

## Clarification - Poll Question

(10/14/2018 Webinar)

During the CVVOA Webinar on Sunday, 10/14/2018, there was some additional discussion about a poll question related to what an assistant coach can do after the head coach has received a card. Following are screen shots of that poll question along with the subsequent rule references:

**Poll Question – Select all that Apply**

- The Head Coach gets a Yellow Card during Set 1
- **In set 2 – Assistant coach is allowed to:**
  - A. Stand at the bench to greet a replaced player
  - B. Confer with players during time-outs
  - C. Stand (only in the libero replacement zone) to coach his/her players during play no closer to the court than 6 feet from the sideline
  - D. Spontaneously react to an outstanding play by a player(s) of their own team
  - E. Confer with officials during specifically requested time-outs

**Rule 12-2**

- **ART. 6 . . .** The head coach may stand only in the libero replacement zone to coach his/her players. During play, the head coach shall be no closer to the court than 6 feet from the sideline. **If a card (yellow and/or red other than an administrative yellow or red card assessed for unnecessary delay) is issued for unsporting conduct to the head coach, assistant coach(es) or team bench, the head coach shall remain seated for the remainder of the match except:**
  - ⊙ a. To request a time-out or substitution during a dead ball;
  - ⊙ b. To confer with officials during specifically requested time-outs;
  - ⊙ c. As provided in Rule 12-2-5, items a through e.
- **NOTES:**
  - ⊙ **1. The privilege to stand during play shall NOT be designated to an assistant coach.**
  - ⊙ **2. Administrative yellow or administrative red cards issued for unnecessary delay shall not require the head coach to remain seated for the remainder of the match.**
- **ART. 7 . . .** Teammates and other bench personnel other than the head or assistant coach(es) (Rules 12-2-5, 12-2-6) shall remain seated on the team bench during a set except to:
  - ⊙ a. Spontaneously react to an outstanding play by members of their own team;
  - ⊙ b. Go to a nonplayable area to warm up without volleyballs prior to entry into the set as a substitute;
  - ⊙ c. Stand at the bench to greet a replaced player(s), then immediately sit down.

One of the reasons for the poll question is to emphasize a couple of rule points which are highlighted in yellow. The administrative card to the coach applies for the entire match, and the assistant coach does not gain the privilege to stand (or for that matter, any additional privileges as a result of the card).

Art 7 states seating requirements for teammates and other bench personnel. Please note, restrictions for the head and assistant coach(es) are addressed by Rules 12-2-5 and 12-2-6.

- ART. 5 . . . Assistant coaches shall remain seated on the bench during a set except to:
- a. Ask the second referee, during a dead-ball situation, to review the accuracy of the score, verify the number of time-outs used, request the serving order of his/her team, or verify the proper server for the opponent;
  - b. Stand at the bench to greet a replaced player;
  - c. Confer with players during time-outs;
  - d. Spontaneously react to an outstanding play by a player(s) of their own team;
  - e. Attend to an injured player with permission of a referee.

A key point which may not be so obvious is that once the head coach is required to sit they can no longer stand during a dead ball to coach their players. Rule 12.2.6.c takes that ability away by also applying the assistant coach restrictions to the head coach.

Another reason for the poll question was to point out that only the head coach can participate in a discussion to review a decision by a referee (Rule 11.3.1):

ART. 1 . . . To review a decision by a referee that may have resulted in an incorrect decision, the head coach may request and be granted a time-out, provided the request is made during the dead ball immediately following the situation in which the possible incorrect decision occurred. When a time-out is so granted, the head coach shall confer with the first referee at the first referee's platform. If the conference results in the first referee altering the ruling, the opposing coach shall be notified by the second referee, the revision made, and the time-out charged to the referee.

Clearly, only the head coach can call a time-out and then participate in a discussion with the R1. Here's a related Casebook situation:

**11.3.1 SITUATION B:**

During a Team S time-out, the coach asks the second referee to have the first referee to reconsider: (a) an illegal hit call; (b) a back-row player attack call because of the height of the ball; (c) a back-row player call because the player was really the RF; (d) a misapplication of a rule.

**RULING:** (a) and (b) no discussion; (c) and (d) discussion continues.

**COMMENT:** If the decision was incorrect and changes, play resumes immediately, and the time-out is not charged to Team S. Judgment calls, such as in (a) and (b) are not subject to review.

So, lots of information and minute rule details are covered here. In the poll question, item "E" in the list of possible answers was intended as a specific reference to Rule 12.2.6.b (see above), so the correct answers would indeed be "A, B and D" as stated in the webinar. However, all time-outs are specifically requested, so many understood item "E" to be a general TO reference, during which an assistant coach can indeed ask several questions, so in that case the answers would be "A, B, D and E" (I believe 50% of us included item "E").

Wording things for perfect clarity by everyone is extremely difficult, if not nearly impossible. This poll question is such an example, which also serves as a good reminder why all of us as officials need to use language included in the rules when answering a question or addressing a game situation.