



BOD Attendees: Michael Spillman, Jim Ross, Fred Wendelboe, Tina Reading, Trey Mainwaring, Glenn Cashion, Scott Castevens (departed at 3:30 pm)

Staff Attendees: Kevin Wendelboe, Wade Brence

Meeting started: 12:30 pm

- I. Agenda – Kevin presented the initial agenda for the weekend. Due to several people’s schedules, it was decided to try to finish all items today. Items not on the agenda can be added at end or during a program’s scheduled discussion time as warranted.
- II. Finance Report – Kevin presented the current Finance Report. As we had another significant growth in junior memberships, we are projecting a surplus approaching \$40,000. Kevin asked whether the board is interested in updating the website again to take advantage of new technologies and to make it more mobile-friendly. This led to a discussion on some of the things the board would like to see in a new website. Motion by F. Wendelboe, Second by J. Ross to:

Motion 1: allocate up to \$30,000 to redesign the Carolina Region website. Staff will investigate web design companies and choose a company with a focus on quality and ease of use for the new site. MSA

There was discussion after the motion as to whether we should give priority to North Carolina companies. This was not put as a stipulation on the final choice of a company but North Carolina companies will be considered.

Kevin also discussed the move into new offices in our existing building. Our landlord was painting and replacing carpet so we took advantage of this to move across the hall into offices behind one door. There has been an initial outlay of funds to purchase new furniture and supplies related to the move. Some of this has been offset by the sale of volleyballs we have been storing. We will still go over budget in our equipment and supplies budgets but it is a one-time expense that can be covered with our surplus and seemed prudent as the opportunity presented itself. One of our old offices is still available and Kevin asked if it made sense to keep it and stop renting a storage unit. We can then move all our storage items there and keep things together. The move would result in about an additional \$100 per month over what we are paying now. The board agreed this would make sense if our landlord agrees. Kevin will look into it. The board will make a site visit to the new offices tonight before dinner.

- III. Points System update and presentation – Kevin gave an update and presentation on the changes implemented in our Points System during this season. New code has been added to make it more mobile-friendly. Karl Owen and Greg Jones have been volunteering their time to program the system and make it useful for staff and members. Kevin showed the website where staff can submit suggestions on what we would like to see worked on with the site. Karl and Greg can then take those suggestions, ask questions, and then show that they are working on them. The board went through some of the suggestions and provided their feedback on some of the features under development or that we would like to see. Overall, the Points system has had some major improvements over the past two seasons and there is still more to come.
- IV. Outdoor Program Discussions – Kevin gave an update on the current Junior Beach Tour. We now have three events on the national USAV Junior Beach Tour with Scott’s program adding an event this year. It was just held so Scott gave a recap of that event. The remainder of the discussion revolved around the competitors to USAV in the outdoor arena and what we can highlight to attract more organizers to run sanctioned USAV events.

V. Officials Program Discussions:

- a. Kevin gave an update on the Officials Accelerated Advancement Program that was implemented this season. We had eight officials register to be a part of the program and received positive feedback on the program. We hope to add more officials into the program this fall.
- b. Board brainstormed on items that could help improve the officiating program in the Region:
 - i. Consistency is still an issue in training – both at the clinic level and at tournaments.
 - ii. Train the professional referees working with the R1 to stand on the left of the stand so they are not in the way of approaching outside hitters.
 - iii. We need to work with the clinician cadre to make them better. We need a consistent message going out to the clinicians and to the referees.
 - iv. We need to send our National referees around to tournaments to help train our professional referees as well as the Junior referees. We may be able to do this more now that we will have more events on Sundays.
 - v. We need to develop tips and guidelines on how to work with the kids to make them better. We should develop a Handbook to give to our clinicians and referees to aid our training program.

