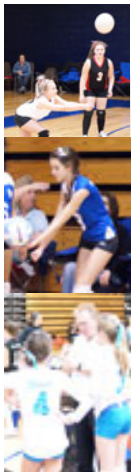


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Carolina

Volleyball Review

From the Top:

Jim Ross

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!



It seems like just a few weeks ago, I was writing about the last days of the 2020 outdoor/beach season. At that point, last Fall, any indoor season was in question due to challenges none of us could control. It felt like volleyball was grinding to a halt. We did struggle at first, opening and then closing gyms, changing region policies and club requirements numerous times, scheduling and then cancelling matches and tournaments with little or no notice. Seemed like volleyball was over for a while. I feared the season would be lost.

And so it is hard to believe that I find myself tonight watching the NCAA women's semi final, wrapping up a once-in-a-lifetime season of both Fall and Spring matches for many schools. I just watched one of the Carolina Region's alumnus, Megan Hodge Easy (more on her later in this issue!), help her professional team win their league championship in Brazil. And I continue to watch the success many of our Carolina Region club teams are experiencing in

competition both in North Carolina and numerous other states near and far. What I feared did not come to pass. Volleyball did find a way to go on...with clubs and coaches doing all they could to keep their players and coaches safe and healthy while they found a way to continue to play ball.

All of us on the board sincerely appreciate the extremes our coaches, staff, and players went to in order to continue to play the sport we love. I know playing with a mask on makes communication difficult – but it allowed us to play on. Hopefully, parents and spectators understand the challenges the region and the clubs faced in trying to ensure our members had opportunities to play, and provided coaching and instruction to help them continue to develop their skills and abilities. I'm proud of our region and all we have accomplished this year, even while facing daunting barriers. Hopefully, things will continue to improve and we will put this crazy season behind us, locked away in the "Never Forgotten but Never Again" repository. Before we know it, we will be looking back on another summer outdoor season. So make the best of the time you have to play this summer, thank your coaches, parents and officials, and keep on doing all you can to make this region the best it can be.



CJ Hunter

In Memoriam



Tony Fontanelle

The Carolina Region was saddened to hear of the passing of two long-time members this spring.

CJ Hunter coached with Triangle Volleyball Club since 2013. He also worked with both the UNC and Duke Volleyball Programs while in school. He served as the Duke Director of Volleyball Operations upon graduation.

Tony Fontanelle was a USA Volleyball National Referee. He became the Head Coach at Mars Hill University in 2004.

These two individuals left a large legacy in North Carolina volleyball. They will be missed. The region sends its condolences to their friends and families.

CEO Report Kevin Wendelboe



Unfortunately, we've had another season unlike any we've had before. I'm sure none of us thought that the cancellation of the end of the 2020 season would continue all the way through 2021! The Region made alternate plans in preparation for the new season, hoping we would be able to salvage some play. The virus did not cooperate. The Region made the difficult decision in December to cancel all the one-day events that we administer through the office. This was not an easy decision, but we did not have much choice. The majority of the facilities that we usually host events in were shut down through at least February at the time we made the decision. The few other sites we had would not accommodate the number of teams that wanted to play. The Board wanted to give those teams enough time to find alternate tournaments in nearby states that were not as shut down as we were. By making the decision early, most of our clubs were able to find events to play.

Our numbers were definitely down this year due to COVID. But, they weren't down as much as in some other areas of the country. We thank everyone for their support during this difficult time. We'll plan for a "regular" season in 2022 and hope we can get our events in this time!

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



Partnership Provides Good Info for Clubs and Athletes

The Carolina Region has continued its partnership with the America Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) this season to bring valuable tips and information to Clubs, Athletes, Coaches, and Parents. Educational and Recruiting Tips of the Week are posted regularly to our page on the website. Some examples of this season's topics include: Picking a College, How to impress college coaches, Speed and Jump metrics, and many more. 2020 Articles have also been preserved and are accessible from the page.

The AVCA has also provided an interactive map of all schools in the state and surrounding area. Check out the page on our website to view all the benefits of this relationship!

[AVCA/CR Educational & Recruiting Insights Page](#)

2021 NC Volleyball Hall of Fame Inductees Announced



The Carolina Region has announced the 2021 class to be inducted into the North Carolina Hall of Fame.

