

Carolina Region/USAV
May 1, 2016 Juniors Advisory Board meeting
Koury Convention Center, Greensboro



Attendees: Trey Mainwaring (CHAVC); Jim Ross (NC Coastal); Michael Hodge (Jammers); Linda Osterman (Alamance Force); Trevor Hewitt (Set Point); Kim Mansfield (Piedmont); Mike Huffman (NCYVL); Doug Balser (Champion); Fred Wendelboe (Set Point)

CR Board Attendees: Tina Readling; Tony Hill
CR Staff Attendees: Kevin Wendelboe; Wade Brence

Meeting began: 9:00 am

- I. Welcome – Kevin Wendelboe
- II. 2016 Season Review – Junior girls membership continued to grow this season, doubling our growth rate from last season. We had 7560 junior and youth girls (+721 over last year) and 79 boys (+12). Junior girls’ teams grew by 84 to 749 teams. Total teams in each age group and realm were reviewed. Based on the numbers, it does not look like we need to change which age groups play together going into next season. We lost one whole weekend of tournaments due to inclement weather. But, we still ended with more overall tournament entries than last season due to the increased number of teams playing. We were not able to fill the Regional Championship weekend slots in several age groups. There were several competing events on that weekend that affected many qualified teams. That is something we will need to address with the 2017 season planning.
- III. End of Season Survey Results – This season we sent the Annual Program Review Survey to all club directors. We had 17 responses out of 150+ possible responses as of Thursday before the meeting. The responses submitted were reviewed. We did include several issues on the survey that we will be considering this meeting. The Junior Advisory Board can use the survey responses when considering those issues.
- IV. 2015 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.
Motion by Readling, second by Ross to:

Motion 1: approve the May 3, 2015 minutes of the Carolina Region Junior Advisory Board meeting. MSA

- V. Club Tryouts – Kevin presented the proposed Club Tryout Policy for the 2016/2017 season. The only changes were the 2016 dates that correspond to same weekends we have been using in relation to the State HS Championship matches. There was a lot of discussion about the signing dates. There was a request to consider this policy later after we discuss another topic on the agenda concerning tryouts. Group agreed to reconsider later in the meeting.
- VI. 2016/2017 Schedule – Kevin presented a proposed schedule for the 2017 season. This year’s schedule does pose a little more challenges with New Year’s Eve being on a Saturday and Easter being later. The Big South Qualifier will not be over Easter as a result and we typically do not schedule tournaments opposite Big South. The main changes this year were switching the 18’s, 16’s, 13’s, and 12’s to begin play the first weekend and there will be an age group playing on Sunday every weekend. The weekends we did not use Sunday last season were extremely difficult to get enough courts and we were short officials at most sites. Our growth has made it a necessity to utilize both days in order to accommodate as many teams as possible in a quality tournament experience. The original schedule had the Regional Championships for qualified Division 1 teams on April 22. The group agreed to move the Division 1 Championships to be played on the same weekend as the East/West Championships for their age group. The top four teams from the East and West in the Point Rankings at the entry deadline will be the eight teams that compete for the Regional Championships. All the other teams will be assigned to their respective East or West Championships as we have done the past two seasons. The Junior Hi Neighbor tournament would like to hold their tournament on April 8-9 but this will be a Regional Championship weekend. We do have a policy already that we will not sanction tournaments opposite Regional Championships. It was an issue this season both with getting qualified teams to commit and with having enough officials for both events. The group agreed that we would not sanction competing events on a Regional Championship weekend. They will be offered other weekend options. Motion by Readling, second by Osterman to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 2: approve the 2017 Junior Tournament Schedule as amended. MSA
See Appendix 1

- VII. New Issues:
- A. Admissions – We have had a request from a few tournament hosts to have the option of charging admission at the tournaments. The survey responses were overwhelmingly not in favor of allowing sites ability to charge admission. The group agreed that it would be better to raise tournament entry fees and pass that along to hosts. We have not raised the tournament entry fees in several seasons. Motion by Mansfield; second by Mainwaring to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 3: raise the Junior tournament entry fees by \$25 with \$20 going to tournament hosts and the balance to raise the officials pay by \$5. MSA

B. Allowing Assistant Coaches Under 18:

Over the past several seasons, we have had numerous requests from clubs to allow coaches under the age of 18 to be on the roster, so they can sit on the bench. Our current policy is that all coaches must be 18 or older and at least two years older than the team they are coaching. This was implemented years ago for liability reasons. Other Regions are allowing coaches under 18 now, so is it time for us to consider allowing it. There was some discussion about this issue. Most were in favor of allowing it but there is still some concern about potential liability. We would also have to decide whether the young coach could take over as Head Coach in the event the adult coach was either not there or was disqualified from the match. Kevin will get the advice of the USAV Risk Manager at the upcoming USAV Insurance Committee meeting. The Region Board will then make a decision on this at the June retreat.

