

I do not understand my referee strength rating number. Can you help?

The current rating system for USA Volleyball referees was developed in 1999. The rating system is used in two ways:

- (1) It is used at the national tournaments by assigners in assigning matches to referees;
- (2) It is used to evaluate the candidacy of Junior National Referees for national ratings. The ratings are not released to outside organizations.

New **Junior National** Referees are assigned a rating of 40; new **National** Referees are assigned a rating of 60 and **International** Referees are assigned a rating of 96. These ratings are based on ratings of levels of play that we developed in 1999. Those ratings go from 10 (12 year olds) to 100 (World Cup matches). Other points of reference are Open matches at the USA Volleyball Championships (70-90); MPVA men's collegiate matches (80-90), and women's collegiate matches in the very top conferences (60-70).

A rating of 60 or above allows a **Junior National** or **National** Referee to officiate any matches at either the Boy's or Girl's Junior National Championships, including the finals in Gold Divisions. A value of 40-60 allows all matches except the Open division gold (18-17-16). A rating of 80 or above allows a National Referee to officiate any matches at the USA Volleyball Championships except the Open Division. A rating of 90 is required for officiating in that division.

The beginning settings of ratings for all existing referees in 2000 were done as follows. Data were gathered from the USA Volleyball Championships for 1997-2000. Data were gathered from the junior boys and junior girls tournaments from 1999 and 2000. We looked at the highest-level matches that were done. Referees were assigned ratings on the basis of the best quality matches that they had done over those 8 tournaments. A panel that included the last three AVP's for referees and the VP for the Officials Commission then reviewed these ratings. Individuals who did not attend tournaments over this time period were given the lowest ratings. Some changes in the ratings were done based on our knowledge of the person's activity outside USA Volleyball.

The ratings were used for the first time in 2001. Other than the restrictions given above, no **National** or **Junior National** Referee was constrained from doing any matches at the national tournaments. The ratings were used to set the AVERAGE quality matches that were done by people in an average rating category. Thus, those **National** Referees with ratings of 80 typically have average match qualities about 5 points better than those with ratings of 70. However, each referee will have some high rating matches and some with lower ratings.

At the end of each national tournament, the ratings are reviewed. The Head Referees and rating team members make adjustments that they feel are appropriate. Individuals who do a good job at the tournaments have their ratings increased by two points if they

attended the USA Volleyball Championships. Individuals who are judged to be ready to move to the next level generally have a rating 5 points between levels. Thus, a current **National** Referee with a rating of 85 will receive Open Division matches that are available when ratings of 90 and above have been assigned. The highest current rating for **Junior National** Referees is 60.