

Carolina Region/USAV
May 6, 2025 Junior Advisory Board meeting
Online Meeting



Attendees: Cathy Sescourka (Carolina Spike Force); Ed Sescourka (Carolina Spike Force); James Marshall (Stanly); Krista McGivern (NCVBA; At-Large); Fred Wendelboe (At-Large); Ken Kelly (Youth & Junior Girls-West); Sarah Conklin (Boys' Rep); Steve McKeon (NC Coastal, Youth & Junior Girls' – East)

CR Staff Attendees: Kevin Wendelboe

Meeting began: 7:00 pm

- I. Welcome/Agenda
- II. 2024 Minutes approval – The minutes from the 2024 JAB meeting were distributed with the meeting invitation. Motion by Conklin; seconded by McGivern to:

Motion 1: approve the minutes from the May 7, 2024 JAB meeting. MSA

- III. 2025 Season Review – We had 957 Girls teams (+71) and 47 Boys teams (+10). Our individual full membership totals as of April 1 were: 9824 Girls (+685); 497 Boys (+150); and 172 Youth (-10). We have 584 Outdoor Junior memberships as well. We had 12 weekends of sanctioned indoor tournaments in 2025 with 1720 entries for Regular season events and 403 entries on Regional Championship weekends. We did two weekends of tournaments impacted due to inclement weather. 65% of eligible teams participated in a Regional Championship event.
- IV. 2025/2026 Girls' & Boys' Schedules – Kevin presented proposed schedules for the 2026 season. The Big South Qualifier is one weekend later and back over Easter, so our Regional Championship weekends will be back-to-back at end of March. Kevin proposed the age groups stay on the same relative weekend as the 2025 season. It is also recommended that we do not make any changes to the Regional Championship weekends, even if Big South changes their schedule like they did this season and move some divisions to another weekend. That did cause court and referee issues for us this season. Kevin reminded everyone that these schedules are not final until approved by the Carolina Region Board of Directors at their next meeting on May 12. We will publish the final approved schedules shortly after that meeting. Motion by McGivern, second by Conklin to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 2: approve the 2026 Junior Girl's Tournament Schedule. MSA
See Appendix 1

There was a brief discussion about the Boys' schedule before approval. It was noted that with High School Boys competitions being in the spring, we may want to consider alternate time frames for the Boys' tournaments in the future. USAV is also considering alternate Boys scheduling, so this will be revisited as things change nationally and regionally in the next year.

Motion by Conklin, second by McKeon to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 3: approve the 2026 Junior Boys' Tournament Schedule. MSA
See Appendix 2

V. Topics of Discussion:

- A. Region Bid Ranking Process - Requirement to be eligible to accept a Carolina Region bid. The existing requirement is to participate in one CR-sanctioned event. We had one team apply this season that did not participate in any CR-sanctioned events (they did not receive a bid). We would like to update the requirement to clarify that teams must play in one CR-sanctioned one-day or multi-day event. In the event, we do not have enough applications from eligible teams for all our available bids, then a bid could be distributed to a CR team that does not meet the eligibility requirement. Motion by Conklin, second by Marshall to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 4: clarify the eligibility requirement for CR teams to receive a Region JNC bid to include any CR-sanctioned one-day or multi-day tournament and if there are not enough applications from eligible CR teams then a non-eligible team may be considered to receive a CR bid. MSA

- B. Region Bid Ranking Process Participation Points – We currently award 5 participation points to teams for playing in a USAV-sanctioned tournament. A standard 5 points makes it harder to differentiate between teams that are not earning any additional points at a given tournament. It was recommended to award more points for participating in higher level tournaments and divisions. Motion by Conklin, Second by McGivern to:

Motion 5: update the Region Bid Ranking Process Participation points award chart to give teams the following points for participating in each type of event: 5 points for USAV one-day tournaments; 10 points for USAV-multi-day tournaments; 15 points for USAV Qualifier Divisions below the USA Division; 30 points for USAV Qualifier USA Divisions; and 45 points for USA Qualifier Open Divisions. MSA

- C. Region Bid Ranking Process Withdrawal consequences – We had 14 teams apply to be considered for a Region bid and eventually withdraw before the bids were finalized and awarded. It is a time-consuming process to track each team's performances and maintain the rankings. Is there something we can do to make sure only teams that truly want to be considered for the bid are the ones that submit applications? Motion by Kelly, second by McGivern to:

Motion 6: open up the application window for the Region Bid Ranking Process to April 1 of each season to conclude the Monday after the final USAV Qualifier weekend and institute a sanction on clubs that withdraw a team from the process after applying. Additional applications from the club will not be accepted until any outstanding sanctions are paid. The amount of the sanction is to be determined by the Region BOD. MSA

- D. Junior Assistant Coaches – Our current policy allows individuals that are 16 or 17 years old and meet the Coach eligibility requirements to be assigned as a Junior Assistant Coach on teams at least 3 years younger than their age. For adults 18 or older, they can coach a team that is two years younger than the coach. Some clubs are trying to assign Junior Assistants to 15's teams which is currently not permitted. Kevin asked if wanted to make the policy consistent and change to a standard two years younger for all coaches. One theme during the discussion is the maturity level of junior coaches and being close to the age of the teams. After additional discussion, no change to current policy was proposed.
- E. Serving Rule for 11 and under division – This is the second year of having stand alone tournaments for the 11's division. That division is growing so foresee stand alone divisions from here on out. They currently follow the 12's step in rule, but we have been allowing the 11's to continue to step in for all tournaments if all coaches agree. For development reasons, it is felt to update the Serving rule for 11's to allow a step in all season long. Motion by Conklin, Second by McKeon to:

