

February 2009 RVA Newsletter

RVA Referee Development Coordinator

Glenn Reid

In the spirit of improving communication between the Referee Sub Commission and all referees across the country, we will be distributing a newsletter on a regular basis for distribution to all referees in your region. The newsletter will include rule interpretations, technique clarifications, training opportunities, and any other information that will help in the development of all referees. If there is something you would like to see included, please don't hesitate to contact me. If you have any questions or comments, please email me at greid55@aol.com

From the Desk of the Chair of the National Indoor Referee Sub Commission

Kathy Ferraraccio

1. The deadline for USAV National and Junior National Referees to submit the exam to me has now passed. There are 10 national level referees who have not yet taken the exam and will have until May to complete the exam and submit their graded answer sheet to me. These 10 referees will not be confirmed for the Opens or JOVC events if they register to work those events.

There was a large number of referees who waited till the last moment to take Exam A, thus putting themselves in a compromising position, especially if they failed that exam and needed to take Exam B. There were a few referee chairs who stated it was their fault that I did not have exam B results by February 15, since the referee had taken the exam within the last few days and the chair just didn't have the time to correct it and submit the results to me. I personally do not think it is the chairs responsibility to be available at the last moment to get those exams corrected, and then to me by the deadline. I would like to see the referee chairs have a deadline of submission of Exam B to them for correction, so they have time to correct the exam and send the results to me for submission. As an example, I would think that February 1 would be an acceptable date. This gives the referee chair 15 days to correct and submit the results to me. Anything that comes in to you after that date is not guaranteed to reach me by the deadline of February 15.

2. As I hope you are all aware, the Referee Sub-Commission has introduced a new blog. It is a great way for referees to discuss issues, find out about camps, read interpretation bulletins, and find refereeing opportunities. This blog can be found at http://volleyballreftraining.com/usavreftrainingblog/?page_id=2.

The blog is great for any level of referee, and is moderated to help avoid spam on the site. We look forward to this blog growing and becoming a place where referees can go to get their questions answered or to find out what other referees

might be doing in any given situation. If you haven't visited the site yet, please go take a look and register!!! Please also let the referees in your region know about this source of information.

3. As you all know, the USAV web site has been re-organized and many things are not that easy to find. In hopes of helping officials find what they need, here are the basic instructions for getting onto the correct page. Either <http://www.usavolleyball.org/> or <http://volleyball.teamusa.org/> can be entered to get to the USAV web site. You then need to click on "resources" on the red bars that are across the top of the page. On the subsequent menu bar, click on "rules and officials" which will bring you to this URL: <http://www.usavolleyball.org/content/index/405>. On this page you can find links to applications, scorekeeping information, rules, etc. Surf through and if you have suggestions for better organization, just let me know and we will try to make this as user friendly as we can!!!!
4. Remember that registrations are open for the Open Nationals and both JOVC tournaments. There are deadlines for registrations to be submitted, but please also be aware that if the tournaments fill before the deadline, then any other official who registers for the event will not be confirmed to work at the event. Any referee who registers, even if late, will be guaranteed to work the matches needed to maintain their certification, but any other matches worked will be on an as needed basis.
5. If there is anything the Referee Sub-Commission can do for you, don't hesitate to let us know!!! We're here for you!

2009 USAV REFEREE TRAINING CAMPS

Gloria Cox

Stuck in a rut? Unsure about new techniques and rules? Working matches but enjoying them less? Challenge yourself and move up to the next level of officiating by participating in the 2009 USAV Training Camps. We will be offering three levels of camps, so there is something for everyone who wants to attend.

The Novice Camp is for Provisional or newer Regional officials. The focus will be on techniques, rules and mechanics specific to USAV matches. This camp will be offered at the Lone Star Qualifier in Dallas, Texas on April 17-18, 2009. The cost is \$200.

The Intermediate Camp is geared toward Regional referees of all levels. Experienced officials who are new to USAV may attend this camp, too. Campers will be prepared for advancement to the next level of officiating or can work on just making sure that they are the best they can be. This camp will be offered at the Mid-East Qualifier in Indianapolis, March 6-7, 2009, Colorado Crossroads in Denver, March 20-21, 2009 and the Northeast Qualifier in Baltimore, April 17-18, 2009. The cost is \$200.

The Premier Camp is for Junior National and National referees who want to make sure they are using the most current techniques and rules while learning tips from some of the top raters in the country. Experienced Regional referees may be eligible to attend. This camp will be offered at the Girls' Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships in Miami, Florida from June 26-28. The cost is \$250.

A meeting will be held for the campers the evening before the first day of competition, so travel should be planned accordingly. Campers will have the opportunity to work matches outside of the camp, for which they will be paid. The campers will not receive payment for matches worked during the camp.

USAV and PAVO will hold a joint camp at NIRSA, which will be held in Kansas City, April 9-11. More information about this camp can be found at www.pavo.org.

The dates again:

March 6-7 – Mid-East Qualifier – Baltimore

March 20-21 – Colorado Crossroads – Denver

April 9-11 – NIRSA – Kansas City

April 17-18 – Northeast Qualifier – Baltimore Lone Star Qualifier – Dallas

June 26-June 28 – Girls' Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships – Miami

The dates and camp registration/application forms are posted on the USAV website at the following URL: <http://www.usavolleyball.org/content/index/3214>

If you want to attend a certain camp, but are not sure if it is suited to your level of officiating or you have other questions, contact Gloria Cox at Gloria-cox@austin.rr.com

Train the Trainer Clinic

Michael McPoyle

Michael_mcpoyle@vanguard.com

The first Train the Trainer session was successfully held in Dallas on November 1st and 2nd. Many thanks to our host, the North Texas region. The venue was great as was their hospitality. Thanks also go to Tom Blue and Joel Reinford who taught this first ever Train the Trainer! They came into the event not knowing what to expect, and I believe they walked out not sure of what they had just presented!! But wow, did they do20a great job!