Megan Hodge Easy will become the first Player to be inducted into the NC Hall of Fame. This distinction is self-evident as Megan is one of the most decorated players to come out of North Carolina in history. She played with Triangle Volleyball Club as a junior player and earned multiple Carolina Region All-Region honors. She was named the Gatorade and Volleyball Magazine's National High School Player of the Year in 2006. She was a member of the 2004 and 2005 U.S. Girl's Youth National Team as well as the 2006 U.S. Women's Junior National Team. Megan played collegiately at Penn State University where she was a four-time AVCA First Team All-America selection. In 2009 she was named the Honda Award winner for volleyball and the AVCA Division I National Player of the Year. Penn State won three National Championships during her time in college. Megan joined the U.S. National Team in 2009 and participated in multiple international competitions. She was an Olympian at the 2012 London Olympics earning a Silver medal. She was also named the Most Valuable Player and Best Scorer during the 2012 FIVB World Grand Prix.



Megan lives outside the state now. An induction ceremony is planned for later in summer when she returns to visit family in the state.

International Jammers will become the first Adult team to be added to the NC Hall of Fame's Court of Honor. Teams that have achieved regional or national recognition for significant results are considered for this honor. International Jammers became the first Carolina Region Adult team to win an overall division at the USA Volleyball National Championships by winning the Men's A division at the 2005 US Open Championships in Denver, CO. The International Jammers team consisted of the following players: Romel Lightbourn, Matt Fitzsimmons, Brian Kopec, Chad Willis, Tim Walenga, Jean-Philippe Guyon, Ed Pankau, Bradley Smith, and Gary DeJames.

See the NC Hall of Fame Page on our website:

<https://www.carolinaregionvb.org/nc-volleyball-hall-of-fame/>

2021 Junior Beach Tour

The 11th edition of the Carolina Region Jr Beach Tour has underway. The tour has grown immensely since its 1st year, which fielded a handful of events and a couple hundred teams. Now the tour annually has 25+ events from March to early August with 1200+ teams participating all across the state.

Some highlights for the upcoming tour season include:

- All tour events have **results entered in the [USAV Beach Ranking system](#)** with participants earning points in the process.
- **Open and AA divisions/bids per age division.** In order to better support the growth of interest in the sport, events featuring 2 divisions during registration or 2 playoff brackets for an age group (Open -aka Gold - and AA - aka Silver) will offer bids to top finishers in each of those sub-divisions for the regional championships. Additionally, some events may be categorized as Open or AA only tournaments. This is at the discretion of each tournament host based on their space and time restrictions in order to accommodate.
- **2 events on the tour** are classified as **Beach National Qualifiers (BNQ)**. Each BNQ will offer up to 4 bids per age division to the Open (top) division at the [National Beach Tour](#) Championships which will be held in Fort Lauderdale, FL over July 10-15.
 - ◊ [May 15-16 - Carolina Grand Slam \(Apex/Cary area\)](#)
 - ◊ [TBA—Charlotte Open](#)
- **Tour-wide use of Bracket Pal.** Based on feedback from participants and openness by the hosts, Bracket Pal will be used whenever possible for tournament registration and management by each of the tour hosts.
- **4 events (1 per sub-region) called Beach Regional Qualifiers/Premier Tour Events** that will offer bids to the top 3 teams (3rd place is contested) in each age division to the American Division for the girls and the Open Division for the boys at the National Beach Tour Championships. Additionally, the top 4 players in the Region per age group according to the National Beach Ranking system as of July 1st who do not have a bid to Nationals already, will be offered one for the Regional Open division.
- **[Regional championships](#)** on Sat, July 10 (Open bids only) and Sat, July 17 (AA bids with potential remaining space opened to non-bid teams on a first-come, first-serve basis)

[CLICK HERE FOR THE COMPLETE TOUR SCHEDULE](#)

2021 USAV Girls 18's Championships Results Columbus, OH—April 23-25, 2021

18 Open	CUVC 18 Premier	25th out of 46
18 National	Triangle 18 Black	21st out of 46
18 USA	ECJVC 18 Premier	5th out of 46
18 American	Academy 18 Crystal	45th out of 64
18 American	Triangle 18 Blue	61st out of 64