



The Volleyball Official as a Line Judge

The Importance of Line Judges

All certified volleyball officials are trained observers. This is a skill especially required for line judges.

But other than Tournament play it is rare for us to serve as line judges!

Line judges play an essential role in supervising the match along with the other officials. . .

Some High Expectations

Line judges have to maintain the image of the officiating team inside and outside the competition area (i.e. PROFESSIONALISM)

Line judges must show exemplary conduct throughout the competition (including before, during and after!)

They also need to adhere to established timetables (i.e. showing up on time, keeping commitments)

We Understand...

Our decisions may sway the result of a rally, set, or match.

That we have to be prepared, knowing our responsibilities and fulfilling our role to the best of our ability.

That we are one of the cogs in the overall wheel of officiating in a match.

So, let's review our responsibilities!

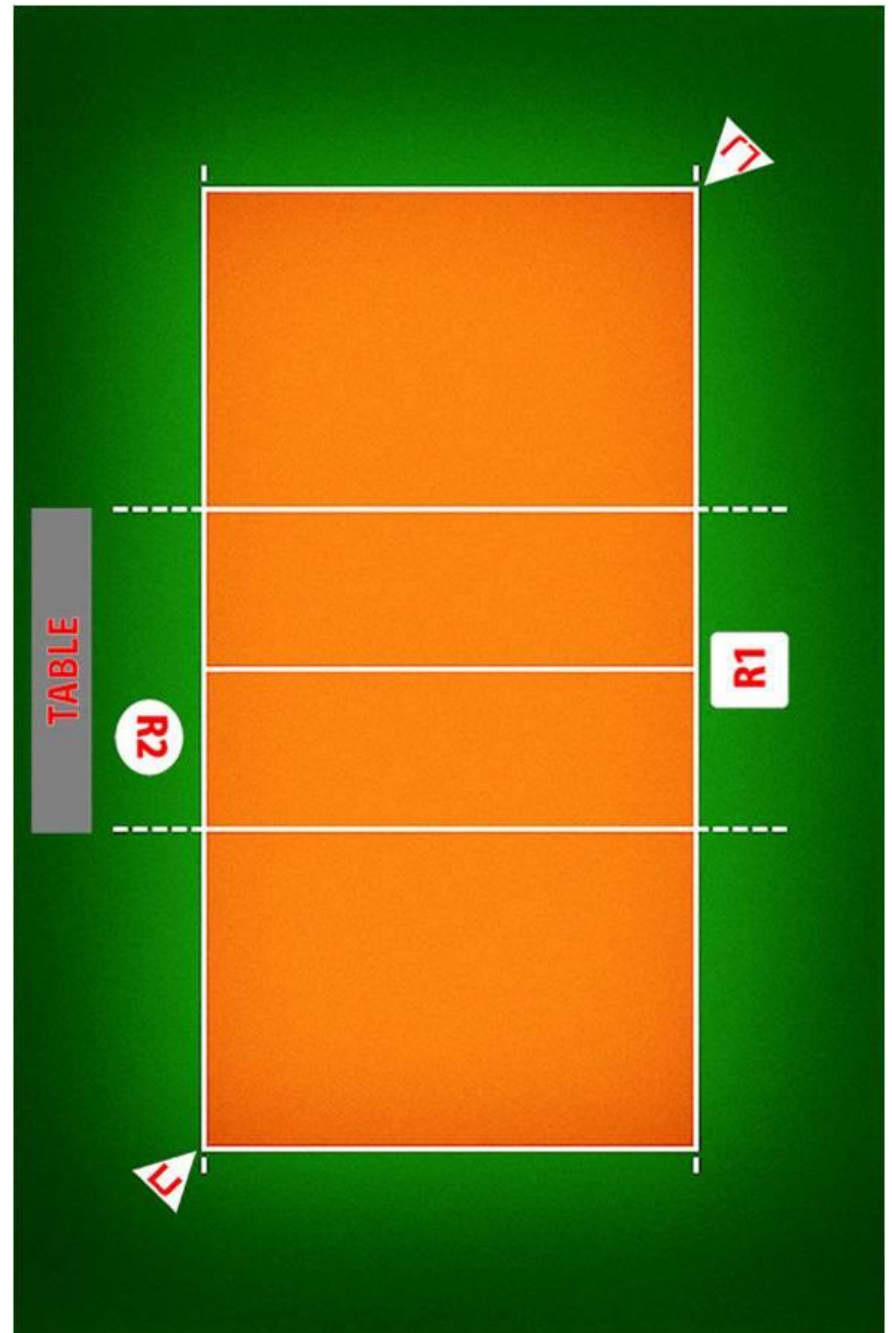
Location for 2 Line Judges

Two Line Judges -they stand in the area at the corners of the court closest to the right hand of each referee, diagonally from each other.

