

Carolina Region/USAV
August 22, 2018 Officials Advisory Board meeting
Online Meeting



Attendees: Ritchie Buffkin, Anthony DeRubeis, Morgan Flores, Amber Fulk, Tony Hill, Michael Holder, Brian Jones, Stephen Koehler, Kelly Moose, Ronnie Mutter, Dan Pickett, Stephen Shepherd, Tad Watson, Brian Webb, Vedat Yuce, Ron Zientek

Staff Attendees: Marilyn Thompson, Officials Program Director; Kevin Wendelboe, Executive Director

Meeting began: 6:30 pm

- I. Welcome & Introductions –Kevin opened the meeting with introductions of Stephen Shepherd, Referee Chair; Ronnie Mutter as Beach Referee Chair, Marilyn Thompson as Officials Program Director, Tony Hill as Officials Rep to Board of Directors, Amber Fulk, Scorer Chair, and Kevin Wendelboe as Executive Director.
- II. It was announced that Aisha Boyd received her National certification this season. Callie Davis, Stephen Koehler, Betsey Smith, and Kyle Smith are currently in pipeline for Junior National certifications.
- III. Kevin announced that Brian Jones was recognized as a 2018 Robert L. Lindsay Meritorious Service Award honoree by the Carolina Region.
- IV. Kevin went through items discussed at the recent Junior Advisory Board and Board of Director meetings that are of interest to officials:
 - A. Junior Advisory Board met May 6, 2018 in Greensboro. Board retreat held July 13-14, 2018 at the Region office.
 - B. Juniors Program grew by 339 players (8359 total) and 38 teams (805 total).
 - C. Tie-breaker sets have been eliminated at all one-day regular season tournaments. Ties will be broken based on head to head; set percentage, and point differential. If still tied, then will eliminate one based on above and then use result of head to head during pool play. All Regional Championship events will still utilize tie-breaker sets if needed.
 - D. The Tournament System will identify regular season assignments as “Sites”. Regional Championship tournament assignments will still use “Divisions”.
- V. 2019 Schedule – Kevin went through the 2019 Junior Schedule dates. The schedule is up at the Region website. Our multi-day tournaments will be Quest (Dec 29-30, 2018); City of Oaks (Jan 19-21, 2019); Queen City Classic (Feb 2-3, 2019); MAPL Raleigh (March 2-3, 2019); and Junior Hi Neighbor (April 6-7, 2019). There will potentially be another multi-day event in Rocky Mount on January 5-6, 2019. The Big South Qualifier is over the first two weekends of April in 2019.

- VI. Officials Accelerated Advancement Program:
- A. Stephen gave review of the 2018 OAAP activities and numbers. There are currently 12 officials in the program and we are looking to add up to 8 more officials next season. He announced that Victoria Ivie was awarded the Most Improved Referee at the conclusion of the 2018 season.
- VII. Deadlines Review – The current deadlines relevant to our Officials were reviewed:
- OAAP Application - October 1
 - Junior National/National Applications – October 1
 - Certification Upgrades – December 15
 - Clinic/Test completion – December 31
 - Score a match – March 31
- VIII. Loyalty Bonus Review – We implemented a new program this past season to reward officials that work Carolina Region one-day tournaments. 70 officials received at least one bonus payment in 2018. 15 received at least one \$15 bonus payment. We paid out \$2000 in bonus payments, and the top bonus earner received \$110 total. We will continue to bonus program in 2019.
- IX. Ratings Updates – We are no longer doing drive-by ratings. All ratings are full ratings for both renewing and upgrading certifications. Officials must apply for a rating upgrade by December 15. These will be performed at the Regional Championships. Renewed ratings will be scheduled by Stephen when a rater is assigned with an official that needs a renewal rating. Officials will need to renew their rating every three seasons and Stephen is tracking that.
- X. Uniforms – The old white uniform is no longer approved for USAV or NCAA events. The link to order the new uniforms was provided and is also at our Officials section of the website. CR officials do not need to match at our regular one-day tournaments, but they are encouraged to contact the other officials assigned to their site to match if possible. For all multi-day events, we do want referees that are working the finals to match. The white uniform is always the default uniform if there is a question.
- XI. Beach Referee Report – We held local clinics on April 7-8 and April 14. We certified John Nguyen, Michael Holder, Randy Smith, Courtney King, and Sydne James during those clinics. Betsey Smith received her Zona Beach certification in Florida. We are hoping more of our Junior Beach events will choose to use Referee monitors next season so there will be more opportunities to work.
- XII. Retention Gift Program – Kevin reviewed past gifts that our referees have been given as our appreciation for their service to the Region. This year's gift will be a CR branded garment bag and a luggage tag. Returning officials will receive after they renew and submit their 2019 Independent Contractor agreement. New officials and junior referees will receive after they are approved to work their first tournament for pay.

