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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!



Men's Volleyball does not generally get much attention in our newsletters or in the US sporting news in general, and that is unfortunate. But today I want to share some good news about the state of the men's game, as the epicenter of competition for men is quickly shifting East....or at least is no longer captive to the West Coast schools. Men's collegiate programs across the US have historically been heavily populated on the West Coast and Hawaii, with some consistent representation from Penn State, Ball State and IPFW in Indiana, Ohio State, and on occasion George Mason, Rutgers and Princeton. The usual suspects are still atop the men's rankings this season – Hawai'i, Pepperdine, Long Beach State and UCLA sit in the top four spots in the ACVA Coaches poll this

week. But over the last several years, strong programs have emerged from new and unusual places.... like recent national champion Loyola of Chicago, or Lewis University in Romeoville IL, and here in NC, even our own Mt. Olive men's programs. All have put together impressive and competitive programs on a national basis and continue to offer opportunities for men from our region to continue play at the collegiate level. Recently, small school Lincoln Memorial University (undergrad student pop. 1673, located in eastern Tennessee) swept powerhouse IPFW and #11 ranked Loyola of Chicago, and they have Hawai'i and Ohio State on their schedule later this season. The smaller schools are showing they can hang with the big boys. Mckendree University (total student pop. 2200 in Lebanon, IL) put on a very respectable competitive run

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From the Top...continued

against Lincoln Memorial and Grand Canyon University (both recipients of top-25 votes for the Coaches poll this season) in January. And our own Mt. Olive University (Mt. Olive NC) men took #8 ranked BYU to five sets on Jan. 27 and lost in 4 sets on January 29. And Mt. Olive still has 12th ranked Ohio State coming up later this week. I've only touched on a number of schools that have not traditionally offered competitive men's programs. The point of all this is that men's volleyball is alive and well, and competitive programs are available to student athletes that aspire to play at the collegiate level across a variety of schools throughout the country. Women's indoor and beach programs generate the most tv and press coverage but the men's programs continue to grow and thrive as well. As we continue to work to make volleyball available to all comers regardless of age, gender, or socioeconomic status - we still have significant work to do here in our state to foster offerings to men at the middle school and high school levels. But a small number of boys programs have registered for USAV indoor play this season, and the rapid growth and popularity of men's beach play is exposing folks to the game at earlier and earlier ages. We'll continue to watch the new and emerging programs compete with the traditional powerhouse schools as the sport continues to grow nationally. **PLEASE NOTE: the Carolina Region offers a Boys Development Grant program to persons seeking to grow the boy's game in our state. Please reach out to the Region office if you have interest or ideas you want to share.**

We're are thankful we're able to offer our full tournament schedule for 2022. Thank you for joining us and we wish you a great season!



CEO Report Kevin Wendelboe

What a difference a year makes. At this time last season, we were making the difficult decision to cancel our one-day tournament offerings for the entire season due to COVID. One year later, we're into our second month of volleyball tournaments across the state. We've had issues with inclement weather each weekend, but we have been able to get the majority of our tournaments in.

We have bounced back very well in memberships and teams. We're up over 10% in members and currently have 772 teams with a few more to trickle in. Thank you to all the players, coaches, officials, and clubs for persevering through these difficult times. We're excited to see everyone back on the courts.

We are in year two of the new USA Volleyball Membership Management System. There have definitely been fewer issues on the registration side of the system than year one. But, there are still plenty of

things that clubs, individuals, and the Region would like to see improve on the system so things can go a lot smoother. A committee of Region leaders and USAV staff recently sent SportsEngine an enhancement list with over 150 items ranked in priority. SE is listening and is diligently working to incorporate as many improvements as they can. We're confident Year 3 will get us closer to the system we hoped for when the transition was announced.

Have a fun season!

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) for the 2022 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. 2020 and 2021 Season tips have also been preserved and are accessible from this season's page.

The AVCA has also provided an interactive map of all schools in the state and surrounding area. Information on an informational Webinar to be held in late February with a panel of college coaches will be posted soon and is available to all our coaches and members. Check out the page on our website to view all the benefits of this relationship!

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

2021 Meritorious Service Award Winners

We are pleased to recognize our two 2021 Honorees of the USA Volleyball Robert L. Lindsay Meritorious Service Award. Each region may recognize individuals that provide outstanding contributions to the sport of volleyball in their area.

KRISTA MCGIVERN



Krista was elected Treasurer for the Carolina Region Board of Directors in the 2019 season and served in that capacity through the 2021 season. She currently serves the Board of Directors as an At-Large Rep. Krista is an Assistant Club Director and Coach for North Carolina Volleyball Academy in Durham. She has served on multiple Boards in the past as part of her Athletic Administration background including as a Director of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources. She currently is an Administrator in the Wake County Public School System.

