# TECHNICAL RESOURCES





- ▶ Volleyball Canada Rulebook – current edition
- ▶ Volleyball Canada Referee Guidelines – current edition
- ▶ Volleyball Canada Referee FAQ – current edition
- ▶ FIVB website
  - ▶ Multimedia tool for referees
  - ▶ FIVB Casebook

## TECHNICAL RESOURCES FOR LINE JUDGES

