

Carolina Region/USAV
July 18, 2022 Officials Advisory Board meeting
Online Meeting



Attendees: Rob Boggs, Wade Brence, Ritchie Buffkin, Jennifer Craft, Callie Davis, Chanel Davis, Sean DeZurik, Gary Foster, Amber Fulk, Tony Hill, Michael Holder, Rick Laskey, Kelly Moose, Ronnie Mutter, Ken Palmer, Dan Pickett, Stephen Shepherd, Randy Smith, Tad Watson

Staff Attendees: Kevin Wendelboe, Executive Director; Brian Webb, Officials Program Director

Meeting began: 7:00 pm

- I. Welcome & Introductions –Stephen opened the meeting with introductions of Brian Webb, Officials Program Director; Stephen Shepherd, Referee Chair; Ronnie Mutter, Beach Referee Chair, Tony Hill, Officials Rep to Board of Directors, Amber Fulk, Scorer Chair, and Kevin Wendelboe, Executive Director.
- II. Stephen reviewed items of note from the 2022 season associated with the Officials Program.
 - A. Certified 40 new officials in 2022 – 7 Juniors and 33 adults.
 - B. Re-evaluated 36 officials.
 - C. 19 Officials received a certification upgrade in 2022.
 - D. Had 14 Officials in the OAAP.
 - E. We had one new National Referee – Callie Davis
 - F. We had three new Junior National Referees:
 - i. David Bryant
 - ii. Chanel Davis
 - iii. Leanne Madtes
- III. Kevin reviewed items discussed and approved at the recent Carolina Region Board of Director meeting that are of interest to officials:
 - A. Board retreat held May 13-14, 2022 at the Region offices
 - B. Approved the 2023 Junior Schedule. It is available on the website now. It was noted that the Region is publishing a separate Boys schedule in 2023 to promote more growth for Boys. Officials that want to be assigned to the Region boy’s tournaments should let Brian and Stephen know their interest as working boy’s matches is a different experience than girls’ matches.
 - C. Officials should make note that we are not sanctioning the Queen City Classic any longer.
 - D. New for 2023, all Juniors and Coaches will take their certification clinics online in the UAV Academy. Clubs will still be able to hire clinicians to come give ref/scorer clinics to reinforce the online clinics if they wish, but certifications will only be granted online. Brian and Stephen will be putting together an outline that clinicians can use for the in-person training.

- IV. Beach Referees:
 - A. We ran a Beach clinic in conjunction with the Carolina Open BNQ in Apex. New Local Beach Referees:
 - i. De Batchelor
 - ii. Kennedey Paine
 - iii. Marrissa Thomas
 - iv. Tony DeRubeis
 - B. Zonal certification clinics have not been offered yet this year due to issues at the USAV level.

- V. 2023 Season Key Deadlines:
 - A. OAAP Application – Oct 1, 2022
 - B. Junior National/National Application – Oct 1 (JN with OAAP application)
 - C. Certification Upgrade – January 15, 2023.
 - D. Scoring a Match – April 30 (Stephen will notify referees that need to complete this season). Amber will only send back feedback on scoresheets to those officials that had issues on their scoresheet.

- VI. Document Updates
 - A. Good Standing Policy -only change was to remove the minimum test score requirement for the different certification levels due to changes in testing procedures at the USAV level. Motion by Boggs, second by Shepherd to:

Motion 1: approve the updated Carolina Region Good Standing Policy. MSA

 - B. Certification Upgrade Document – two changes: (a) removed minimum test score requirement for the different certification levels due to changes in testing procedures at the USAV level; and (b) added a minimum Carolina Region tournament requirement to be eligible to be considered for an upgrade. Motion by Mutter, second by Boggs to:

Motion 2: approve the updated Carolina Region Professional Official Certification Information document. MSA

- VII. Registration Updates – 2023 Registrations will be available September 1. Individuals will go through the quizzard which will guide them to the correct membership. There is a dedicated membership for Professional officials. Once you select that, it will include all requirements you need to complete (SafeSport, Background Screen, Independent Contractor Agreement). The Background Screen is now \$14. Region will still pay for the screen as long as the instructions we will send out. Wait for our email with instructions before registering for the 2023 season. Please get all your requirements done early. We will be making all officials inactive in Arbiter and will reinstate once all requirements are completed.

