

Carolina Region/USAV
August 1, 2009 Officials Advisory Board meeting
UNC-Chapel Hill



Attendees: Mitch Atkinson, De Batchelor, Paula Boykin, Dennis Branch, Wade Brence, David Bryant, Debbie Crews, Adam Dalton, John Darr, Gerald Edwards, John Episcopo, Doug Fagan, Greg Fletcher, Gary Foster, Johnny Guterwill, Vaughn Hastings, Tony Hill, Brian Jones, Chuck Morris, Ronnie Mutter, Michael O'Connor, Jeremy Phillips, Ed Richter, Greg Sanders, Stephen Shepherd, Tina Slate, Robert Tallo, Charles Tudor, Tad Watson, Robert Webb, Carol Weigand, Ron Weigand, Charlie Yang

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

Meeting began: 3:45 pm

- I. Welcome & Introductions – Marilyn opened the meeting with introductions of Wade Brence, Referee Chair; herself as Officials Program Director and Score Keeper Chair; and Kevin Wendelboe as Executive Director.
- II. Marilyn announced that Vaughn Hastings and Tony Hill had recently received their Junior National Ratings during the Girl's Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships.
- III. Junior Advisory Board updates that are of interest to officials:
 - A. Junior Advisory Board met May 2, 2009 in Lewisville
 - B. Play format for a tournament with only ONE five-team pool has been changed to a full round-robin pool play schedule. Top two will still advance to a championship match.
 - C. Play format for a tournament that contains a mixture of four-team pool(s) and at least one five-team pool has been changed. The five-team pool will still play the modified pool play schedule but will only play 2 sets to 25 (not match play).
 - D. There will be a third place match at the National Bid tournaments in all divisions. They will be 2 of 3 matches unless both coaches agree to 1 set to 25.
 - E. They established an MVP Selection Committee for all Junior Regional Championships. The committee will be comprised of the Tournament Director, the paid officials that work the championship match, and the Head Coaches of the respective teams in the finals. The Tournament Director will chair the committee and break all ties.
 - F. They requested that the Region strive to assign officials with a rating of Regional or higher to all Platinum Regional Championships.

- G. They established the following 12's serving rule: For the first regular season tournament of the sanctioned season, all 12's divisions will establish service lines 6 feet and 3 feet inside of the normal service line. Players will be allowed the option to serve from the 6 foot line on their first serve during each term of service. If the team wins the point, they must move back to the 3-foot line. If they win that point, they must serve from normal service line for the remainder of that term of service. (b) Beginning with the second tournaments of the sanctioned season and continuing to the end of the regular season, the 12's Platinum division will play using the normal service line in the USAV Rule book; the 12's Gold and below divisions will play using the modified service lines described above in (a). (c) For all Regional Championship tournaments and National bid tournaments, all 12's divisions will play using the normal service line in the USAV Rule book.
- H. They asked the Region to emphasize in the training of the officials the need to use penalties and the Behavior Policy warning cards to control inappropriate behavior by participants and spectators. This led into a discussion about the Behavior Policy and what officials may do under that policy. Kevin reminded the group that officials may give the Behavior Cards to spectators as a warning that their behavior may get them removed from the event. However, only a tournament director is authorized to remove participants or spectators from the event. The region will strive to have the Behavior cards at the professional officials' clinics so all officials will have a supply of them heading into the season.

IV. Good Standing Policies:

- A. Provisional and Regional – The Region does not currently have a Good Standing Policy for existing Provisional and Region-rated officials. The group was shown a proposed policy for the region to adopt. There was discussion as to whether the minimum requirement of working two tournaments during the season was too low. After debate on both sides, it was agreed to keep it at two. A question was asked whether Junior Hi Neighbor, Quest, or any other future two-day tournament would count. As written, it would not. A suggestion was made to change the wording to remove “regular-season” before sanctioned events in the policy. This would then include all sanctioned tournaments on the Region schedule under this policy. A question was asked whether this applies to those officials that receive these ratings as part of their adult teams and do not work as Junior tournament officials. After debate, it was decided that the wording covered their work at both adult and junior events. It was suggested and agreed upon to change the deadline for attending a clinic and submitting their tests from February 15 to January 1. Motion by Johnny Guterwill, second by Tony Hill to:

