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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:

37 Days, 3 Hours, 58 Minutes and 36 Seconds until the world's focus turns toward this year's Olympic Games.

Locally the Carolina Region is enjoying another successful year promoting the sport stateside, while globally the highly ranked USA Men's and Women's teams have "golden" opportunities to medal in both the Indoor and Beach disciplines.

Have I ever told you about the time I played against Nick and Phil in the finals of a Charlotte grass event? If you've been around me literally any time their match is being broadcast then the answer is probably yes... I'm a bit of a name dropper. It's nice to see those Florida boys made something of themselves. I bring this team up not just because I played them in the finals of a Charlotte grass tournament but to emphasize the point that the once seemingly insurmountable barrier discouraging players without a California zip code to realistically

chase their Olympic/Professional dreams is no more.

As our sport continues to enjoy overall growth more and more of our top male and female athletes are participating nationwide and we as fans are being rewarded with an entirely new level of play and caliber of player. So kick back, grab your red, white and blue, enjoy the games and most importantly have a great summer.



GO USA!

CEO Report

The 2016 season was another outstanding season for the Carolina Region.

We continue to grow across the board with over 700 new junior girls playing with us resulting in 84 more teams in the junior program. Seeing that type of growth, we were certainly fortunate with the changes to the schedule that we implemented before the season. We never would have been able to accommodate all those additional teams without those changes. The board has made some additional small changes to the scheduling heading into the 2017 season to insure we can continue to allow as many teams that want to play on a given weekend that opportunity.

The board also implemented an increase to the tournament entry (the first increase in over five seasons) which will be passed along in full to tournament hosts and officials to cover the increased cost of hosting tournaments.

The Junior Beach Tour is well under way and by all accounts is as popular as season's past. We

have more Summer-only members registering with us each season which is testament to how popular the beach game is becoming.

We are looking forward to watching the Olympics in Rio at the end of the summer. All USA Volleyball teams are expected to compete for medals so should be a great event to watch as volleyball fans.

The 2017 season will be here soon! 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

Regional Achievements

Here's some accomplishments that Deserve Regional Recognition!

- **Shreya Mantha** (Charlotte, Carolina Union VBC) won the inaugural For the Win award at the Big South Qualifier. The award was created to honor female athletes who are leaders in their community both on and off the court. Shreya won as the founder of a nonprofit called Foundation for Girls which helps survivors of human trafficking in the Charlotte area. **Jasmine Nix** (Lexington, Set Point VBC) was a finalist for the award as well. **Shreya** (#47) and **Jasmine** (on left) are pictured below with the other finalist and Lori Okimura, USAV Board Chair.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Recent Officials' Accomplishments

We are pleased to announce the newest Junior National Referee from the Carolina Region – **Darryl Buck** (Cameron, NC). He received his rating (and Patch!) at the 2016 Girls' Junior National Championships in Indianapolis, IN! Congratulations!



Darryl Buck with CR Referee Chair, Ronnie Mutter



CR Officials Socializing in Indianapolis (L/R)—Steve Truckenbrod; Stephen Shepherd; Wade Brence; Ronnie Mutter; Darryl Buck

New Accelerated Training Program for Officials

Some of you may have noticed some training of officials at some of our bigger tournaments this past season. The Carolina Region/Officials Division has started a new training program. The Officials Accelerated Advancement Program or (OAAP). This season we were able to offer three tournaments for training. They were City of Oaks, Queen City Classic and MAPL. We have accepted eight officials into a new three year training program being offered by the Carolina Region/Officials Division. This program is geared towards providing extra hands-on training to these officials all day to prepare them for higher quality matches in their career. These officials have put forth tremendous effort this season to learn more, in a shorter amount of time and have been successfully in doing so. They each have attended about 6-8 hours of additional classroom training this season and will continue to do so for the next 2 seasons. Expectations for this program are to train these officials for the highest level of volleyball the Carolina Region has to offer. Each season the official has an opportunity to obtain their next certification.

This season, we were happy to award the following with their Regional 1 certification: **Glenn Horton, Kyle Smith, Rex Hart, Jeff Hutcherson**; and the following with their Provisional 2 certification: **Wade Rhodes, Kellee Harris (*Most Improved Referee*)**. See pictures on Page 6.

