

Carolina Region/USAV
May 9, 2023 Junior Advisory Board meeting
Online Meeting



Attendees: Doug Balsler (Champion; Treasurer); Steve McKeon (NC Coastal; Girls' East Rep); Julie Tuten (Carolina Performance); Krista McGivern (NC Academy); James Marshall (Stanly); David Elkins (White Cross)

CR Staff Attendees: Kevin Wendelboe

Meeting began: 7:00 pm

- I. Welcome –
- II. 2023 Minutes approval – The minutes from the 2023 JAB meeting were distributed with the meeting invitation. Motion by Balsler; seconded by McGivern to:

Motion 1: approve the minutes from the May 10, 2022 JAB meeting. MSA

- III. 2023 Season Review – We had 840 Girls teams (+67) and 35 Boys teams (+10). Our individual full membership totals as of March 31 were: 8628 Girls (+672); 363 Boys (+48); and 75 Youth (-145). We had an increase in Outdoor memberships as well: 385 Girls (+85) and 91 Boys (-8). We had 12 weekends of sanctioned indoor tournaments in 2023 with 1803 entries for Regular season events and 357 entries on Regional Championship weekends. For the first time in recent past, we did not have any tournaments canceled due to inclement weather. 66% of eligible teams participated in a Regional Championship event.
- IV. Junior Club Director Survey – Club Directors were sent this season's survey in early April. To date, we have had 27 responses. Kevin reviewed the demographics of those that responded and will present specific responses on issues before the JAB when those topics come up in the agenda.
- V. 2023/2024 Girls' Schedule – Kevin presented a proposed schedule for the 2024 season. With Easter being one weekend earlier, the final weekend of the season will end one weekend later than this past season. Kevin proposed the age groups stay on the same relative weekend as this season. Kevin asked if it made sense to have the 18's not play on Sunday to better utilize available courts as the 18's do not need as many courts. The group agreed and the proposed schedule was amended to reflect that change. Kevin reminded everyone that this schedule is not final until approved by the Carolina Region

Board of Directors at their next meeting. Motion by Balsler, second by Marshall to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 2: approve the 2024 Junior Girl's Tournament Schedule as amended.
MSA See Appendix 1

VI. 11's Division Tournaments:

Kevin reviewed the Club Director survey results regarding whether to offer an 11's division option at Carolina Region one-day tournaments. The group thought it would be a good idea to add 11's to the schedule to promote growth at that level. After discussion, it was decided to hold them on the same dates as the 12's division. If there are not enough teams registered for 11's tournaments, then they can be included in the 12's tournaments as they have been playing in those events historically. Motion by Balsler, second by McGivern to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 3: add the 11's age group to the Carolina Region schedule and have the 11's play on the same days as the 12's age group. MSA

VII. Boys Volleyball:

A. Kevin reviewed the Club Director survey results regarding Boys' teams participating in Girl's tournaments. The region initially allowed it to promote growth in the Boys game as there were fewer opportunities to play in the state. That is no longer the case in many areas. We have been getting more complaints the past few seasons about boy's teams playing with the girls and the possibility of injuries. Motion by Balsler, second by Marshall to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 4: rescind the current policy to allow Boys' 14U teams to play in the Girls' Carolina Region tournaments. MSA

B. Kevin reviewed the Club Director survey regarding allowing coed rosters at the 13U age groups. This policy was also instituted to promote boys' growth in areas of the state that may not have a boy's club in the area or other club opportunities. The issue that has come up recently is that there are no set limits for how many boys may be on a roster. Motion by Balsler, second by Tuten to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 5: affirm that coed rosters are allowed at the 13U age girls age groups and establish a limit of two boys as the maximum allowed on a coed roster.
MSA

- C. The Region published a Boys' schedule last season but only held one tournament. Based on the Club Director survey, we will publish a schedule again in 2024 but will wait to publish it after some established boys' events are scheduled so we can fill in on open weekends.

VIII. Region Bids to USAV Junior National Championships Process – The new process the Region instituted in 2023 to determine our bids to the USAV JNC seemed to work well. There were some areas where the process could be clarified or improved.