Line Judge #1 (L1) and #2 (L2)
Positioned as per the picture to
the right.

Each line judge supervises two
lines - long and short

Moves to observe the short line
when the server nears the corner



What does Rule 5 tell me?

That as a Line Judge, I perform my function by using flags to signal:

The ball 'in' and 'out' whenever the ball lands near my line.

The touches of 'out' balls by the team RECEIVING the ball.

The ball touching the antenna, any ball crossing the net above or outside the antennae.

The server contacting the end line with a foot at the moment of serve.

FLATS - an easy way to remember responsibilities and duties of the line judge

Foot Faults - indicate foot faults by server

Line - indicate ball in/out of bounds when it lands on or near a sideline/end line

Antennae - indicate if ball crossing net is not between antennas, if ball touches the net or standards outside antennas, or ball touches antennas

Touch - indicate if player touches ball going out of bounds on his/her side of net

Stand - where line judges stand during the set, time-outs, server in left third of service area, etc.

Techniques of Line Judging

Be prepared -this will help you achieve the best level of concentration and condition to work the match

Stand in a position which allows evaluation of play within your jurisdiction -you can move, especially to avoid interfering with play

Signals should be made quickly and should be decisive -the sequence for line judges is:

See

Decide

**Signal, making eye contact with
R1**

Warming up the eyes -Preparing to make a call

Our attention span during play is of major importance.

Continual scanning of the ball in play and the line of responsibility allows for temporary evaluation.

We look from the ball to the line and back about 2-3 times per play to ready ourselves for judgment.

This is done by moving the eyes rather than the head (unless head movement is necessary).

Other Line Judging Keys

Focus

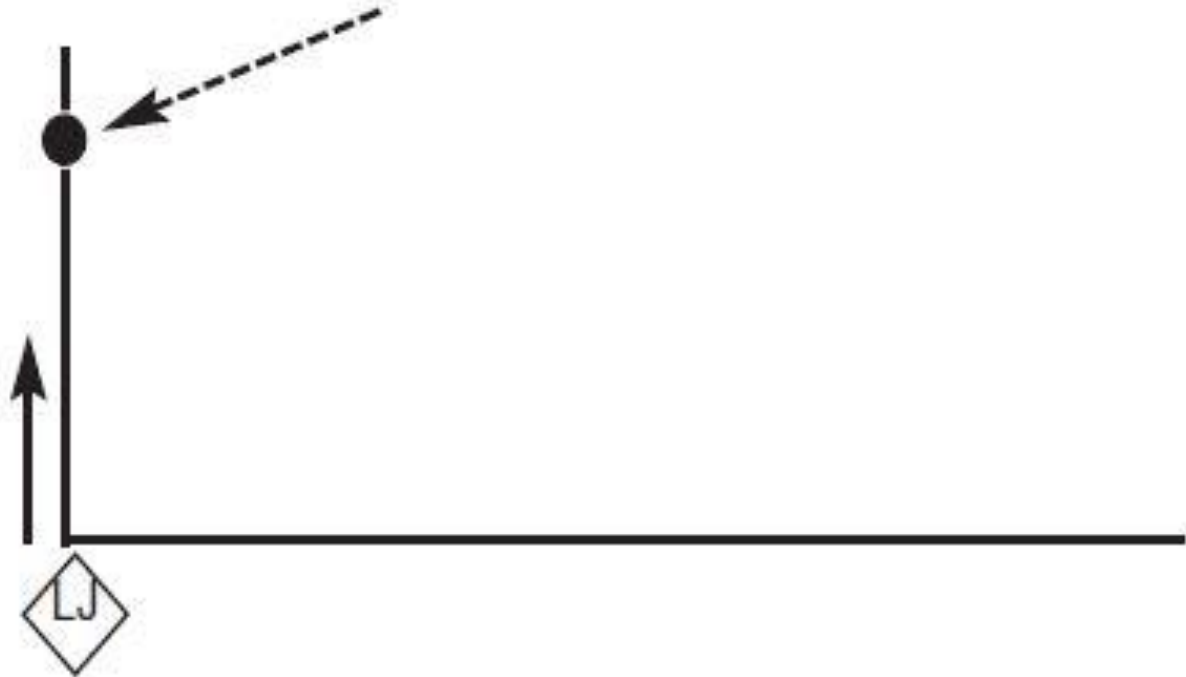
Pay attention to those points or areas where the rally is taking place.