Motion 1: approve the Provisional and Regional Good Standing Policy as amended.
MSA

- B. National Good Standing Policy – The Officials Division of USA Volleyball has established a National Good Standing Policy that covers all Junior National and National Referees. It requires 30 hours of service to the region each season and allows a variety of methods for an official to meet those service hours. This raises the issue of whether the Carolina Region still needs its own Good Standing Policy or whether we can just adopt the National standard. Motion by Michael O’Connor, second by Ron Weigand that:

Motion 2: the Carolina Region replace the current Carolina Region Good Standing Policy with the National Good Standing Policy. MSA

- V. Officials Requirements – Marilyn went over the requirements that all officials need to do each year as an informational item. This will be emphasized in our training each year so there is no confusion. These requirements include: Annual Clinic Attendance; Pass Annual tests; Referees certified as scorekeepers also (clinic and test) - this should be completed BEFORE the season; Independent Contractor Agreement sent annually to region office; clear USAV background screen every two years.
- VI. Procedures for Working Junior Tournaments:
- A. Expectations – Professionalism on behalf of the officials. Keep your calendar updated, accept assignments promptly, show up on time, get your clinic and test taking requirements done before the season.
- B. Ball Shaggers – We need to make sure officials are monitoring the ball shagging issue at tournaments. Only current USA Volleyball members may participate in sanctioned events including shagging balls. This is for liability reasons (if they are hurt during the process they would not be covered under the USAV insurance program). We will include this in the officials and coaches training clinics to try to raise awareness of the issue.
- C. Optimal Teaching Positions – For new and inexperienced officials, the professional official should stand beside the first referee and help them with the duties. The professional official should make sure all faults are called either by getting the first referee to blow the whistle or actually blowing the whistle from the floor at the time of the fault. Once the first referee is settled, professional officials should move to train the second referee, line judges and scorekeepers. At no time should professional officials be sitting when assigned to work a court.
- D. What to call and how – The simple answer is to call everything you would call if you were on the stand. We should not use the excuse that we are letting the junior official “use their judgment”. They are usually not experienced enough to have developed good judgment yet. If you see a fault that is not being called, then either get the first referee or second referee’s attention (if it is their call) so they can blow the whistle or blow the whistle from the floor. This is the only way to insure that we are not calling different things when professional officials work the playoff matches.

- E. Coaches and Spectators – This was touched on earlier but Marilyn reminded everyone to use the penalty sanctions authorized in the rule book and the behavior cards for spectators. We need to do a better job of controlling inappropriate behavior at our tournaments.
- F. A question was asked whether the professional officials could work more on the stand during pool play if we have enough officials. Kevin reiterated that the current policy is that junior officials will work pool play matches. This is for two main reasons: (a) we historically do not have enough professional officials at ALL sites to be able to allow them to work the whole tournament; and (b) more importantly, this has been a great training program to introduce the next generation of officials to the sport. We have many great junior officials that have come up through the ranks that are now working on alternate weekends and also continue as officials after they age out of the junior program. We would lose this opportunity if we do away with the program. A suggestion was made to designate one or two tournaments during the season as a training tournament for our newer officials. Kevin said that he and Marilyn would look into ways we can incorporate aw officials training into the tournament schedule.
- VII. Knowledge of Rules – Marilyn reminded the group that all officials need to know what type of calls may be protested and the procedures to implement if a call is protested. We have instances each season where either valid protests are not accepted or incorrect protest procedures are used. We will try to do a better job in our clinics to address this issue.
- VIII. Communication/Updates – How do we do a better job of communicating our policies and procedures with our officials? Unfortunately, the group email as part of the Assign By Web system does not work effectively. We will try to set up a group email list so that Wade, Marilyn, and Kevin can send our information to all officials.
- IX. How do we handle officials that are not fulfilling the requirements expected of them? It was suggested to add to the Provisional and Regional Good Standing Policy a probationary period of one year for those that do not remain in good standing. Motion by John Episcopo, second by Tony Hill to:

Motion 3: add a probationary period of one year for officials that do not satisfy the requirements of the Junior and Regional Good Standing Policy. MSA

For all other requirements that are not met, such as failure to submit registration, background screens, or independent contractor agreements; failure to attend a clinic and take/pass the annual tests; failure to keep working calendar up to date or accept assignments, then everyone agreed that the region will just not use those officials until they meet their requirements.