- A. The Club Director survey confirmed that ending points at 30th place for Qualifiers was a good stopping point.
- B. The JAB also agreed with the Club Director survey that there should not be a minimum Qualifier field size requirement to receive points.
- C. The survey and JAB agreed that teams should receive their points based on their final standings including ties.
- D. One area that was lacking is how to break any ties in the Region Bid standings after all events have concluded. Club Directors were asked to rank three potential ways to break those ties. The process also left open the possibility of holding a tournament at the end of April to decide bids, but the majority of teams did not want that when applying, and scheduling those would be problematic. Motion by McGivern, second by Balser to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 6: add to the Region Bid Ranking System Process a tie-breaker method in the following priority order: (a) Results of Head-to-Head matches during the season between tied teams; (b) Highest finish at a Qualifier at the Highest level; (c) Final Ranking in the Region Tournament Standings. All Region bids to the USAV JNC will now be awarded based on the Carolina Region Bids to USAV JNC Process. MSA

- E. Several clubs did turn back bids that they were offered based on their finish in the rankings. Club were surveyed whether there should be a penalty for turning back bids. The process is time consuming on Region staff to compile the standings after each tournament. Clubs are told to only apply if they are committed to attending the JNC. The survey results were mixed on what a penalty should be and several JAB participants felt a ban on applying in future seasons is counter to getting people interested in attending the events. It was proposed to institute a sanction as a way to penalize the club but not impact future seasons as long as the fine is paid. Motion by Balser, second by McGivern to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 7: institute a fine to be set by the Board of Directors for clubs that apply to be part of the Region Bid Process and do not accept an offered bid. Club must pay the fine in order to be eligible to apply for a region bid in future seasons. MSA

- IX. 3-Team Pool formats – The Region occasionally gets complaints about the 3-team pool format when paired with a 4-team pool. Teams in the 3-team pool end up playing more sets than teams in the other pool. Some teams complain that this causes an advantage to the 4-team pool teams when they advance to the playoffs. JAB participants discussed the issue and did not recommend any other formats that would work as well as the current formats.
- X. Junior Referee Update – Kevin gave an update on the success of the new Junior Referee Scholarship Program that was announced this season. The Region certified 19 Junior Regional Referees and 12 of them met the three-weekend minimum to qualify for a \$500 scholarship. Four will graduate in 2023, so we will award \$2000 this year. Six will graduate in 2024 and will have the opportunity to earn another \$500 scholarship (\$1000 is the maximum per junior referee).
- XI. Junior Representatives update – the Youth & Girls’ Rep and Girls’ Rep East positions have a 2023 expiration. We will be accepting nominations for those positions during the summer for an election in August or September. These positions have a 3-year term.
- XII. Items from the Floor – None,
- XIII. Next Meeting – Online in May 2024.
- XIV. Adjournment – Meeting ended at 8:20 pm

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 this meeting were adopted.

APPENDIX 1



***Proposed 2024 JUNIOR TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

January, 2024:

- 6 - Regular season tournaments begin; All divisions for age groups 14's, 17's
- 7 - Regular season tournaments begin; All divisions for age groups 15's
- 13-15 – City of Oaks Tournament – Raleigh Convention Center; (MLK trns)
- 20 - All divisions for age groups 13's, 16's, 18's
- 21 - All divisions for age groups 11's; 12's
- 27 - All divisions for age groups 15's, 17's
- 28 - All divisions for age groups 14's

February:

- 3 - All divisions for age groups 11's; 12's, 16's; 18's; Queen City Classic (Feb 3-4)
- 4 – All divisions for age group 13's
- 10 - All divisions for age groups 14's, 15's; (ACT Test Date)
- 11 - All divisions for age groups 17's
- 17 – All divisions for age groups 11's; 12's, 13's; 18's
- 18 - All divisions for age groups 16's
- 24 – All divisions for age groups 14's, 17's
- 25 - All divisions for age groups 15's

March:

- 2 - All divisions for age groups 13's, 16's, 18's; MAPL Raleigh (Mar 2-3)
- 3 - All divisions for age groups 11's; 12's
- 9 – All divisions for age groups 14's, 15's; (SAT Date)
- 10- All divisions for age groups 17's
- 16 – All divisions for age groups 11's; 12's, 16's, 18's
- 17 - All divisions for age groups 13's
- 23 – Regional/East/West Championships for age groups 15's, 17's
- 24 – Regional/East/West Championships for age groups 14's
- 31 – Easter; Big South Qualifier

April:

- 6 – Regional/East/West Championships for age groups 11's; 12's, 13's, 18's
- 7 – Regional/East/West Championships for age groups 16's

***NOTE:** This proposed schedule is being presented to the Junior Advisory Board for discussion, possible amendments, and approval. Once approved, it will go to the CR Board for final approval. Thus, the 2024 schedule **IS NOT** confirmed until the Carolina Region Board of Directors approves it. Clubs/teams should not make definite plans based on this schedule until an APPROVED schedule is announced and posted on the Carolina Region website.