Briefly follow the ball path, then change focus (the 'snap-shot' method)

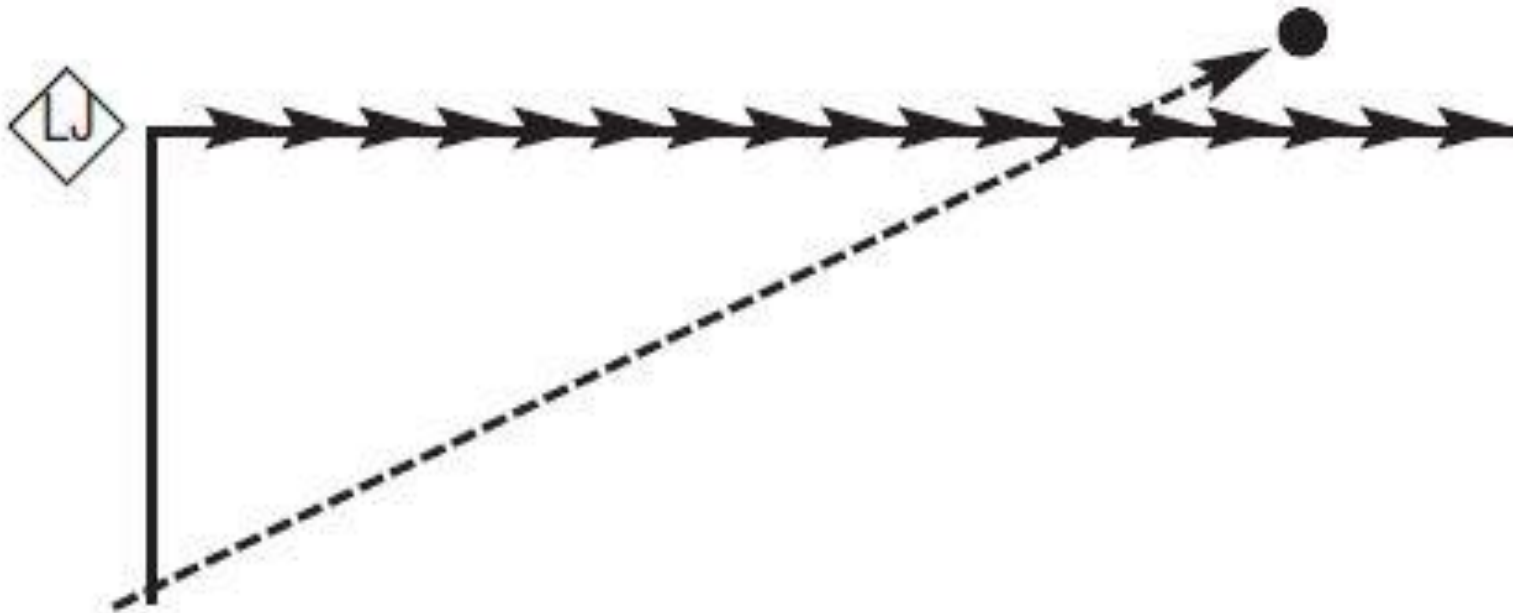
Anticipation

Looking forward after seeing the initial contact,
and
anticipate the landing where a decision is required

Line judges must know that some part of the ball that touches the floor must actually touch some part of the boundary line for it to be inbounds.