- X. National Clinic Information:
- A. Train The Trainer – Dan Picket is representing us this weekend in Houston, Texas. Question was asked as to who should represent the region at this clinic and how should they be selected. It was felt that this is a good clinic for any of our approved clinicians and each should get an opportunity to attend. Whoever attends would be required to come back and provide the information to the remainder of the clinicians. Each season the Region will send the details out to all the clinicians and see who can attend. Each clinician will get the opportunity to attend before someone may attend a second time.
 - B. National Clinic – this is the clinic that each National or Junior National Referee must attend before working one of the National Championship tournaments. We hosted one last year and intend to host again this season. All agreed that Greensboro was a good, central location. We will try to schedule it for a Sunday in January depending on what is offered as options from USAV.
- XI. Online Clinic Plans – We are going to work on creating a couple versions of the online clinic. One will be for the Junior official. This will be shorter and only include things that are relevant to their experience as an official at our junior tournaments. A second one will be a little longer and focused on adult and professional officials. We hope these will be ready earlier this season depending on when materials are received from USA Volleyball.
- XII. 2010 Schedule – the 2010 Junior Schedule was posted. Kevin reminded everyone that this schedule has already been posted to the Region website (under the Juniors section).
- XIII. Region Rating Opportunities – The first two weekends of December are adult tournaments. We can continue to use that as a rating opportunity for our officials. We will also try to see if we can have some friendship tournament or other competitions set up to use as a training/rating opportunity.
- XIV. National Ratings update – The following officials are in the pipeline to go for a Junior National Rating in 2010: Brian Jones and Brian Webb. We have received an application from George Papageorgiou to be considered for 2011. Stephen Shepherd has submitted an application to go for his National rating in 2010. We do not have anyone in pipeline to go for a National Scorekeeper rating and the region is asking for suggestions on how to promote this opportunity to more scorekeepers. Motion by Wade, second by Dennis to:

Motion 4: approve Brian Jones, Brian Webb, and Stephen Shepherd as our candidates for National Ratings in 2010. MSA – 1 registered vote no: Marilyn Thompson

- XV. Advisory Council – Kevin asked whether this group was still functioning and necessary now that we have dedicated staff to the officials program? It was agreed to leave these positions unfilled unless it is determined they are needed in the future.

XVI. Old Business:

A. Junior Regionals Rating Process and Guidelines – Everyone agreed that this is still something that needs to be addressed. We have many outstanding junior officials and we need a standardized rating and evaluation process to recognize these officials. Ron Weigand agreed to work on it for the Officials Advisory Board.

XVII. Elections – Doug Fagan’s one-year term ends with this meeting. We need to elect someone to represent the Officials Advisory Board to the Carolina Region Board. Nominations from the floor were Charlie Yang and Michael O’Connor. The candidates left the room while the other attendees voted. Michael O’Connor was elected as the rep for a one-year term.

XVIII. Adjournment - Motion by Wade Brence, second by Ronnie Mutter to:

Motion 5: adjourn the Officials Advisory Board Meeting at 5:15 pm. MSA

NEXT MEETING

In conjunction with July/August, 2010 OTP clinic. Time and site TBD

ACTION ITEMS:

- Region – Provide Behavior Policy cards at the Professional Officials clinics/Training sessions so all officials have supply heading in to the season.
- Marilyn/Region – Include in training sessions for professional officials items on controlling behavior, ball shaggers, optimal training positions, what to call and how, and protest situations and procedures.
- Region – create email list of all professional officials to enhance communication
- Ron Weigand – Work on Junior Regional Rating Process and Criteria
- Kevin/Marilyn – Work on ways to incorporate training and rating opportunities for newer officials in the junior tournament schedule.