VIII. Region Clinics:

- A. Our New official information clinic and training will now be an online presentation to ease the burden on staff and officials. Brian will be recording the presentation this summer. Once an official completes the New official survey and registers as a member, we'll load the presentation in their USAV Academy site to complete along with the rest of their clinics.
- B. All clinics will be available in the USAV Academy. Region staff will enroll all officials in their applicable clinics once they register for the season. Officials should not enroll in the clinics themselves as we had several choose the wrong clinics last season. Once the region enrolls you in your clinics, you can then choose other modules that interest you to supplement your training. Officials must complete all their clinics before they will be eligible to be assigned to tournaments.
- C. We are hoping to train and rate New Officials before the season this year. We are approaching clubs around the state to hold multi-club scrimmages where we can provide the referees and do our training in conjunction with these events. Our new officials and our rating cadre will then be available to work much earlier than in the past. We may still do some training during the season as needed.

IX. SafeSport – SafeSport is required for all Officials. This will need to be completed before you are marked as eligible in the USAV system. When you register as an official, you will be enrolled automatically in the SafeSport course that applies to you this season. There are three courses – Core, Refresher 1, and Refresher 2.

- X. Gift Program Update – We are making some revisions to the Officials' Gift Program for the new season to provide more incentives to work one-day events:
- A. Officials will still receive a small CR-logo gift when completing their registration and clinic requirements.
 - B. Officials that work 5 one-day tournaments will have several CR-logo gift options to choose from.
 - C. Officials that work 5 one-day weekends will receive a CR Yeti Lowball drinkware gift
 - D. Officials that work 7 one-day weekends may choose a gift card or a CR Polo shirt (in addition to the existing \$10 additional in base pay)
 - E. Officials that work 10 one-day weekends may choose a gift card or a CR Jacket/1/4 zip pullover (in addition to the existing \$15 additional in base pay)
 - F. All participation gifts will be sent after the season once we have all participation totals in.

- XI. Compensation Update – the Carolina Region Board approved a significant increase for Officials’ pay in 2023 to retain and recruit officials:
- A. \$40 increase in base pay for all certifications; \$5 increase in mileage reimbursements
 - i. Junior Regional - \$185 base pay
 - ii. Provisional - \$190
 - iii. Regional - \$200
 - iv. Retired JN/N - \$210
 - v. National/JN - \$225
 - vi. Mileage – starts at \$20 and goes up \$7.50 every 30 miles
- XII. New Scholarship Opportunity – the Carolina Region Board created a new Scholarship opportunity for Junior referees as an additional recruiting tool for that population.
- A. Available to 16-18 year old high school students
 - B. Must become certified as a Junior Regional Professional Referee
 - C. Work at least 1 tournament on 3 separate weekends of the CR one-day tournament schedule
 - D. Earn a \$500 college scholarship (in addition to normal pay)
 - E. Can earn a maximum of \$1000 towards college across multiple seasons.
 - F. Scholarships will be paid directly to the enrolled school.
- Reaction to the scholarship announcement was very positive. Ideas were given on how to publicize this opportunity to aid in our recruitment.
- XIII. Assignments and Payments – We will use ArbiterSports and Arbiter Pay again this season. Contact Brian if you need help in setting up your accounts and affiliating with the Carolina Region.
- XIV. Facebook Group – All officials were encouraged to join our Carolina Region Officials Facebook Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CarolinaRegionVolleyballOfficials>). We use this private group for announcements, accomplishments, and instruction/interpretations.
- XV. Additional Items/New Business:
- A. Stephen mentioned that 10 CR Regional officials were able to go to the USAV Junior National Championships to work. With the official shortages across the country this will continue to be an option for Regional officials. Regional officials need a recommendation from the Referee Chair to work so any CR officials that are interested need to let Stephen know so he can observe them during the season.
 - B. A question was asked as to whether upgrades will continue to be done at Regional Championships. Stephen replied that we do need a certain level of event to be able to do upgrades. We only used 4 courts out of all the tournament sites to do upgrades. We make all efforts to use as many officials that want to work on all our region weekends.

- C. Stephen asked for feedback on how the Official Advisory Board Meetings should be facilitated. It was suggested that the Officials Rep should be the one to facilitate with support from Region staff and Officials Program staff. Tony indicated willingness to do this in the future, so we will move in that direction.
- D. Chanel Davis thanked everyone for their support in helping our Junior National Candidates succeed this season. She indicated they were very well prepared for the process.

XVI. Adjournment – Motion by T. Hill, second by S. Shepherd to:

Motion 3: adjourn the July 18, 2022 meeting of the Carolina Region Officials’ Advisory Board at 8:20 pm. MSA

NEXT MEETING

June - August, 2023 – Online meeting - TBA