Officials interested in the program should [this page on the Region website](#). Applications for next season will be due by Oct. 1, 2016

2016 Girls' Junior National Championships- Milwaukee & Indianapolis

Results for Carolina Region Teams

DIVISION	TEAM	FINISH
18 National	CIV 18-1	33rd of 48
18 National	Eastern Elite 18 Black	47th of 48
18 USA	Triangle 18 Blue	15th of 49
18 USA	CUVC 18 Premier	25th of 49
18 American	Xcel 18X Select	1st of 64
18 American	Cape Fear Xtreme	31st of 64
17 Open	Triangle 17 Black	33rd of 36
17 Open	CIV 17-1	34th of 36
17 National	Xcel 16X Select	39th of 48
17 American	CIV 17-2	58th of 64
16 National	CIV 16-1	31st of 48
16 American	CIV 16-2	34th of 64
15 Open	Triangle 15 Black	33rd of 36
15 National	Sports Academy 15 Thunder	13th of 48
15 American	CIV 15-1	21st of 64
14 National	CIV 14-1 Slam	35th of 48
14 American	CIV 14-2	55th of 64
12 National	Club Synergy 12U	43rd of 48

2016 US Open Championships-Orlando, FL

Results for Carolina Region Teams

Notorious D.I.G. - Women's AA—9th of 22
 The VolleyMamas—Women's BB—43rd of 72
 Myrmidons—Men's AA—7th of 30
 The Volley Llamas—Men's A—11th of 30

2016 Meritorious Service Award Winners

Each year, USA Volleyball presents Meritorious Service Awards to individuals and/or groups that provide outstanding contributions to the sport of volleyball across the country. Each Region is allowed to nominate and select up to five individuals or groups for this recognition each year. The Carolina Region is pleased to announce the following individuals as recipients of 2016 Robert L. Lindsay Meritorious Service Awards. All award recipients will be recognized in the 2017 USA Volleyball Guidebook. A listing of all previous winners of Carolina Region Meritorious Service Awards can be found on the Archives page on our website.



Kevin "Mitch" Atkinson – Mitch is a long-time member of the Carolina Region. He played in the Adult program for many years and transitioned to officiating. He achieved his Junior National rating in 2011. He continues to serve as a clinician and referee at numerous Carolina Region and USA Volleyball events.



Karen "Annette" Dudley (right) – Annette has been a tournament director for the Carolina Region since 2007 most recently at Starmount Middle School. She also served as a Club Administrator for Yadkin Volleyball Club.



Greg Jones (left) – Most Carolina Region members will not know who Greg Jones is as he is admittedly a "non-volleyball guy". But, almost all members and families see the results of his service to the Region weekly (if not daily) during the season. Greg is a programmer who has volunteered his time to help update the Carolina Region Points System. He researched and implemented the code that was rolled out this season to make the system more mobile friendly. He continues to work behind the scenes to improve the system and we all appreciate his hard work.



Stephen Shepherd – Stephen is another long-time member that continues to serve the Region membership in many ways. He served as the Men's A Rep to the Board of Directors in the 2005 and 2006 seasons. He became a Junior National Referee in 2007 and received his National Referee certification in 2010. As a programmer, he has helped the region office update our Excel tournament management program. Most recently, he helped institute the Officials Accelerated Advancement Program.

Officials Accelerated Advancement Program 2016 Participants



Pictured at left (L/R):
**Glenn Horton; Kyle Smith; Kellee Harris;
Stephen Koehler**

Pictured at right (L/R):
Jim Frey; Rex Hart; Jeff Hutcherson; Wade Rhodes



2016 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 22, 2016** 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 6, 2016** (after the North Carolina State Championships for public High Schools on November 5, 2016).

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. 31, 2016)** after the **FIRST** Tryout Period begins for the **U12, U13, and U14** age groups and **EIGHT DAYS (Nov. 14, 2016)** 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

Xcel 18X Wins USAV National Championship!



Xcel 18X Select out of Hendersonville, NC brought home the 18 American National Championship at the 2016 USAV Girls' Junior National Championships in Indianapolis, IN.

Xcel 18X Select, which also won the 18 American division at the Big South Qualifier in Atlanta finished the tournament with an 11-1 record. We have posted their roster in the [Announcements section](#) of the Carolina Region website.

Way to go Xcel 18 X Select! The Carolina Region is proud of your accomplishment!

Grassroots outreach Clinic

Attendees at the recent Carolina Region CAP clinic had the opportunity to receive a partial rebate of their registration fee if they held a local grassroots outreach clinic using information learned at the clinic. We have had a few coaches take advantage of this and are posting some of their photos below. The Region will hold another CAP clinic in December. More details will be included in the next newsletter.

