

**GBR**

Denis Le Breuilly

In 1991 whilst refereeing the Volleyball England Men's National Cup Final (able-bodied) in London I was invited by Gordon Neale to attend a sitting volleyball clinic to see whether I was comfortable refereeing athletes with a physical impairment. I enjoyed the experience and the following year qualified to referee both sitting and standing at an ISOD International referee course, again organised by Gordon. Unfortunately, it was not until 1999, seven years later, that I received my first standing appointment as an International Referee. It was then that I was 'hooked' on standing.

Referee Appointments:

1999 Pan-Am Open/World Cup in Laval, Canada – standing qualifier for Sydney. Having been appointed to the best matches, nearly all going to five sets, including USA v Canada for a place at the Sydney Paralympics, I was totally enthused by standing, the standard of the play and the approach of the players and officials.

2001 World Cup in Púchov, Slovakia. Appointed as 1st Referee for both the final and a semi-final. Two of the best matches in standing history. This was unfortunately my last standing event as a referee because I had reached the referee retirement age of 55. Prior to the final, I was presented with an award for services to refereeing.

Other events attended included:

2006 - Triple World Championships – Roermond, The Netherlands – Jury Member
2009 - World Cup – Phnom Penh, Cambodia – Referee Delegate and Observer
2011 - World Cup – Phnom Penh, Cambodia – Sport Director

After compulsory retirement as a referee, for the next 12 years my contribution to standing was through my roles within the International Federation, including:

2006-2008 Interim General Manager - promoting the continuation of standing after the discipline was excluded from the Paralympics in 2000 by IPC
2006-2010 Secretary of the Referee Commission





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Processing standing volleyball rules after changes announced by FIVB Congress
Developing course materials, from Level 1 (National) to Level 3 (International), always based on the standing rules with sitting differences identified
Recommending referee appointments and administering the process
2010-2018 World ParaVolley Sport Director
As Sport Director and Technical Official, ensuring the continuation of standing volleyball under WPV Rules and Regulations, particularly the World Cups in Cambodia in 2009 and 2011. Unfortunately, unable to secure 2013
Ratifying appointments by the Referee and Technical Commissions, which are part of the Sport Department

Awards received:

2001 – Award for services to refereeing. Presented by President Juan Pont at World Cup in Puchov, Slovakia
2018 – Honorary Life Membership. Presented by President Barry Couzner OAM at World ParaVolley General Assembly in Papendal, The Netherlands

Official posts held:

World ParaVolley Sport Director - 2010–2018 – two terms of office
Member of the Board of Directors – 2006-2008 (Interim GM) and 2010-2018 (Sport Director)
Interim International Federation General Manager – 2006-2008
WOVD/WPV Referee Commission Secretary 2006-2010
Chair of World ParaVolley Awards Committee – (sitting 2019-2020, standing 2020-2021)
Senior Staff Technical Official and Tutor
Senior Staff Referee Official – Tutor and Observer

Previously also:

Chair of Rules Commission
Chair of Constitution Working Party

