

Carolina Region/USAV
August 4, 2013 Officials Advisory Board meeting
UNC-Chapel Hill



Attendees: Joey Asis, Mitch Atkinson, Darryl Buck, Ritchie Buffkin, Al Cleary, Larry Cline, Debbie Crews, John Darr, Gerald Edwards, Greg Fletcher, Gary Foster, Jesse Gassaway, Rhonda Groves, Johnny Guterwill, Michael Holder, Glenn Horton, Lauren Mauldin, Randy McLamb, Frank Motondo, Ronnie Mutter, Michael O'Connor, Stephen Shepherd, Brian Webb, Charles Yang

Staff Attendees: Marilyn Thompson, Officials Program Director; Kevin Wendelboe, Executive Director

Meeting began: 4:08 pm

- I. Welcome & Introductions –Ronnie opened the meeting with introductions of Ronnie Mutter, Referee Chair; Randy McLamb as Beach Referee Chair, Marilyn Thompson as Officials Program Director, and Kevin Wendelboe as Executive Director.
- II. Ronnie announced that Tony Hill received his USA Volleyball National Rating and Al Cleary received his USA Volleyball Junior National Rating this summer.
- III. Kevin went through items discussed at the Junior Advisory Board meeting that are of interest to officials:
 - A. Junior Advisory Board met May 5, 2013 in Greensboro
 - B. Juniors Program grew by 754 players (6050 total) and 62 teams (592 total).
 - C. The East/West split was well-received this season. We will continue that this year with some improvements. This year most of the tournaments will be all 4-team pools. We will assign the teams out to the sites in groups of 8 and 12 to fill the courts at each site. Only the last sites assigned may use a different format. This should end most tournaments at a reasonable time and enhance the tournament experience for the teams and officials.
- IV. Junior Beach Officials Reports – Randy mentioned that the Beach game is growing very well in California and Florida. Outside of those two areas, there is not a lot of demand for beach officials. He has heard that there is a league developing in Wilmington and some colleges in NC may be considering it. There are still some professional league opportunities but they are much smaller events. The AVP is a smaller tour. The NVL is a new league. But since they are much smaller, the rating opportunities are fewer and need for officials is smaller. Right now, the College of Charleston is closest to us. Kevin noted that the Carolina Region Junior Tour grew tremendously this summer and there may be some opportunities at some tour sites to hold training and rating opportunities. The players currently ref their own matches but it should not be an issue to hold some training opportunities in conjunction with the tournaments in the future.

- V. 2014 Schedule – Kevin went through the 2014 Junior Schedule dates. The schedule is now up at the Region website under the Juniors section. The schedule is similar to past seasons. It was noted that the February 1-2, 2014 weekend will be a big one for us with regular season and Queen City Classic tournaments going on. Officials are asked to keep that weekend open for us. We will also hold a true Regional Championships this season on April 12, 2014 with top teams from the East and West Regionals coming together to play.
- VI. Region Clinic Opportunities: Marilyn will hold Professional Official clinics on November 16 and December 8 in Greensboro. These will primarily be for those professional officials with four seasons or less experience. Information on these clinics will go on the Region website soon. Kevin asked that the Officials consider only offering Full clinics at in-person clinics from now on. In the past we had re-cert clinics and Full clinics. The tracking for who is eligible for re-cert clinics in person is problematic. This will also drive more people to take the clinics online which will aid us with data entry. This year the online clinics are tied in to the Webpoint membership system so when a person completes a clinic, it will automatically go into their member record. If we only have Full clinics, in person we can really concentrate on teaching and not feel rushed to complete and start the next module. Marilyn also plans on developing our own PowerPoint to teach the clinics and not rely solely on the videos provided by USAV. Motion by Randy McLamb, second by John Darr to:

Motion 1: only allow Full officiating clinics to be offered in-person beginning with the 2013/2014 season. MSA

- VII. Region Rating Opportunities – Marilyn hopes to have rating opportunities during the December adult tournaments again this fall. We will post and send out information as it is developed.
- VIII. VRT website – The site is now hosted on USA Volleyball servers at a level that can handle the expected demand of the system, so we should not see the performance issues we had last year. There are a lot of good information on the site and they are continuing to add new modules. The site is at: www.volleyballreftraining.com/
- IX. USA Volleyball Rule Books – USA Volleyball has just announced that the rules books are ready and should be out to the regions in one-two weeks. This year, the Region only ordered books to provide three per team. There has not been the demand from kids to have the books and books can be downloaded from the web. USAV is also planning to develop an app for tablets/phones. We will mail professional officials a rule book when they renew their membership and send in their Independent Contractor agreement.

- X. Junior Regional Rating Process – Ronnie went over a new Junior Regional Rating program that he has been working on. We are hoping to identify the best Junior Referees and Scorers in the Region to (a) give them recognition and (b) introduce them to professional officiating opportunities with the Region either on off weekends or when they go off to college and/or age out of the juniors program. We still need to decide who will be eligible to sign off on the rating form but we are leaning towards Regional and higher officials only. Junior Officials will be responsible for asking a rater to watch them work and then signing off on their form if they meet the criteria. It was stressed that raters should only sign off if the match they observe has elements of all the criteria that the form indicates the official can do (i.e. back row attach situations, rotation issues, etc). Raters should not sign off if the official has not done anything to stand out from other officials. The Region will look at getting a patch and/or shirt that will be awarded to officials that achieve this rating. They can wear these items while officiating and will help publicize the program and create other junior officials to strive to attain the ratings.
- XI. National Rating Candidates for 2014 - Ronnie indicated that we have five people in the training pipeline for Junior National Ratings: Frank Davidsson, Steve Truckenbrod, Joey Asis, Darryl Buck, and Emily Zayatz. Ronnie explained that he consults with the top officials in the region when evaluating the candidates to make sure the officials we send are ready to succeed at the next level. At this time, we do not feel any of the candidates are ready to be put forward next year. They will continue with their training opportunities this season and we will re-evaluate for next year. We do not have any candidates for National Scorer at this time.
- XII. New Business:
 - A. Michael O’Connor mentioned that he is now over the re-evaluations of all National and Junior National Officials. Their goal is to look at all officials at least once during their 4-year certification period. They are noticing that a lot of the officials are not doing as well when looked at. It is a much stricter renewal process, so officials need to stay sharp and continue to improve. They are putting procedures and policies in place to be able to address officials that are not meeting the standards expected of National officials.
 - B. Al Cleary thanked all the individuals in the Region that helped him along his path to receiving his Junior National rating. He felt he was well prepared.
- XIII. Adjournment Motion by Stephen Shepherd, second by Brian Webb to:

Motion 2: adjourn the August 4, 2013 meeting of the Officials Advisory Board Rep at 5:06 pm. MSA

NEXT MEETING

In conjunction with July/August, 2014 OTP clinic. Time and site TBD