TINA READLING



Tina has been a player, coach, assistant club director, and tournament director during the course of her service to to the Carolina Region and sport. Tina began her service as Women's Player Representative on the Board of Directors for the 2012/2013 season. She served as Player Rep through the 2019 season. She became Secretary of the Board in 2020 and served through the 2021 season. She currently serves as an At-Large Rep on the Board.



Welcome to New Officials

Join us in welcoming to the Region this season the following new officials that have completed their training and rating process and will be working future tournaments this season. Professional officials are a vital component to ensuring a fun, fair match experience for all. There is a shortage of officials across the nation in all sports, not just volleyball. If you're interested in passing along your love of the sport in this capacity, contact [Brian Webb](#), our Officials Program Director.

JUNIOR REGIONAL REFEREES

Emma-Grace Dubuc
Alyssa Maragelis
Jade McCall
Alexa Mikesell
Emily Roach
Mackenzie Roach
Alayna Wicker

PROVISIONAL REFEREES

Georgia Anderson
Rachel Ardekani
Royce Barrett
Victor Chiles
Ron Cowart
Angie Cullen
Ashley Dyer
Jalonni Gadist
Morgan Gibbs
Sydney Holland
Patrick Keys

Brooke Lankford
Tiara Malcom
John Moody
Katrina O'Neill
Patricia Price
Desiree Rhinehart
Bill Shook
Madeline Simpson
Michael Simpson
Sarah Weavil
Angela White

2021 NC Volleyball Hall of Fame Induction

See the NC Hall of Fame Page on our website:

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

Friends and family gathered at a popular restaurant in Durham on August 6, 2021 to celebrate the induction of Megan Hodge Easy into the NC Volleyball Hall of Fame. The most decorated player to come out of North Carolina, Megan was the obvious choice to be the first PLAYER inducted into the Hall. Her accomplishments are too many to post here but include:

- 2012 Olympian (London; Silver Medalist)
- Most Valuable Player and Best Scorer – 2012 FIVB World Grand Prix
- 2009 co-Honda Broderick Cup Award winner – Best Female Collegiate Athlete
- 2009 AVCA Division I Player of the Year
- Three-time National Champion at Penn State University
- Four-time AVCA First-team All-American
- 2006 High School Player of the Year

Please see Megan's page on the NC Volleyball Hall of Fame website for pictures from the celebration.



2022 Beach News: USAV/AVP Partnership + Carolina Region Jr Beach Tour Mark Nalevanko, CR Junior Beach Director



In late fall 2021 an announcement was made regarding a [partnership between USAV and AVP](#) for beach volleyball. This will ultimately lead to a better strategic plan for the continued growth of the sport with involvement from both organizations. Initially for the upcoming 2022 season, the main changes that will be in place are:

A unified ranking system which will lead to results from events sanctioned by either USAV and/or AVP feeding into the same system and then subsequently being used for initial seeding of teams at events under either organization.

Hosts are permitted to dual-affiliate events meaning that a host can ask for memberships from both organizations as part of registration and offer bids to events at both organizations' national events this year.

In the longer run (2023 and beyond), the goals include a combined National Championship event(s) schedule along with a bidding process for such events and membership program.

Now with spring 2022 fast approaching, the [12th edition of the Carolina Region Jr Beach Tour](#) will continue to operate similarly to seasons past:

- All tour events have **results entered in the new unified ranking system** with participants earning points in the process with top finishers getting a bid to the tour championships (girls only).
- A new **Mid-Atlantic Boys Beach Tour** has been created and will be listed on the region tour page as well. Events on this tour will have a focus towards the boys but any host may offer boys divisions at other events as well, subject to their discretion.

3 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 (location and dates TBD)

- **April 23-24 - Greensboro**
- **May 14-15 - Carolina Grand Slam (Apex – near Raleigh)**
- **June 4-5 - Charlotte**



Junior Beach update (continued from page 5)

- o **Some additional events will be designated as Beach Regional Qualifiers (BRQ)** which 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.
- o Additionally, some wildcard bids to Nationals may be offered. It is a topic still being finalized by USAV's Beach Committee.

Regional championships for the girls and a **Tour finals** for the boys will be held in mid-July subject to final dates and location announcement for the Beach Nationals.

We encourage all junior players from seasoned beach players to those just testing the sport out for the first time to get involved in the game by participating in any of the events held across the region. You may find yourself hooked before you know it!

[CLICK HERE FOR THE 2022 TOUR SCHEDULE](#)

2021 USA Volleyball NEW Junior National Referees

The Carolina Region is pleased to announce that we have three new Junior National Referees in the Region:

- Victoria Ivie (Murphy, NC)
- Stephen Koehler (Waxhaw, NC)
- Kennedy Paine (Clayton, NC)

All three referees have participated in the Carolina Region Officials Accelerated Advancement Program (OAAP). This intensive training program prepares officials for higher ratings over a three year period. For 2021, the referees were rated at the 2021 Girls' Junior National Championships in Las Vegas, NV.

