



**Volleyball England Referee Commission  
International Referee's Report**

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Report prepared by: Glynn Archibald

Event: Rio 2016 Paralympic Games  
Brazil

Technical responsibility: Appointed International Referee

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With all of the bad press in the build-up to the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, it was certainly good to arrive and find that all was not doom and gloom. The reception was warm, as was to be expected from a country steeped in music and culture. Following the accreditation process at the airport, it was out to the buses to get to the Paralympic Village where we were being accommodated. On the journey from the airport, there was a visible security presence in the form of Military Forces and Police. Our Brazilian hosts were taking no chances with security.

Check-in at the village was a breeze and I found myself sharing an apartment with three other International Referees. I had met them all before, so it was an opportunity to renew old friendships. For the Paralympics, twenty referees were appointed, but alas, one of our colleagues could not make the trip at the last minute. That still left a team of nineteen International Referees representing all of the World ParaVolley zones for the big occasion.

Leading the team were Referee Delegate Mr Gaby Lotan who was ably assisted by Assistant Referee Delegate Mr Pierre Farmer. In addition, we have the invaluable contributions of two referee observers, Peter Koncnik and Anton Probst.



Standing l-r: Pierre Farmer, Anton Probst, Janko Plesnik, Khalid Shanishah, Adnan Kolos, Benno Meijer, Dominik Raca, Dan Apol, Stephen Giugni, Toomas Murulo, Ronaldo Chaves, Erick Gaju, Peter Koncnik  
Sitting l-r: Gaby Lotan, Ebrahim Firouzi, Glynn Archibald, Malsoon Jung, Sari Mannersuo, Mari-Claude Richer, Ana Santorio, Debora Santos, An Qi, Kirsten Kohn

Our schedule for the two weeks in Brazil was:

4 <sup>th</sup> September	Arrival of International Referees
5 <sup>th</sup> September	Collection of uniforms, Referee Clinic (Theory), Written Examination
6 <sup>th</sup> September	Referee Clinic (Practical)
7 <sup>th</sup> September	Opening Ceremony
8 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> September	Competition days (4 matches per day)
18 <sup>th</sup> September	Closing Ceremony
19 <sup>th</sup> September	Departure

The competition was made up of eight men’s teams and eight women’s teams, with the teams being grouped into two pools of four teams as follows:

Men’s Tournament		Women’s Tournament	
Pool A	Pool B	Pool A	Pool B
Brazil	Iran	Brazil	China
Egypt	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Ukraine	USA
Germany	Ukraine	Netherlands	Iran
USA	China	Canada	Rwanda

With four matches scheduled each day, there was some opportunity for sightseeing. The referees made good use of the opportunity to visit some of the tourist sights including the famous Copacabana Beach, Sugarloaf Mountain and Christ the Redeemer.

The early matches proved to be very competitive with a number going to five sets early in the competition. I had the opportunity to referee Brazil men versus Egypt (2:3) and Ukraine women versus Netherlands (3:2) in the pool stages. Both matches were hard fought five set matches and the atmosphere when the Brazilian teams were playing was nothing short of a party atmosphere. I did referee two more matches, Ukraine women versus Rwanda (3:0) and the men’s Semi-final between Bosnia & Herzegovina versus Egypt (3:1).

At the end of the competition, the top 4 places were as follows:

<b><u>Men</u></b>	<b><u>Women</u></b>
Iran	USA
Bosnia & Herzegovina	China
Egypt	Brazil
Brazil	Ukraine

All too soon, the Rio 2016 Paralympics were finished. That left the Closing Ceremony which saw the baton being passed to Tokyo 2020.

It is always an immense honour to represent Great Britain in the international arena.