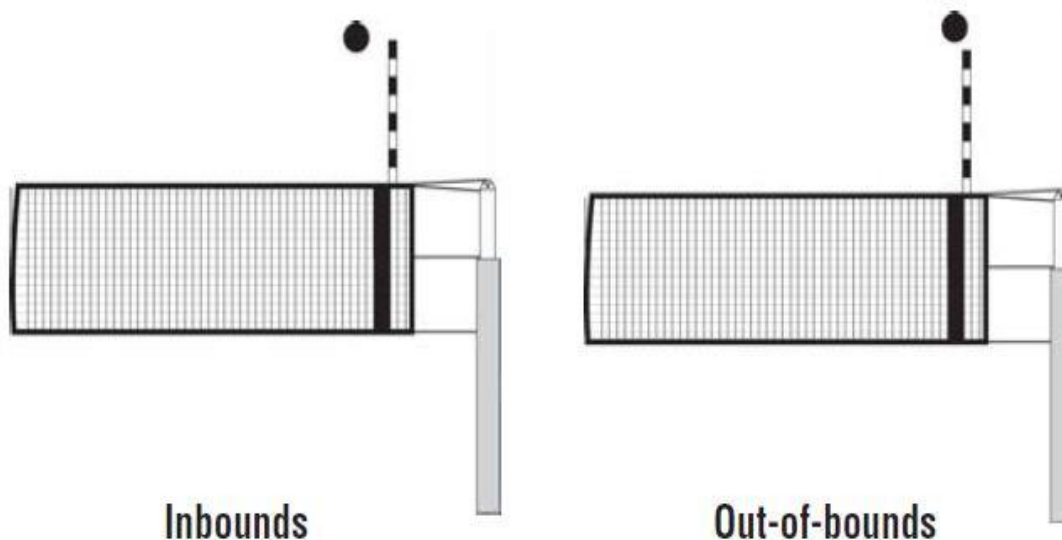


When a ball is going toward the sideline on the other side of the net the line judge should be lined up with that sideline.



Positioning - General Responsibilities:

Line judges should consider that the net antennas extend up to the ceiling so the ball must cross the net entirely within the net antennas or within the net antennas extended. A ball contacting the antenna within the body of the net is out.

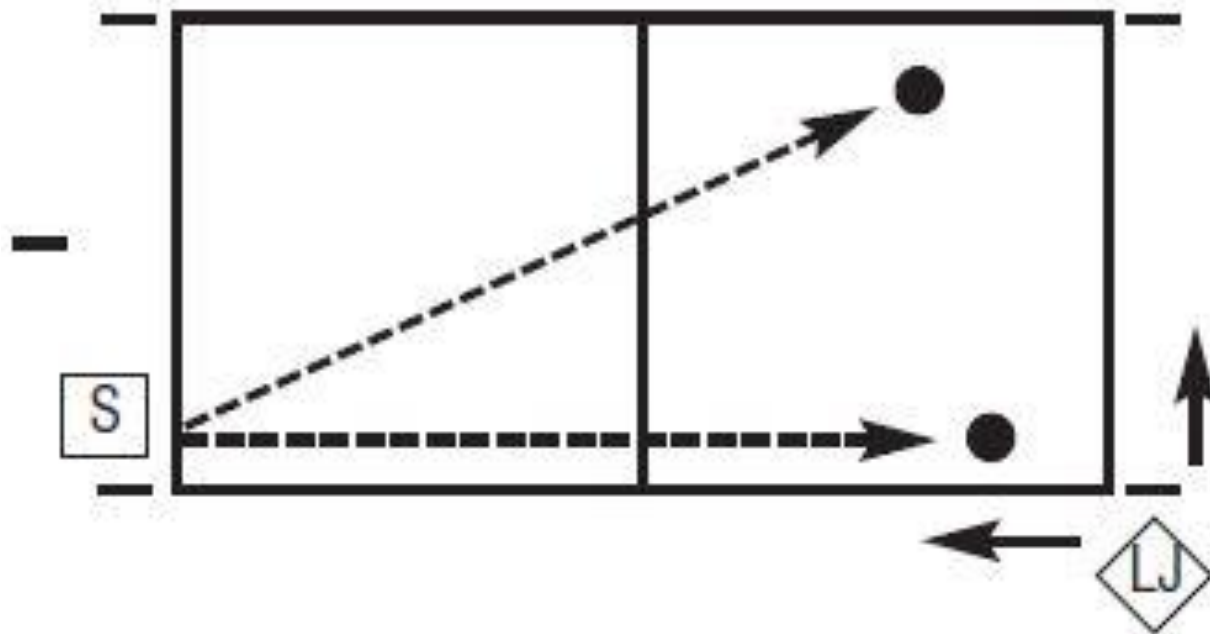


Special Situations

- 1. The serving team line judge should be positioned to watch for line violations along the end line even if he/she must move to avoid interfering with a server who serves near the left sideline. He/she must be ready to observe the sidelines and net antennas the moment the ball is contacted on the serve. After contact of serve, the line judge should quickly resume original position.**
- 2. If the server serves from the left third of the service area, the line judge on the serving team's side shall move directly back toward the extension of the endline, out of the peripheral view of the server, until the ball is contacted for serve. Then the line judge quickly moves back into position at the intersection of the end line and left sideline.**

Special Situations

3. The receiving team line judge should be positioned in line with the sideline for which he/she is responsible when the ball is contacted so he/she can observe the sideline and net antennas as the ball crosses the net.



