

Carolina Region/USAV  
May 3, 2015 Juniors Advisory Board meeting  
Koury Convention Center, Greensboro



Attendees: Trey Mainwaring (CHAVC); Sherry Fadool (Triangle);  
Michael Hodge (Jammers); Linda Osterman (Alamance Force); Trevor Hewitt (Set  
Point); Blaine Tendler (Piedmont); Fred Wendelboe (Set Point);

Guests: Mike Huffman

CR Board Attendees: Tina Reading  
CR Staff Attendees: Kevin Wendelboe, Wade Brence

Meeting began: 9:00 am

- I. Welcome – Kevin Wendelboe
- II. 2014 Minutes – A copy of last year’s JAB meeting minutes was emailed to all attendees from last year’s meeting and is posted on the Region web site. A copy is available for review at this meeting for those that need it. Motion by Fadool, second by F. Wendelboe to:

Motion 1: approve the May 4, 2014 minutes of the Carolina Region Junior Advisory Board meeting. MSA
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- III. 2015 Season Review – Junior girls membership continued to grow this season. We had 6834 junior and youth girls (+332 over last year) and 64 boys (+36). Junior girls’ teams grew by 29 to 665 teams. Total teams in each age group and realm were reviewed. Based on the numbers, it is proposed changing the age groups playing on each weekend to equalize the numbers and allow more opportunities to utilize our older Junior Referees. We had one weekend affected by severe weather and a second weekend had some cancellations due to weather. But, overall, we had 131 more tournament entries this year than last during our regular season tournaments. We were closer to having a full field of teams for our Overall Regional Championships (52 of 56 possible spots).
- IV. End of Season Survey Results – This season we sent the Annual Program Review Survey to all club directors and team reps. We had 56 responses out of 700+ possible responses as of Thursday before the meeting. The responses submitted were reviewed. New questions were added to the survey this year about several issues that arose during the season. The Junior Advisory Board can use the survey responses when considering those issues later in the meeting.

- V. Club Tryouts – Kevin presented the proposed Club Tryout Policy for the 2015/2016 season. The state High School Championships have been pushed back a week this season so that has affected our start dates as well. Everyone agreed that we needed to adjust our starting dates a week later to accommodate the state HS playoffs but acknowledged this would put a time crunch on clubs as they try to finalize teams for the season. Motion by Tendler, second by Fadool to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 2: approve the updated Club Tryout Policy for the 2015/2015 season. MSA  
See Appendix 1

- VI. 2015/2016 Schedule – Kevin presented a proposed schedule for the 2016 season. There are a few changes to this schedule over past schedules: (a) Quest Pre-Season tournament is scheduled for first weekend in January since the last weekend in December begins the day after Christmas; (b) The age groups playing on each weekend were changed to 14's, 15's, 17's on one weekend and 12's, 13's, 16's, & 18's on the opposite weekend. This will equalize the total number of potential teams playing each weekend and allow for us to use our older Junior Referees on all weekends. There is also a new MLK weekend tournament being started this year at the Raleigh Convention Center. It will be open to any team that wants to entry. The Region will not schedule any other tournaments on that weekend since that is usually our lightest tournament for participation every season, but will honor requests from any tournament hosts that want to sanction an event on that weekend. There are a lot of nearby MLK tournaments that draw CR teams and we often lose a lot of referees to those tournaments. Sherry corrected the date of the MAPL Raleigh tournament to the March 12/13 weekend. The bid tournament for 18's is moved up earlier in schedule to February 14 as USA Volleyball has announced that the 18's National Championships will be by itself on April 29-May 1 in 2016. They will need to identify all qualified teams in 18's earlier next season due to that. After discussion, the bid tournaments for the 12's, 13's & 16's were moved to April 3. Kevin also suggested we play one age group each weekend on a Sunday as much as possible. An age group would only play once a season on Sunday. This would help us both with our facility needs as well as providing enough referees at all the events. Each age group was assigned a Sunday to be assigned to and this will be clearly marked on our final schedule. Kevin also indicated that the Junior Hi Neighbor would like to hold their tournament in late March if possible. Everyone agreed that they could request to host during the regular season but would be notified that they will have regular season tournaments competing with them and our priority would be to schedule officials for our regular season tournaments. Motion by Tendler, second by F. Wendelboe to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 3: approve the 2016 Junior Tournament Schedule as amended. MSA  
See Appendix 2

VII. New Issues:

- A. Five-team Tournament Format – We currently use a Chase the Seed format we developed several seasons ago when all our formats were Chase the Seed. Since it is used so infrequently now, it is not understood very well among coaches and parents and causes much confusion. Should we change to a round-robin pool play format? Motion by Fadool; second by Tendler to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 4: use a round-robin pool play format with top two finishers advancing to the playoffs in all 5-team tournaments. MSA

The group discussed how many sets to play during the round-robin pool play for 5-team tournaments since it could go much longer than our other formats. Motion by F. Wendelboe; second by Tendler to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 5: play two sets to 25 starting at 0-0 during pool play for all 5-team tournaments. MSA

