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# Carolina Volleyball Review

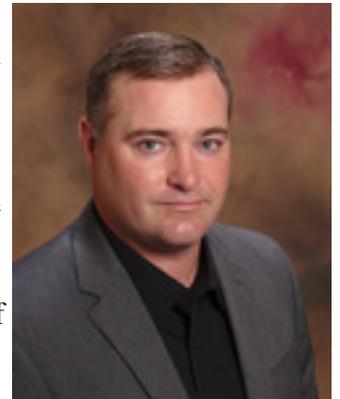
*USA Volleyball believes that volleyball has so many positive things to offer those who participate. First, and most importantly, whether one is a gifted athlete or a recreational player, volleyball is FUN!*

## From the Top:

Is time absolutely flying by for anyone else? Where has the summer gone? At least our family has a legitimate reason for losing track of time. Virginia and I are proud to announce that we have done our part to grow the sport of volleyball. Mr. Lucas James Spillman was born February 13<sup>th</sup> and has already made multiple tournament appearances. In this publication you will find information regarding the current state of the game and our Region's exciting plans moving forward. I decided to utilize my portion of the newsletter to express an observation that pulled on my heart strings. Maybe it's still the "new daddy" experience I'm adjusting to, but as you can imagine I am now looking at the world through a radically different set of lenses.

As Virginia and I were finding a parking space at this year's BASH, the first thing we noticed was our good friend Martha's daughter Adison playing on a nearby court. As we scanned down the line of nets we noticed Marissa's daughter Bailey another great friend of the family was also in action so we made an effort to visit and see how they were doing before seeking shelter from the sun. While making the rounds I found myself speaking to parent after parent, all of whom at one time or another I had shared the court with, watching their children competing and

continuing their legacy. An old buddy Dylan and his son Riley were actually playing together in the men's division. I'm sure there were many others that I have failed to mention, but witnessing this with Lucas in tow allowed me to appreciate the undeniable pride each parent projected while cheering for their children. If I had it to do over again I would have gathered all the participating families together for a group photo.



While I'm embarrassing my peers, the highlight of the day had to be finally meeting Tonya's (a longtime friend from high school) daughters (see picture on page 2). By chance I read a post that Reese was now playing volleyball so I forwarded the tournament info. Not only did Team Weak Sauce enter, somehow Thad ( father) ended up playing. Thad and I, believe it or not, were teammates in our middle school days. Another great example of how volleyball is bringing families closer.



CR President, Mike Spillman, with some 2nd Generation Volleyball Players

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## Regional Achievements

**Here's some accomplishments that Deserve Regional Recognition!**

- **Addison Matthews**, Coats, (Harnett Area VBC) was selected for the Girls' Future Select Skills Team Program Camp in Edmond.
- **Hana Farrington**, Fayetteville, (FAVA); & **Emma Gonzalez**, Garner, (NC Elite VBC) were selected for the Girls' Future Select Skills Team Program Camp in Grand Rapids.
- **Haley Radford**, New Bern, (Triangle VBC); & **Natalie Ferrell**, Franklinton, (NCVBA) were selected for the Girls' Youth A3 Team Program Camp in Colorado Springs.
- **Madison Crump**, Statesville (Carolina Juniors); **Hadden Lagarde**, Snow Camp (CHAVC); & **Mackenzi Thornburg**, Timberlake (NC Elite VBC) were selected for the Girls' Select A2 Invitational Team Program.
- **Karlie Redfern**, Harrisburg (Carolina Union VBC); **Tessa Grubbs**, Tega Cay, SC (Carolina Union VBC); **Lizzy McDaniel**, Apex (NCVBA); & **Caroline Hall**, Raleigh (Triangle VBC) were selected for the Girls' Youth A2 Invitational Team Program.
- **Taylor Rowland**, Charlotte (Lake Norman VBC) was selected for the Girls' Select Continental Team Program.
- **Callista Brown**, Summerfield (Triangle VBC) was selected for the Women's Junior A1 National Training Program.
- **Kaya Merkler**, Chapel Hill (CHAVC) was selected for the Girls' Future Select National Training Team Program.
- **Michael O'Connor**, Apex, was selected as the First Referee for the Championship match of the Men's PVL Division at the 2014 US Open Championships in Phoenix, AZ.
- **Stephen Shepherd**, Kernersville, was selected as the Second Referee for the Championship match of the Men's Open Division at the 2014 US Open Championships in Phoenix, AZ.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

# Jr Beach Volleyball Interest Continues To Grow

## Mark Nalevanko, CR Beach Director

This year marked the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the Carolina Region Jr Beach Tour and the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the North Carolina High School Sand Volleyball Association (NCHSSVA). In both cases, the interest among juniors in the sport of sand/beach volleyball has continued to grow in leaps and bounds.