At this session, 21 regions were represented by 43 attendees as we discussed the art of conveying information in a clinic format to new officials. The trainers then took the attendees to the courts where they demonstrated basic training techniques and talked about their experiences when dealing with situations in a tournament setting. Everyone had a great time and left with many ideas to improve the training plans of their home regions.

One key feedback was that this training is needed to build continuity across the regions with respect to developing the grassroots of referees. We are eager to plan the next session with that in mind. I am looking for feedback from the regions on what they need most and will plan to incorporate as many of their needs and ideas as possible when we roll out the next session.

It was also clear that training needs to occur as early as possible. To that end, we are working with the Houston area to plan the next Train the Trainer session sometime in mid August. We are watchful and working with PAVO to avoid scheduling conflicts and to possibly locate the training in the vicinity of one of the OTP clinics. Once scheduled, the details will be posted on the same website as the National Clinic information. That link is <http://usavolleyball.org/content/index/3214>

We look forward to seeing many of you in Houston at the second session of the Train the Trainer!!!!

National Clinic Program

Michael McPoyle

The National Clinic program was successfully launched this season with the inaugural session in Dallas on November 1, 2008. At this inaugural session, 21 regions were represented as we ran the first train the trainer session at the conclusion of the national clinic.

Since then we have scheduled 23 clinics throughout the United States. The clinicians have jumped across the country delivering the latest in techniques and rule interpretations. The referees who have attended have had nothing but the highest praise for the content and delivery. We are blessed with a group of gifted and entertaining clinicians. They are: Kathy Ferraraccio, Brian Hemelgarn, Joel Reinford, Leisa Jordan, Mary Blalock, Steve Thorpe, Gloria Cox, and Tom Blue. Our goal of providing this valuable information earlier in the season than in the past has been rewarding. The Jr National and National Referees who have attended have brought a consistent message back to their regions for dissemination across the entire cadre of referees.

We realize that we have not been able to reach every interested referee in every corner of the country and that our registration process has had some bumps in the road, but with the cooperation of the many regions²⁰ who have hosted and the great feedback we have received on the evaluations, we have plans for improvements to the process and delivery for next season. General information, and the present calendar of clinics, is available on the new USA Volleyball website at <http://usavolleyball.org/content/index/3214>

27% of all Jr National and National Referees have already attended a National Clinic. With six more clinics to go before the ones planned for Adult Open and the JOVC's, we anticipate that a significant number of the referees applying to work Adult Open or the JOVC's will be able to arrive when it best fits their schedule and plans. Another key benefit of this program.

From the Desk of the Director of National & Junior National Referee Certifications and Evaluations

Brian Hemelgarn

- New National Referees (certified at the Boys' JOVC in Salt Lake last year) must attend the second session of the 2009 US Open Championships in Minneapolis to complete the certification process. The session runs from May 27-30. For any new National referees who will be National Scorekeeper candidates during the second session this year, please contact Brian Hemelgarn (bhemelgarn@sbcglobal.net) to make appropriate arrangements to accommodate your schedule.
- Past experience indicates that Junior National and National referee candidates often struggle with second referee responsibilities/duties during the rating process. If your region will be sending Junior National and/or National candidates to the National Rating Tournaments this summer, please emphasize to them the importance of working as a second referee. You might offer the following suggestions to help them prepare:
- During the regular season within the region, they should work as a second referee as often as possible, including "volunteering" as a R2 whenever appropriate. The experience will be invaluable!
 - When possible, they should work as a second referee with a veteran Junior National or National first referee who will be able to give them feedback after the matches.
 - They should ask veteran Junior National and National referees to observe them during a match(es) in which they are working as second referee.
 - If the candidate utilizes the technique of stepping to the offending side at the end of the rally, s/he should be efficient at it! Practice, practice, practice! If they choose to not use this transition/positioning method, there will be NO deduction during the National rating process.
 - Court management is important! Points of Emphasis include: keeping the court clear; keeping coaches and substitutes in the proper location; ensuring the playing area is clear of unnecessary obstructions (gym bags, water bottles, etc)
 - Teamwork is important: R2s must clearly communicate with scorekeepers/Libero trackers, and we must emphasize that the R2 does NOT give the "ready" signal until the scorekeeper has completely recorded necessary information (sub, TO, etc) and has then given the "ready" signal to the R2. Eye-contact and appropriate assistance to the first referee is also necessary.
 - Bench control skills are important. Not only must players and coaches remain in their designated areas during the match, the R2 must also be ready to quickly respond to appropriate questions from a coach or captain. The R2 should not stand back and "watch" as a coach yells across the court to the R1. The R2 must be actively involved.

- Match administration skills: handling substitutions, time-outs, set intervals and injury situations following the proper protocol is essential for successful referees.
- Lastly, both National and Junior National candidates in the past have benefitted greatly from attendance at our Premier Training Camp prior to the rating session at the Girls' JOVC. Encourage them to attend!

Obviously there are many other important issues, so let's all work hard to help our candidates prepare for the rating sessions this summer! Our guidance, experience and mentorship will be very important to them. If you or your candidates have any questions that I can answer, please feel free to drop me a note: bhemelgarn@sbcglobal.net