- B. Six-Team Tournament Format – We have been offering the teams two options for formats at the 6-team tournaments: (a) Two pools of three playing a Double Round-Robin (DRR) format with top two teams advancing to playoffs; (b) Two pools of three playing a Single Round-Robin (SRR) format with ALL teams advancing to a 6-team playoff. The DRR format was the default and all coaches had to unanimously approve switching to the SRR format. Most sites have approved the SRR format when presented it and it seems a more favorable schedule for most teams when they play it. Should we change default to SRR? Motion by Fadool; second by Mainwaring to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 6: use two pools of three playing a Single Round-Robin format with all teams advancing to the playoffs for all 6-team tournaments. MSA

- C. Player Movement for Regional Championships:

We have not had a full field of teams for the Regional Championships each of the past two seasons. We usually have to invite several teams from Division 1 and sometimes Division 2 to get acceptances. Based on the time of the year, should we allow some Club Player Movements in order to give us a better chance of fielding a full field? Motion by F. Wendelboe; second by Tendler to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 7: allow teams that qualify for the Regional Championships to move up to two players from within their club to their roster. All moves must be received in the Region office by the Wednesday before the Regional Championships. MSA

D. Seeding Regional Championships:

During last year's meeting, we established how we were going to seed the Regional Championships. We had some questions from coaches and parents after this year's Regional about the fairness of it. Since the pools were not being seeded by the Points Rankings, the potential is there to have higher ranked teams as a much lower seed in Regionals than where they would be if rankings were used. Since the JAB decided to allow limited Club Movements for Regionals, they decided to leave the seeding priority for Regionals as established last season.

- E. CR Staff asked for feedback from the JAB concerning whether to make it a priority to assign 8- or 12- teams to the Division 1 sites for the East/West Championships. At last year's meeting, it seemed the priority should be 12 teams so as many teams as possible would have a shot at qualifying for the Regional Championships. The feedback from some age groups this year is that an 8- team field would have been more competitive at the Division 1 tournaments. The consensus of the group was that staff can look at the overall results and rankings and make the best determination for each age group/realm as to whether 8- or 12- teams makes sense. The overall number of courts available and team entries will also play a factor in the assignments as with any other tournament.

F. Three-match minimum:

One of the comments from the season survey referenced the Region's three-match guarantee and whether it would be possible to add another match for the third and fourth place finishers at the end of the day. This could be scheduled but it would lengthen the tournaments and we would have to identify work teams and court space to accommodate it. The consensus of the group was that our three-match guarantee was sufficient at the current tournament entry price point we charge and that most teams would not want to stay longer for a playoff between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place teams.

G. Lunch Break:

We received a few comments during the season and on the surveys about the scheduled lunch break during the pools. There is still confusion whether the lunch break is mandatory or not or whether coaches can vote to not have it. Kevin reiterated that current policy is that the lunch break is required and cannot be voted away. The lunch break allows the officials a chance to rest and eat and it also allows the teams that have to play back to back during pool play a chance to rest and eat between the matches.

We will continue to stress to the Tournament Directors and coaches that the lunch break is required.

- VIII. 2015 Junior Beach Tour – This is the fifth season for the Carolina Region Junior Beach Tour and it continues to grow each season. The creation of sub-regions across the state last season was a success so we have continued it this season. We have two events on the USAV Junior Beach National Tour this season (Apex and Wilmington). The third season for High School Beach Club tournaments has begun and more schools are participating.

IX. High Performance Program – We held two tryout weekends for the Region HP Travel Teams – March 8 and April 12. We held Level II training on April 26 and will have Level III training beginning on May 17. We are currently planning on entering two teams in the 2015 HP Championships in Des Moines, Iowa – a Youth team and a Select team. We held another Beach HP Tryout on April 25 in Apex. A discussion was held about the challenges facing the HP Program. This will be a topic that the Region Board will address at their upcoming retreat.

X. Other Business/Issues:

A. A question was asked whether we could add some flexibility to allow teams that clearly choose the wrong level when registering their team to have their initial points adjusted so they can be moved to a higher/lower division tournament. Current practice is to not make any adjustments to the starting level and let the results of the tournaments adjust the rankings. This works well in most cases but in some cases a team may not move up/down fast enough to get to their competitive level. Motion by Fadool, second by F. Wendelboe to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 8: allow teams to petition the Carolina Region for an adjustment to their initial point's value that will adjust their next tournaments division by one level up/down depending on their request. All petitions must be received in writing by the Region office by Monday noon of the business week following the second Regular season tournament of their age group. CR Staff will evaluate their request and results and may adjust their starting point's value accordingly. MSA

XI. Elections:

A. Girls – Trey Mainwaring is willing to remain as the Girls' Representative. Motion by F. Wendelboe, second by Fadool to:

Motion 9: elect Trey Mainwaring by acclamation as the Girl's Representative to the Carolina Region Board of Directors. MSA

He will serve a one-year term.

XII. Next Meeting – May 1, 2016. Time/Place to be announced.

XIII. Adjournment - Motion by Fadool, second by Osterman to:

Motion 10: adjourn the May 3, 2015 meeting of the Junior Advisory Board at 11:41 am. MSA

**NEXT MEETING**

May 1, 2016. Time and site TBD

**NOTE ON PASSED MOTIONS – PLEASE READ**

Motions passed by the Junior Advisory Board do NOT establish policy. These are recommendations to the Carolina Region Board of Directors for consideration and implementation if the board agrees. Please refer to the minutes of the subsequent meetings of the Carolina Region Board of Directors to verify that the motions passed at the Junior Advisory Board meeting were adopted.