NORCECA Congress 2026

Refereeing Commission Report

Pati Rolf, President

ACHIEVEMENTS

Continuous Improvement of Refereeing Standards

- Supported a significant number of events with positive performances by our NORCECA Referees and Coaches
- Long-term strategy to strengthen refereeing across **NORCECA**
- Consistency, credibility, and effective game management
- Advanced the evolution of modern volleyball
- Developed referees through education, feedback, and continuous learning
- Encourage confident communication and preventive officiating
- Building a shared refereeing philosophy throughout NORCECA

Key Message: Continuous improvement through education, mentoring, and collaboration

Cooperation with FIVB

- Strong partnership between **NORCECA** and the **FIVB Rules of the Game & Refereeing Commission**
- Collaboration on referee development and education
- Support a common interpretation of rules and refereeing philosophy
- Expand opportunities for **NORCECA** referees in FIVB competitions. This is a priority
- Collaborate on referee mentoring and development programs
- Prepare and mentor the next generation of international referees

Key Message: Develop world-class referees and ensure consistency across NORCECA and FIVB

Continuous Education & Knowledge Assessment

- Continuous learning and mentoring at events with Referee Coaches
- Feedback regarding management of players and coaches
- Updates dates on rules, interpretations, and procedures
- Direct WhatsApp communication for matches promotes feedback, guidance, and continuous referee development
- Developing a PPT with video for coaches and referees to align understanding of the new rules in modern volleyball to Keep the Ball Flying
- Develop a culture of lifelong learning across **NORCECA**

Key Message: Continuous education creates confident, consistent, and well-prepared referees and coaches

Development Activities

- **NORCECA** hosted a **Continental** Beach Referee Candidate Course, St. Kitts
- **FIVB Empowerment** support at the ECVA U20 Championships
- 16 candidates from 12 NORCECA countries (11 men, 5 women)
- 4 candidates successfully completed the program, while 7 candidates were identified for additional experience and study over the next 1-2 years to support future advancement
- 1 candidate was recommended for the indoor volleyball pathway, and 4 candidates will continue with follow-up education, mentoring, and development activities

Key Message: Expanding opportunities and strengthening the referee pipeline across **NORCECA** and **FIVB**

Continental Beach Referee Candidate Course, St. Kitts



Development Activities

- **FIVB** hosted a **Volleyball Referee Course in Doha, Qatar**, creating a pathway to FIVB Category C level
- Focused on identifying and developing referees from underrepresented countries to broaden confederation representation
- Promoted opportunities for **women referees**, supporting greater gender balance in the international referee pathway
- NORCECA was allowed three referees, 2 women and 1 man – Referees from Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and Honduras attended. We are excited to announce all three were successful

Key Message: Expanding opportunities and developing diverse referee talent across NORCECA

Goals for 2027

- Continue strengthening NORCECA's refereeing standards through education, mentoring, and a consistent philosophy
- Continue providing opportunities for women and for underrepresented countries
- Build a strong pipeline of referees ready for international competition
- Maintain close cooperation with FIVB to ensure consistency worldwide for athletes, coaches, teams, and referees.
- Use Zoom to host cost-effective Referee Development Seminars, using digital learning, video analysis, and assessment tools, with support from the NORCECA Development Center
- Host an International Indoor Referee Candidate Course in early 2027, date pending

Gracias

Thank you