Since its inception in 2011, the number of events on the Carolina Region Jr Beach Tour has grown from a handful of events to over 30. This year saw the season-ending tour championships become an invitational where teams have to earn bids by placing high at a tour event. 2014 also saw the introduction of 4 sub-region series of events within the state and “majors”, which offer extra points for rankings and bids to the tour championships. One of those majors, the Carolina Grand Slam, which is also an event on the National USA Jr Beach Tour, saw 139 participating teams from 6 states including as far away as Florida, Ohio, and New York. At the time of writing this article, the season was nearing completion with the championships held at Emerald Isle on Sat, July 19<sup>th</sup> fast approaching. So our thanks to Team Connection for sponsoring the Tour for a second season! Stay tuned for a final recap of the season in a future newsletter.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the NCHSSVA saw the number of participating schools that fielded sand volleyball club teams grow from 9 to 31 with over 500 participants. It was not only the increase in number of schools but the increased breadth of distribution of those schools across the state that was a great sign in trying to reach the ultimate goal of the NCHSSVA, which is to get the sport of sand volleyball sanctioned by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association. Schools from the Charlotte, Triad, Triangle and Eastern NC areas all participated. If interest continues to grow anywhere near what has happened so far, it's possible to see this goal reached within a few short years. One school, Reagan HS, in the Triad area even had a couple courts built on its campus in preparation for the season! The 2014 high school sand volleyball club playoffs were held in the Triangle on the weekend of May 9/10.

Congratulations to the following winning teams:

- Best Girls Team – Lauren Durham/Katie McCullough (Middle Creek HS, Apex, NC)
- Best Boys Team – Camden Diggs/Hunter Gray (South Stanly HS, Center, NC)
- Club Champions – Broughton HS (Raleigh, NC)

If you have a son or daughter in high school and interested in learning more about the NCHSSVA, go to [www.nchssva.appspot.com](http://www.nchssva.appspot.com).



**Keep up with Carolina Region Beach Events and Link to Results**

Be sure to “Like” our Facebook Pages!

[www.carolinaregionvb.org/jrbeach](http://www.carolinaregionvb.org/jrbeach)

## Recent Officials' Accomplishments

We are pleased to announce the newest National Referees from the Carolina Region. Both received their ratings (and Patch!) at the 2014 Girls' Junior National Championships in Minneapolis, MN! Congratulations!

- \* Brian Jones, Durham—National
- \* Steve Truckenbrod, Durham—Junior National



Brian Jones with CR Referee Chair, Ronnie Mutter



Steve Truckenbrod with Ronnie Mutter

## CEO Report

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer! We are already seeing another year of increased participation in our Junior Beach Tour events. If you have never played outdoors before, give it a try! It will make you better overall player!

Our 2014 indoor season was another success. Our new system of assigning teams to tournament sites gave us ideal formats at almost all the events and there were fewer complaints overall than any time I can remember! We ended the season with over 400 more Junior players participating and 44 more junior teams. Our Summer memberships are up also! We have 141 more juniors that registered this season that ONLY play outdoors! It is great to see how the game is growing!

The Junior Advisory Board and the Region Board of Directors met in May to begin planning for next season. The Junior Tournament schedule was approved, some clarifications for junior tournament seeding were established, and a major change for the

Adult Division was approved (see page 6 for more). We will have more on the 2015 season in our next newsletter.

The Board also approved some changes to the Carolina Region Bylaws. The updated document is available for download at the website (General Information—General Forms).

Be sure to follow us on our social media outlets below to stay up to date with the Carolina Region!

