



COBRA Volleyball

Spectator Rules and Expectations



Rule 1 – Keep positive support, encouragement, cheerleading and general hollering and yelling to a minimum on the sidelines.

When players are working hard, they need and deserve everyone's best **POSITIVE encouragement and support**. They need to know you are there. Most teams have a tough enough time developing a sense of teamwork and achievement as they are also developing their own individual experience and skill.

Rule 2 – Just one word on criticizing players, coaches or referees, **DON'T**.

Publicly criticizing players on your team can really hurt morale. They will already have an excellent idea, from all the practicing they have already done, as to their errors. **They do NOT need reminders from their families, friends and other spectators.** The players for the other team are also doing their best. Criticism is simply poor sportsmanship and leads to unnecessary bad feelings on and off the playing area. The unfortunate spectacle of a supposed adult shouting insults at a child or other adult is disgusting. Volleyball is a game, not a war. When the opponents make a great play, give them positive encouragement too.

The referees are making judgment calls on each and every contact, and will err at times. Referees may make mistakes, but they never make a bad call in their heart, they too are doing their best to ensure it is fair play for both teams. **The referee might ignore you, but also has the right to ask you to leave the playing area.** Either situation is at best distracting from the most important thing going on, the player's competition.

Rule 3 – Leave the player coaching to the coaches.

This is a game for the players. Coaches are already there on the bench to guide the players and in the stress of the game, there needs to be just one source of feedback, that from the coach. If you think an athlete is not doing what should be done, tell the coaches in private, not the player. As others not on the team occasionally discover, a player may be doing exactly what the coaches have instructed. Either way, a parent can help a player's development much better working with the coaches, not independently.

Rule 4 – Set an example in your actions and words.

Do Not break the rules and expectations of a spectator. Players on the court can be removed from the game for foul language, and spectators can too. Degrading actions, behaviors, and words are the bane of sports character development. **If these actions and behaviors are occurring the spectator will be asked to leave the Field House and possibly banned from future events.** Leave the Field House better than you found it in by being a great role model, pick up after yourselves, be respectful to staff, players, and other spectators.

Rule 5 – Remember, it is a game

Therefore, it is supposed to be fun. Please remember, YOUR attitude in the spectating area can affect the mood and success of the team. **Any spectator who persists in inappropriate behavior may be asked to leave the Field House and possibly banned from future events.** Emotions run high in competition, and feelings are easily hurt. Be tolerant. The place to talk about the game with the coaches is not in the Field House, and not around the players.

These are young children that are putting forth their very best and the idea of this club is to help each player, regardless of age and/or skill, to develop their own self as an athlete. This process of learning and self-improvement for each child is a journey, and not a destination.

Thank you,
Sasha Rindone
COBRA Volleyball Coordinator