VI. Junior Program Discussions:

- a. Kevin spoke with ESIX about our interest in allowing Assistant Coaches under the age of 18 to participate in CR sanctioned events. ESIX indicated that several regions are allowing it but they do recommend that there be an adult supervising that junior coach on the roster and they should not be the only coach. Kevin did ask whether the coach could be the sole coach if the Head Coach got ejected from a match. ESIX indicated they could continue as the sole coach in that case but should not start a match as the only coach. Motion by T. Mainwaring, second by T. Reading to:

Motion 2: Allow individuals who have reached their 16th birthday to serve as a rostered Assistant Coach for teams that are a minimum of three age groups younger than the coach. Teams utilizing these coaches must register a Chaperone also to be on the roster and sit on the bench in the event that the Head Coach is not able to finish a match on the bench. In addition, the Head Coach must be 25 or older and must be on the bench to start all matches. These Junior coaches must also comply with all coaching prerequisites (IMPACT and SafeSport) before they can be added to the roster. In the event, the coach turns 18 during the season, they must clear the USAV Background Screen policy and would be governed by the current Coaches' policy as found in the Region Operating Code. MSA

The result of the previous motion would allow a 17-year-old assistant coach on the roster of a 14 or younger team and a 16-year-old assistant coach on the roster of a 13 or younger team.

- b. SafeSport – The SafeSport program was discussed at the RVA meetings in Orlando. The USOC is on target to open their SafeSport center in January of 2017. This will allow all SafeSport inquiries to go to their main center and be handled consistently across the nation. Because of the delay in the roll out of that USOC center, there have been many timelines presented for requiring the SafeSport certification in USA Volleyball. An original timeline has the 2017 season as the starting date to require the certification and we have publicized that in the past. USAV has revised that timeline and will not require it until the 2018 season, but each Region can have a different start date if they want. Kevin asked if we should go ahead and implement it for 2017 since we had been planning on that already. Motion by T. Reading, second by J. Ross to:

Motion 3: Require all Junior Club Personnel and all Professional Officials to complete the SafeSport training course before they can be added to a roster or participate in a tournament. MSA

- c. Boys:
 - i. We did sanction one Boys tournament in the Region last season. The Boys Bash was held in conjunction with MAPL Raleigh and had seven teams participate. According to Sherry they will try to hold another boys' tournament this year if there is interest.
 - ii. Glenn is going to pick two Sundays this 2017 season and host a boys' tournament. He will select the date well in advance and we will try to publicize it so we can get more teams.

- d. Board had a long discussion about the pre-season Tryout period and ways to improve it. As discussed at the Junior Advisory Board meeting, we could shorten the signing dates to a week but that would affect a player's ability to try out for more than one club. In the end, the board agreed there is no easy solution to this issue. It will be impossible to come up with a policy that favors both club and individuals. As a result, many regions struggle with this issue. It was suggested that we should survey the clubs about possible changes to the Tryout period for the 2018 season. Thus, they can go into this season's tryout period with an eye on what works, what does not work, and what might be changed to improve the process for both players and clubs. We can also ask players to share their tryout experience with the Region so we have their feedback as a way to help improve the process.

VII. Adult Programs Discussions:

- a. Kevin gave an update on the two adult Leagues that have been consistently sanctioning their leagues with us. Their numbers have grown over past couple seasons.
- b. We did have four adult teams register with us towards the end of the season so they could participate in the USA Volleyball US Open Championships in Orlando.

VIII. Open Discussions:

- a. Hall of Fame – Fred admitted that he had not worked on the criteria for the Hall as he had hoped to do. Everyone agreed we should look into nominating another member of the Hall. Mike suggested that while we continue to work on the criteria for the Hall, everyone should send in a list of individuals that they think are deserving of the honor. We can look at those lists to see who overlaps. We can then decide if we want to install a new member next summer.
- b. Personnel – Kevin and Wade left the room while the board had a brief discussion concerning Region staff issues.
- c. Everyone was invited to go by the Region office after the meeting to see the improvements. The board is then invited to go to a local restaurant for dinner.

IX. Adjournment

Motion by J. Ross, second by M. Spillman to:

Motion 4: adjourn the 2016 Annual retreat of the Carolina Region Board of Directors at 6:36 pm. MSA
