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Ontario Volleyball Association Triple Ball – Frequently Asked Questions November 2009

Question 1: How does serve and rotation work in the Triple Ball format?

Answer: The first ball is served normally by an athlete. The second ball is a free ball that is tossed to the player in position #6 on the opposite team from the one that served the first ball. The third ball is a free ball that is tossed to the player in position #6 on the team that originally served the first ball.

Each of these three balls counts as a point in the match. Rotation only occurs when a team gains possession of the ball to begin serving, the team that just served cannot rotate until they regain possession again. After each three ball sequence, the service goes to the opposite team to allow for rotation and begin the next three ball sequence. The same team will never serve more than one ball in a row.

Question 2: Who tosses the two free balls after the original served ball? Which team do they toss the ball to?

Answer: The free balls which are tossed into play during a Triple Ball sequence are done so by Coaches, Parents, and anyone a team feels is able to complete this duty in a professional and effective manner. The coach or parent tosses the ball to their own team.

Question 3: How does scoring work in Triple Ball?

Answer: Sets go up to 25 points; each Triple Ball sequence awards one (1) point for each of the three (3) balls served and tossed into play.

Question 4: Is each serve and each toss recorded as a point on the scoresheet?

Answer: Each rally results in a point. In the three (3) point sequence, three (3) points are awarded.

Question 5: If two teams are tied at 23 points each at the beginning of a change of service, and Team A wins the next two (2) points making the score 25 - 23, does this end the set?

Answer: Yes, a game can be won in the middle of a three-ball sequence. The game ends when the score is 25-23.

Question 6: What if the tossed free ball does not go to the player in Position #6; can anyone on the court play the ball?

Answer: No. The player in 6 must contact the ball.

Question 7: Since the free ball is to be thrown to position #6, what is the resulting call if the ball is taken by an athlete in a different position, or the ball does not go to a place where the #6 player can play the ball (example, ball does not go over net)?

Answer: The ball can only be contacted by the player in position #6. A re-toss is to be called by the official if the position #6 player is not the one to pass the free ball. The official should call a "re-toss" if the toss forces the player in position #6 to move and contact the ball in an off balance or out of control position.

Question 8: I have never seen Triple Ball before, where can I view this format of play prior to my tournament?

Answer: The OVA website will have a Triple Ball video available online after November 26, 2009. This video will provide game play analysis and include demonstrations that depict what is expected from teams playing Triple Ball.

Question 9: If a team has designated a setting position (for example, in position #2) and the second contact pass taken from the free ball is not taken by the player in #2 (it goes to the player in #5), is this an automatic loss of point?

Answer: No, the rally should be played out. All that matters is that the designated player be ready to set at the net.

Question 10: On a "free ball", must the second contact person (the setter) set the ball, or can the ball be sent over the net by this player?

Answer: The ball can be sent over the net. The intent of having the coach toss the ball is to make a rally (pass/volley/spike) easier for the athletes to achieve. Players should be discouraged from sending the free ball over on the first contact.

Question 11: Should a player who takes a free ball toss with an overhand contact that results in a double hit be called for a poor contact (equivalent to service reception)?

Answer: Yes. The first contact should be called with the same standards as the second contact or contact by the designated setter.

Question 12: Are all three (3) sets are to be played in the round robin matches? Does the third set count towards the tournament standings even if one team has won the first two sets? Is it always recorded on the tournament standing scoreboard?

Answer: The third set is only included in the round robin tournament standings if the first two sets have been split and the third set is played out. Matches in playoff will be played best 2 out of 3.

Question 13: Are linesman to be used in these games? If not, does the tosser have the opportunity to make line calls?

Answer: Linespeople are not required in triple ball. If teams want to provide linespeople, they can. Only officials will be responsible for line calls if there are no linespeople working that game.

Question 14: What side of the Court do the Tossers stand on?

Answer: Tossers are to stand on the same side of the bench.

Question 15: Do the officials have to blow the whistle for the Tossers to throw the free ball into play or is it only a verbal command or a hand signal, or both from the Tossers?

Answer: The Tossers' job is to ensure the team is reminded to get to the net and then once they are ready, would verbally cue their team that a Freeball" is coming. At this point, the Tossers tosses the ball to position #6. The official does not need to blow their whistle or cue the tosser unless the tosser forgets it's their turn when throwing in the free ball.