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Carolina *Volleyball Review*

USA Volleyball believes that volleyball has so many positive things to offer those who participate. First, and most importantly, whether one is a gifted athlete or a recreational player, volleyball is FUN!

From the Top:

Another Carolina Region volleyball season is well underway, and I hope everyone is having a great time on the courts! It is always great to go to tournaments across the state and see kids (and adults) enjoying this great sport of volleyball! It is also great to see that more and more kids are joining our Region to play. My thanks to all the Clubs and Coaches that keep expanding opportunities for kids to play.

I would also like to thank all the Tournament Directors that open up their gyms on the weekends and oversee the tournaments that allow so many players the chance to compete and learn valuable lifetime lessons about teamwork, competition, sportsmanship, sacrifice, and all the many other qualities that make volleyball the ultimate team sport. Please take the

time to thank the Tournament Director at your next event! We could not do it without them!

Even though our Junior Program continues to grow, it does sadden me to see our Adult Program continue to struggle.

The Carolina Region Board will continue to discuss ways we can improve playing opportunities for adults, but we welcome suggestions and feedback from our volleyball community. We would hate for all these junior players playing now to not have opportunities to play as they age out. Volleyball is the ultimate lifetime sport!

Have a great rest of the season!





Tips for Becoming a Professional Official

Marilyn Thompson, Officials Program Director

Congratulations to the 28 junior players who are now getting paid to be professional officials on the dates they do not play. For players interested in doing this next year I just wanted to give some information. You have to be 16 to apply to join our Professional official's program. If you think this is something you want to do NEXT season, start preparing THIS season! You need to be the referee on the stand as much as possible when your team is assigned to work. You need to recognize and make ball handling calls, back row attacks and blocks, and completely take charge of the match. You also need to practice being second referee and know all the requirements for that position.

In the early fall the Carolina Region website will have the information available for you to see what steps you need to take to be able to work. Candidates will have to take the professional officials' online clinic and then attend an in-person clinic. Once you have fulfilled these requirements you will spend a complete day being trained and rated without pay. If you do not pass then you will have the opportunity to try again.

The main reason I am giving this information is so you can work this season and ask the adult referee to help you do it correctly so you can pass your rating the first time.

I hope your season is going great and that you are benefiting in many aspects from your volleyball experience.

Regional Achievements

Here's some accomplishments that Deserve Regional Recognition!

- **Julia Scoles**, Mooresville (former player at Carolina Juniors) was named to the 2015-2016 Under Armour First Team High School All-America Team by the AVCA!
- **Rachel Budzinski**, Winston-Salem (Triangle VBC); **Emma Ellis**, Charlotte (Carolina Union VBC); **Delaney Hahn**, Hillsborough (Triangle VBC); **Abigail Krueger**, Asheville (Xcel Volleyball Performance); **Julia Rhine**, Wilmington (NC Coastal VBC); and **Grace Tulevech**, Morehead City (NC Coastal VBC) were selected to participate in the 2015 USAV National Team Prospect Training Block—Regional held in Anaheim, CA in December, 2015.
- **Lauren Janok**, Rougemont (North Carolina Volleyball Academy) and **Taylor Rowland**, Charlotte (Carolina Juniors) were selected to participate in the 2015 USAV National Team Prospect Training Block—Girls' Youth held in Anaheim, CA in December, 2015.
- **Kayla Merkler**, Chapel Hill (Triangle VBC) was selected to participate in the 2015 USAV National Team Prospect Training Block—Girls' Select held in Anaheim, CA in December, 2015.

CONGRATULATIONS!

2016 Beach Season Around the Corner Mark Nalevanko, CR Beach Director



It won't be long before Spring arrives and with it another busy activity period for junior beach volleyball in the Carolina Region. Starting in March the fourth season of club sand volleyball in North Carolina area High Schools kicks off. At the time of this article, projections suggest close to 60 participating schools this year (up from 46 last year) with the addition of a 6th conference, which will be made up of several newly participating schools in the Wilmington area. [see group shot below from last year] Last year saw around 500 girls and over 60 boys involved. Follow the action from around mid-March until mid-May at the [NC High School Sand Volleyball Club](#) Facebook page. If you're at a school without a sand club, visit the [association's website](#) and get ready to add one when school starts in the fall.

The Carolina Region/USA Volleyball is starting its 6th year of organizing an NC-based tour of junior beach volleyball events from early April to early August with hosts from Hickory to Wilmington. The 2016 tour schedule has just

been released! Check out the [Carolina Region Junior Beach Tour page](#) for the upcoming season's details. High finishers at tour events earn an automatic bid to the tour championships scheduled for Saturday, July 16th [see photo on next page from the 2015 Tour Championships]. In addition to the region tour and national tours, such as the [USA Junior Beach Tour](#), which by the way has 3 stops here in NC this year, there's a lot of opportunities for juniors to compete.

This Spring also marks the first collegiate championships for beach volleyball after the [NCAA officially elevated sand volleyball](#) as a women's collegiate championships sport for DI, DII, and DIII this past year. The first NCAA championships for beach volleyball will be held May 6-8, 2016 in Gulf Shores, AL.

If you haven't gotten involved in beach volleyball, give it a try! You may find yourself finding a new passion in life.



Keep up with Carolina Region Beach Events and Link to Results

Be sure to "Like" our Facebook Pages!

www.carolinaregionvb.org/jrbeach



**Participants Getting Ready to begin the 2015 Carolina Region Junior Beach
Tour Championships**

See this year's schedule here—

www.carolinaregionvb.org/jrbeach

CEO Report

I hope everyone is having a great season so far! We have had weather interfere with some tournaments, but overall, it has been a great first half of the 2016 season! I want to thank everyone for their patience as that weather system went through the state. We had very few calls and emails into the office during this time—it seems most people knew they would get all their information through our Points System. It is good to know that people now trust that we will get the information up there just as soon as we have it!

Speaking of the Points System, we had a conference/video call with the developers of the Points System. We have already made some big changes to the system heading into this season (i.e. it should be processing a lot faster on the user side!) but I am really excited about what is coming in the future. There will be a new design and improvements on accessing the system on mobile devices and tablets. We are also updating pages to provide even more information about how teams interact with tournaments and the points system. We hope to roll out some of these

improvements real soon! And we still have a lot of items on our Wish List so you should continue to see improvements to the system heading into 2017! I think you will like it!

We announced the Junior Beach Tour schedule in this newsletter and on our website this week! That continues to be a popular way to stay involved in volleyball all year long!

Thanks again for your continued support! We will update you with membership totals in next newsletter but I can say we have grown again and the future is bright for Carolina Region Volleyball!

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CarolinaRegionVB>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/CarolinaRegion>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/CarolinaRegion1>



Official Indoor Volleyball of the Carolina Region