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CarolinaRegionVB>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/CarolinaRegion>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/CarolinaRegion1>



Official Indoor Volleyball of the Carolina Region

## 2014 Girls' Junior National Championships-Minneapolis, MN

### Results for Carolina Region Teams

DIVISION	TEAM	FINISH
18 American	AFVC 18-1	47th of 48
17 American	Brick City 17's	47th of 48
16 American	CHRV 16-1	47th of 48
15 National	ECJVC 15 Black	23rd of 48
15 American	Sandhills Lightning 15 Blue	43rd of 48
14 National	Lake Norman 14 Black	13th of 48
14 American	CJV 14 Pulse	30th of 48

## 2014 US Open Championships-Phoenix, AZ

### Results for Carolina Region Teams

Carolina Flight—Women's PVL—4th of 14  
 Whatever Works—Women's BB—15th of 38  
 The Volley Llamas - Men's A—5th of 31  
 Service Error—Men's A—31st of 31

### In Memory of Greg Fletcher

March 19, 1953—June 24, 2014

We are saddened to report that Carolina Region Referee, Greg Fletcher passed away recently while doing what he loved most—officiating volleyball. Greg was a tireless supporter of the sport throughout the East Coast and will be missed by his many volleyball friends. Our condolences to the family.



# 2015 Adult Division Big Changes Planned

The Carolina Region Board of Directors spent a big part of their Annual Retreat discussing how the Region can get more adults participating in this great sport as players. The issue of declining adult teams is not just a Carolina Region trend, it has been seen by almost all Regional Volleyball Associations across the country. One idea that was presented and eventually adopted was to move the Adult tournament schedule to Fall/Winter and invite the established (and popular) Collegiate Club programs to partner with the Carolina Region in providing tournament locations and teams to expose both groups to each other's programs. Several members of the Board had contacts within the Collegiate Club programs and initial discussions with the clubs was very positive. The Board is continuing plans for this fall, but the Region has established the following Adult Schedule so existing and New teams can begin planning now. We hope this will lead to increased excitement and participation for the Adult Division!

## ANTICIPATED MEN'S SCHEDULE (pending approval from the Hosting University):

- ◆ Oct, 18, 2014 (NCSU)
- ◆ Nov 1, 2014 (UNC)
- ◆ Dec. 6, 2014 (Greensboro SportsPlex) - Regional Championships

## ANTICIPATED WOMEN'S SCHEDULE (pending approval from the Hosting University):

- ◆ Oct 4, 2014 (NCSU)
- ◆ Oct 25, 2014 (UNC)
- ◆ Dec 6 (Greensboro SportsPlex)
- ◆ Jan 11, 2015 (Greensboro SportsPlex)
- ◆ February 8, 2015 (Greensboro SportsPlex) - Regional Championships

## 2014 Junior Club Tryout Important Dates

### Tryouts:

There will be TWO announced Girls' tryout periods that clubs are encouraged but not required to adopt. (1) The FIRST tryout period will begin on **Saturday October 18, 2014** for the following age groups: **U14, U13, and U12**. (2) The SECOND tryout period for the **U15, U16, U17, and U18** age groups will begin **Sunday, November 2, 2014** (after the North Carolina State Championships for public High Schools on November 1, 2014).

### Signing Dates:

Players have the right to attend more than one club's tryouts. The Carolina Region **requires** that clubs adopt a signing date of **NINE DAYS (Oct. 27, 2014)** after the FIRST Tryout Period begins for the **U12, U13, and U14** age groups and **EIGHT DAYS (Nov. 10, 2014)** after the SECOND Tryout Period begins for the **U15, U16, U17, and U18** age groups. Clubs must hold an offer open to a player to join a particular team in the club or the club in general until the respective age group signing date. If a player commits by the signing date, clubs must honor their commitment or the club may be considered to have violated the RVA/USAV Code of Conduct. *Players may voluntarily commit to a club at any time following the club's tryouts, but should not be pressured to do so.* For tryouts held just before or after the signing date, clubs should give a minimum waiting period of seven days before requiring a player to commit to their club. The Carolina Region **requires** all clubs to use the Carolina Region *Letter of Commitment* when accepting players into their clubs. This form should not be sent to the Carolina Region, but kept on file with the club should any question arise about a player's commitment to a club or a club's commitment to a player.