



Understanding the Officials' Hand Signals

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In volleyball, there are generally 2 officials. The first referee directs the game from a stand and a second referee stands opposite near the net. A whistle is blown to initiate and to end each play. The official will first signal the fault or cause of the play ending, and then signal which team won the point. This is a summary of hand signals that accompany the whistles.

1. Out of bounds



Ball is out of bounds, outside antenna or player illegally in adjacent court.

5. Begin Service



The official indicates that the server may now serve.

9. Out of rotation



At the time of service you must not overlap the person directly next to you.

2. Touch



Ball is out of bounds after contacting a player.

6. Net violation



The serve or a player touches the net.

10. Back row attack



Attacking the ball above the net and leaving from in front of the 3 meter line.

3. 4 contacts



Four fingers up. You only get 3 contacts.

7. Play over



Two thumbs up. A fault by both teams, a serve over or official's inadvertent whistle or mistake.

11. Sanction card



A yellow card is a warning. A red card is a point. Red and yellow together is an ejection.

4. Point



Winner of the rally. One finger raised on the side of the court that won the rally.

Carry



Held, thrown or carried ball. Too much contact time.



Held, thrown or carried ball. Too much contact time.

12. Change sides



Between games or halfway through a deciding game.

13. Ball in bounds



Pointing to the area of the court where the ball landed.

14. Double hit



Two fingers up. Ball contacted more than once by a player. The block does not count.

15. Over the net



Contacting the ball before it has broken the plane of the net or before the opponent hits it.

16. Game over



Same for the end of the match.