Motion 7: add an 11's section to the under 12's Serving Rule policy and allow the 11's divisions to step in under the current stipulations for all tournaments during the season including Regional Championship events. MSA

- F. One-Event membership category – Kevin presented the number of one-event memberships sold during current season. It is not used a lot from season to season and causes confusion for the coaches as they do not show on the rosters or AES. The membership category is not required, and many Regions do not offer them. Kevin asked for feedback on whether it made sense to keep offering the memberships. Motion by McKeon, second by C. Sescourka to:

Motion 8: not offer a one-event membership category next season. Individuals will need to purchase a full or other available limited membership option to participate. MSA

- VI. Boys HS Volleyball update from Sarah Conklin:
- A. Boys HS Growth Grant – we have awarded \$64,500 in growth grants to 78 schools this year. This is the third year of the grant program and over \$140,000 has been distributed to grow Boys HS in North Carolina.
 - B. 109 public and 30 private schools are playing a spring schedule this season. We could have 30 additional teams next year.
 - C. Sanctioning by the NCHSAA requires 25% of the total public schools in the state (which would be 110 schools with Boys volleyball) or 50% of any class (that number will vary). We have met the 50% rule at the 4A level. Our current projection is to ask the state for a sanctioning vote in May of 2026.
- VII. Junior Referee Update –Junior Referee Scholarship Program began in 2023. The Region certified 21 Junior Regional Referees and 16 of them met the three-weekend minimum to qualify for a \$500 scholarship. Seven will graduate in 2025, so we will award \$5500 for them. Currently project eight to graduate in 2026 and four in 2027 and they will have the opportunity to earn another \$500 scholarship before then (\$1000 is the maximum per junior referee).
- VIII. Strategic Planning Update:
- Three Phase process over 2+ years. Received the final report from consultants on October 1, 2024. Results:
- A. Updated Mission and Vision Statements
 - B. A Leadership Committee was formed which transitioned to a Governance Committee. This committee finalized the creation of a Budget & Finance Committee and is now working on a Bylaws review. This could result in a restructuring of the current Board of Directors. Additional professional development activities are recommended for the Board and Staff.

- C. Resource Development/Communications Committee formed. Out of this committee, the board is working on Lunch & Learning opportunities, Town Halls, Region Ambassador program, Try Volleyball Clinics, Boys Volleyball Growth, Additional Educational opportunities, and growing Facilities, NTDP Program, and a possible Capital Campaign.

IX. Items from the Floor:

- A. None

X. Adjournment – Motion by F. Wendelboe, second by McKeon to:

Motion 9: adjourn the May 6, 2025 Junior Advisory Board meeting at 8:11 pm
MSA

NOTE ON PASSED MOTIONS – PLEASE READ

Motions passed by the Junior Advisory Board do NOT establish policy. These are recommendations to the Carolina Region Board of Directors for consideration and implementation if the board agrees. Please refer to the minutes of the subsequent meetings of the Carolina Region Board of Directors to verify that the motions passed at this meeting were adopted.



APPENDIX 1

***PROPOSED 2026 JUNIOR GIRLS' TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

January, 2026:

- 3 - Regular season tournaments begin; All divisions for age groups 14's, 17's;
- 4 - Regular season tournaments begin; All divisions for age groups 15's
- 10 - All divisions for age groups 13's, 16's, 18's
- 11 - All divisions for age groups 11's; 12's
- 17-19 – City of Oaks Tournament – Raleigh Convention Center; (MLK trns)
- 24 - All divisions for age groups 15's, 17's
- 25 - All divisions for age groups 14's
- 31 - All divisions for age groups 11's; 12's, 16's; 18's; Queen City Classic (Jan 31-Feb 1)

February:

- 1 – All divisions for age group 13's
- 7 - All divisions for age groups 14's, 15's
- 8 - All divisions for age groups 17's
- 14 – All divisions for age groups 11's; 12's, 13's; 18's
- 15 - All divisions for age groups 16's
- 21 – All divisions for age groups 14's, 17's
- 22 - All divisions for age groups 15's
- 28 - All divisions for age groups 13's, 16's, 18's

March:

- 1 - All divisions for age groups 11's' 12's
- 7 – All divisions for age groups 14's, 15's; (SAT Date)
- 8- All divisions for age groups 17's
- 14 – All divisions for age groups 11's, 12's, 16's, 18's
- 15 - All divisions for age groups 13's
- 21 – Regional/East/West Championships for age groups 15's, 17's
- 22 – Regional/East/West Championships for age groups 14's
- 28 – Regional/East/West Championships for age groups 11's, 12's, 13's, 18's
- 29 – Regional/East/West Championships for age groups 16's

April:

- 3-5 – Big South Qualifier

***NOTE:** This proposed schedule is being presented to the Junior Advisory Board for discussion, possible amendments, and approval. Once approved, it will go to the CR Board for final approval. Thus, the 2026 schedule **IS NOT** confirmed until the Carolina Region Board of Directors approves it. Clubs/teams should not make definite plans based on this schedule until an APPROVED schedule is announced and posted on the Carolina Region website.



APPENDIX 2

***PROPOSED 2026 JUNIOR BOYS' TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

January, 2026:

11 – Boys 14's/16's/18's

17-19 – *City of Oaks Tournament* – Triangle Volleyball Club*

February:

16 – Boys 14's/16's/18's

22-23 - *Carolina Volleyball Classic* - Rocky Mount

March:

7-8 - *Locomotive Challenge* - Rocky Mount

29 – Regional Championships Boys 14's/16's/18's

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