Body Positioning

There are essentially three positions when line judging

1. Relaxed -feet closer together, standing erect, flag held down along the side or back of the leg

Body Position

Ready position -

higher knee bend,
athletic position

with feet shoulder
width apart, one foot
in front of the other;
as play progresses
this transitions to a
deeper knee bend and
allows for movement
as necessary.



Body Position

Signaling - back to erect standing position, with flag used to indicate detected fault (if no fault, you revert to relaxed position)



Movement

During a rally, line judges may need to move from their assigned locations -this is usually to:

Avoid interfering with players playing the ball

Better observe a ball crossing the net near an antennae

To keep the ball in sight during ball contact with player(s) or equipment, including the 'pancake' dig

To keep their body facing the action at all times

To report to the first referee when summoned to the referee stand

What do you mean, I'm wrong???

Keep in mind, when working as a line judge and signaling, you're indicating judgment

The first referee may or may not agree with your assessment -if the first referee disagrees, don't insist on your signal

Relax, refocus, and "Don't let your eyes get as big as dinner plates."



What do you mean, I'm wrong???

Note to R1: The Line judge should **ONLY** be over-ruled on an obvious error. The R1 must be absolutely sure that the incorrect call was made.

For example: If the LJ calls a ball out but you clearly had a blocker touch right in front of you, then call the touch. . . But if you are not aware of a touch and the LJ calls a touch, it is best to go with that LJ's call. You would be absolutely positive there was no touch to over rule!



Discussions and Consequences

At no time should there be any discussion between a team member (coach, player, etc.) and a line judge.

If a coach attempts to request a time out or substitution via the line judge, politely remind him/her that he/she needs to direct the request to the R1 or R2.

If the line judge is being harassed or notices some other irregularity, they should signal and go to the first referee to inform them of the facts -only the first referee can apply sanctions if necessary.

Time Outs

During time outs and between sets the line judges are to report to the side of the R1 and stand at the intersection of the side line and attack line.



During Deciding Set Coin Toss

The line judges will take their timeout position at the attack lines on the first referee's side of the court and wait until the coin toss is complete.

If the teams are switching courts, the line judges wait until all participants have changed benches and then take the game ball to the score table. If teams do not switch courts, wait until the area near the score table has cleared and then return the game ball to the table. The line judges will take their between set position



Line Judge Reminders

Maintain a professional demeanor before, during and after a match. Avoid overly familiar contact with spectators, players or coaches throughout the event.

Get your eyes to the line before the ball, but only after you have determined that no player is in position to make a play on the ball.

Face the line, stay with the ball that is coming near your position. If necessary, take the hit for the team and then recover.

Be alert to a player or players coming toward you to chase a ball. Avoid going in the direction of the ball.

If you have an opinion about a touch, antenna fault or pancake, make a signal regardless of the side of the court.

If you do not have an opinion, do not mimic your partner's signal.

Line Judge Reminders

Avoid any dialogue with players, coaches or spectators. Continue eye contact with the first referee.

Signal an antenna fault by waving the flag back and forth and pointing with the other hand if the ball contacts an antenna above or below the top of the net, a portion of the net outside the antenna, the straps, cables or pole

Either line judge can call a fault on either antenna. The line judges are responsible for calling a fault if the ball touches the antenna, but not a player.

When an antenna fault requires additional information, indicate the team at fault.

To indicate a fault by the team on the near side of the net, give the antenna fault signal and then extend the right arm toward the center of that court. If the team on the opposite side of the net committed the fault, extend the left arm straight out along the sideline.

Line Judge Reminders

When moving to judge a wide ball being returned to the opponent, be cautious not to move too far from base position. Recover to your line quickly in case you need to call a ball landing near a line.

Anticipate pancakes by reading the tip, off-speed shot, short serve or ball coming off a block. Move like a defender in order to get a good look at the pancake. Typically, you do not need to move more than two or three feet. Refrain from moving unnecessarily to avoid being a distraction.

When a player chases a ball off the court and unsuccessfully attempts to pancake the ball, signal that the ball hit the floor by pointing the flag down, and then follow with a touch signal.

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End of Match Protocol

Collect the game ball and return it to the score table.

Leave the playing area quickly using the exit plan established by the R1.

Do not engage in discussions with coaches, players or team representatives. At the gym door, wait for the R2 to finish his/her responsibilities and join you and leave the gym together.

During the post-match debrief, line judges need to engage in the discussion pertinent to the line judge duties or calls. Refrain from critiquing your fellow officials unless your opinion is requested

Be a good team player.

Questions???