C. Minimum Match Guarantee for multi-day events:

We have had some complaints from some teams about their experience at a multi-day event that we sanction. It raises the question of whether the region as the sanctioning body should require a tournament host to provide a minimum match guarantee to its participating teams. The survey results were in favor of instituting a minimum match requirement. If we were to institute a minimum requirement, then we would need a penalty if the tournament does not provide a format that meets the requirement. Everyone agreed the ultimate penalty would be to not sanction the event in the future, but staff would have to look at each case individually. Motion by Balsler; second by Huffman to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 4: require hosts of Carolina Region sanctioned multi-day events to provide a minimum match guarantee of 5 matches for two-day events and 7 matches for three-day events. MSA

D. Rule Books for Clubs:

We currently provide three rule books per team to the clubs. Staff feels that the books are probably not being used much or really needed. The rule books can be downloaded now to computers, tablets, and phones. There is also an app that provides access to the Rule books. Do we need to continue providing this many books or can we reduce the number, saving both money and storage space in the office? The group agreed that one rule book per team is all that is needed for the future.

E. Tournament Participation Policy:

With the addition of Sunday tournaments, we had a request this season from a 12's team to play in a tournament on Saturday and also on Sunday in another age group. We do not have anything that addresses this, so it was allowed. Staff wants to know how we handle this going forward.

Motion by F. Wendelboe; second by Balser to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 5: allow teams to play in two different tournaments on one weekend if the age groups and schedule allows it. MSA

F. Three-way ties:

We had a request from a Tournament Host to eliminate our tie-breaker sets as it can add up to an hour to the tournament length. Our regulations currently require one tie-breaker set to 15 in the case of a three-way tie for first place in the pool. Our regulations require two tie-breaker sets to 15 in the case of a three-way tie for second place in the pool. Staff did analyze how many times it happened this season. We would have had to play a tie-breaker a little under 10% of the time this season. The group agreed that it does not happen enough to take away a team's right to advance to playoffs on the court. We would hear a lot more complaints if started eliminating teams based on point differential. No action was taken on this request.

G. Calculation Points System points for Playoff Matches:

The Region Technology Committee submitted a request to the Junior Advisory Board to change how points are calculated for playoff matches. Currently, all teams entered in a tournament are "taxed" points that would then be awarded to teams that win a playoff match. This system is left over from a previous version of the points system that we used. We kept it as many felt teams that made playoffs should not lost points in the playoffs but only gain them. The Technology committee felt that we should fully integrate the system currently being used so that all matches are treated the same and the system will rank teams as it is intended. It will also reduce the questions on why a team "lost" points just for playing. Motion by F. Wendelboe; second by Balser to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 6: update the Points System to calculate the points determined during playoff matches the same as it is during pool play matches. MSA

H. Tryout Issues:

We received a letter from a parent detailing how a particular club handled their tryouts the past two seasons. The club director will pull players in during tryouts and tell them if they commit at that time, then they have a spot in the club. They are not told what team they will be on. If they choose not to commit, then there is no guarantee they will make the club. Last season, they felt pressured to sign the commitment as they were new and did not know much about the process. This season, they chose not to sign it, and ultimately were not even offered a spot in the club. The parent felt this was a forced commitment. The group discussed this issue as well as the larger signing date and tryout period issues for some time. Some felt this was not violating the policy, and others felt that it did cross the line. All agreed it would be almost impossible to write a policy that either clubs or individuals that wanted to gain an advantage could not find a way to do so. The board will discuss this issue some more at the retreat, but the group agreed our current tryout policy was deliberated for some time and has worked reasonably well for past few seasons. Motion by Balser; second by F. Wendelboe to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 7: approve the Recruiting/Tryout Guidelines as updated for the 2016/2017 season. MSA See Appendix 2

VIII. 2016 Junior Beach Tour – This is the sixth season for the Carolina Region Junior Beach Tour. We have continued to use sub-regions across the state, but players are free to participate in any event they want. We now have three events on the USAV Junior Beach National Tour this season (High Point, Apex and Wilmington). The fourth season for High School Beach Club tournaments is underway and more schools are participating this year. With the NCAA Beach going strong and the state of Florida now sanctioning High School Beach (with less teams participating than we have), we may see a movement to get it sanctioned in NC in next few years.

IX. Other Business/Issues:

A. Parent Code of Conduct – Tony asked if the Junior Advisory Board would endorse providing a Parent Code of Conduct to all families when they turn in their Commitment Letter. The parents would sign it and the club would keep it on file with the commitments. This would be just another way to put parents on notice that positive behavior is expected at our events. Kevin indicated we could easily provide this in our pre-season materials to clubs. Tony provided a copy used by some other Regions. Kevin also mentioned that he will be providing a Spectator Code of Conduct Banner to all tournament hosts next season. They will be able to post these in areas that spectators will see as they enter.

- X. Elections:
A. Girls – Trey Mainwaring and Trevor Hewitt were nominated from the floor. Motion by F. Wendelboe, second by Ross to:

Motion 8: close the nomination for the Girl’s Representative to the Carolina Region Board of Directors. MSA

Ballots were handed to all eligible voters. Trey Mainwaring was elected. He will serve a one-year term.

- XI. Next Meeting – May 7, 2017. Time/Place to be announced.
XII. Adjournment - Motion by Readling, second by Osterman to:

Motion 9: adjourn the May 1, 2016 meeting of the Junior Advisory Board at 12:08 pm. MSA

NEXT MEETING

May 7, 2017. 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.