- XIII. Purple Card Program – Kevin reviewed how the Purple Card Program worked last season and feedback received by team reps that were at tournaments where a purple card was shown. We hope this tool will be utilized more this season as needed to control spectator behavior.
- XIV. ArbiterPay – Kevin mentioned that we use ArbiterSports to assign our tournaments and ArbiterPay to pay our officials.. All new officials will need to register with ArbiterPay and link it to ArbiterSports in order to be paid. Our 1099's are distributed through the ArbiterSports account as well. We will reimburse the annual fee for registering for ArbiterMobile for any referee that does not receive it automatically through another organization.
- XV. Registration Review – Kevin reminded everyone about the registration process for referees. Registration will begin for 2019 season after September 1. Referees should check that they are interested in working Junior tournaments as a referee. This will trigger the background screen if they need it this season. If a screen is added to your fee, DO NOT pay during the renewal process. Check the box to “submit payment separately, per Region policy”. This will submit an Unpaid application. The referee can then mail in a check for just the membership dues or go to our Online Payments page and submit a credit card payment for only the membership dues.
- XVI. SafeSport – All officials are now required to have a current SafeSport certification in order to work. It is currently good for two seasons. An official can check their member record to see when the certification expires.
- XVII. Official's Rep elections – Tony Hill and Brian Webb submitted their interest in running for the position. Motion by S. Shepherd, second by B. Jones to:

Motion 1: Close nominations for the Officials Rep. MSA

The election process was handled inside the online meeting software among all attendees and Brian Webb was elected with a vote of 9-6. He will serve a three-year term on the Region Board of Directors as Officials' Rep.

- XVIII. New Business:
 - A. National Rating Applications – We currently pay the application fees for our officials that are going for either the Junior National or National applications. This occurs as a reimbursement at the time of application. A proposal was brought forward to change the reimbursement to come only after the candidate successfully achieves their new rating. Motion by S. Shepherd, second by R. Buffkin to:

Motion 2: change the Carolina Region policy on the reimbursement of National Rating application fees to only reimburse the fee for approved Carolina Region candidates that successfully receive their new National certification. MSA

- B. Stephen provided an update on the rating process. He reviewed the process of receiving the rating sheets from Region raters. If an official does not receive their rating sheets, let him know.
- C. K. Moose asked for an explanation on the Palmetto Regional Championships situation this past season. Kevin reviewed the USAV policy concerning the sanctioning of events within a region, and the agreement we have with the Palmetto Region so that they can hold a USAV sanctioned event in our region. They agreed to not use any CR officials for their Championships without prior approval of the Carolina Region. They had a new Referee Chair this year that was not informed of this agreement. As soon as the Palmetto Region Commissioner was informed of the issue, he immediately notified the new Ref Chair of the agreement and corrected the misunderstanding. The initial communications to our officials was not totally clear on this agreement so it did not fully explain the issue. We hope to put reminders in place in the future, so this mistake does not happen again.
- D. A question was asked whether we could make a change to the scoresheet so we could capture the supervising adult official on all pool play matches. This would allow us to see where we are losing time between matches. It was decided to change our instructions to officials and have them put their name in the Comments box after every match. We can then use that info to identify officials that might need more training in keeping matches moving during the day.

XIX. Adjournment – Motion by S. Shepherd, second by B. Jones to:

Motion 3: adjourn the August 22, 2018 meeting of the Carolina Region Officials' Advisory Board at 8:04 pm. MSA

NEXT MEETING

August, 2019 – Online meeting - TBA