

Carolina Region/USAV
July 28, 2025 Officials Advisory Board meeting
Online Meeting



Attendees: Rob Boggs; William Pickering; Lucy Pin; Glenn Horton; Robert Webb; Tessa Ruff-Starnes; Bill Shook; William Thorne; Dan Pickett; Sherman Stinson; Chad Stoop; Mike Caudill; Chad Wingler; Danielle Li; Maria Starkweather; Erica Levy; Rosendo Bryden; Frank Motondo; Owen Perkins; Stephen Shepherd; Tony Hill; Amber Fulk; Chanel Davis; Leann Madtes, Ronnie Mutter; Jennifer Craft

Staff Attendees: Kevin Wendelboe, Executive Director; Callie Davis, Officials Program Director; Wade Brence, Programs Director

Meeting Start: 7:00 pm

- I. Welcome & Introductions –Meeting opened with introductions of Callie Davis, 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. Indoor Ref Chair Report – Stephen Shepherd:
 - A. Certified 70 new officials
 - B. 231 total active Professional officials
 - C. 3 Officials received a certification upgrade in 2025.
 - D. Had 16 Officials in the OAAP (10 upgrades)
 - E. 21 Junior Regional Referees – 17 qualified for scholarships
 - F. We will have a Junior Regional/ACC Ref Shadow program in fall of 2025. This offers a chance for our Junior Regional Referees to come to an ACC match, dressed in ref uniform, attend all pre- and post-match ref meetings, meet the coaches, perform the coin toss, and observe college officials during a high-level match. Hope this will encourage the Junior Regional Refs to want to continue officiating as they age out of the program.
 - G. Stephen is working on updating the CR Good Standing Policy based on new information from USAV and referee feedback.
 - H. Stephen is working on consolidating all our indoor referee information into one go-to source. Look for the CR Referee Manual to be posted soon.
 - I. We sent an end-of-year survey to all our professional officials. We have had 75 responses so far, and we are following up with those that requested contact. We will use the feedback to continue program improvements and allow us to retain more officials from season to season.
 - J. If anyone knows anyone expressing interest about becoming an official, send their contact information to Stephen and we will include them in the pre-season registration information emails.
 - K. We had one new National Referee this season
 - i. Frank Motondo
 - L. We had one new Junior National Referee this season
 - i. Owen Perkins

- III. Officials Program Director Report – Callie Davis:
 - A. 986 assignments made for all our one-day tournaments (912 last year)
 - B. All but two tournaments were fully staffed
 - C. Biggest goal moving forward is to work on retaining our existing officials
- IV. Beach Referee Chair Report – Ronnie Mutter:
 - A. Did not have any training this summer due to multiple factors.
 - B. We have a Beach Referee interest survey posted on the Officials section of the website. We have had 8 submit their interest so far and Ronnie is following up with each.
 - C. Current Beach Referees
 - i. 3 National
 - ii. 5 Zonal
 - iii. 4 Local
 - D. Ronnie is going to be developing a Beach Good Standing policy.
 - E. We are hoping to send two people in November to get their Beach National certification and also two people to get their Zonal certification.
- V. Officials Rep Report – Tony Hill:
 - A. The Carolina Region Board of Directors has continued work on their Strategic Plan.
 - B. A Parent Code of Conduct was developed ahead of the 2024 season and has been incorporated into the junior player registration process since then. All parents must agree they read the Parent Code of Conduct during the registration process to proceed.
- VI. Scorer Chair Report – Amber Fulk:
 - A. Amber reported that VolleyStation’s electronic scoring system was used at the Adult Opens, the 14 – 17’s JNC, and various other Qualifiers and large events. It can be done easily on phones and continues to improve. Kevin reported that we hope to incorporate with our Tournament system in the future so we can implement this at our one-day tournaments. VolleyStation has good training materials available and has sped up match play when all things are working well.
- VII. Carolina Region Board of Director update:
 - A. Board met online May 12, 2025
 - B. Approved the 2026 Junior Boys’ & Girls’ Junior Schedules. It is available on the website now. Be sure to update your Arbiter blocks for all Saturdays and Sundays beginning December, 2025 through April, 2026.
 - C. 11 & under step in rule clarified to be allowed at all stand alone CR 11’s one-day tournaments including Regional Championships.
- VIII. 2026 Registration Reminders:
 - A. 2026 Registrations will be available September 1.
 - B. 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).

- C. The Background Screen is \$14. Wait for our email with instructions before registering for the 2026 season (Background Screen code included in the email). Please get all your requirements done early after you complete the registration process.
 - D. We will be making all officials inactive in Arbiter and will reinstate once all requirements are completed.
 - E. SafeSport is required for all Referees annually. Link to take the course will be provided after you purchase your membership.
 - F. Your membership status will be “ineligible” until you complete SafeSport and clear the USAV Background Screen.
- IX. Training Clinics:
- A. All annual clinics will be available in the USAV Academy including NEW officials. Region staff will enroll all officials in their applicable clinics once they register for the 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 are eligible to be assigned to tournaments.
 - B. The goal is to train and rate as many New Officials as possible before the season again this year. We have scheduled a NEW official training clinic for December 14 at RISE Indoor Sports in Advance. New officials will be able to give their availability for training in an online survey to be posted shortly.
- X. Gift Program Update – We are continuing our annual appreciation gifts for Officials this year.
- A. Officials will still receive a small CR-logo gift when completing their registration. Gift is still to be announced.
 - B. Officials that work 7 one-day weekends may choose a CR clothing option or other CR Logo gift of their choice (in addition to the existing \$10 additional in base pay)
 - C. Officials that work 10 one-day weekends may choose a CR Jacket, clothing, or other CR logo gift of their choice (in addition to the existing \$15 additional in base pay)
 - D. All participation gifts will be sent after the season once we have all participation totals in.
 - E. A question was asked why total number of tournaments don’t count towards qualification? The gift program was implemented to give incentives for CR officials to be loyal to CR one-day tournaments so we can fully staff them. We need officials to staff our tournaments, so the gift program was created to reward officials that dedicate multiple weekends to working our one-day tournaments. If it changed to total tournaments, then an official could qualify in 3-4 weekends and then stop and we would have trouble staffing the remaining 8-9 weekends.

- XI. Junior Scholarship Opportunity – Continuing our 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.
 - G. Officials that work with good, young officials during pool play should find their coach or parent and inform them about this opportunity to work on their off weekends and earn college scholarships in the process.
- XII. Facebook Groups:
- A. 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.
 - B. Leann spoke about her Facebook Group for Female Officials under 30
 - C. Owen spoke about his Facebook Group for Male Officials under 30
 - D. Both Leann and Owen are open to suggestions on how to make the groups better. We will also investigate moving the groups over to Instagram as that is a platform more young people are using.
- XIII. 2026 Key Dates:
- A. OAAP Application – November 1
 - B. Jn/National Application – November 1 (JN with OAAP app)
 - C. Certification upgrade requests – January 15
 - D. Scoring a match – April 30 (if required)
 - E. Stephen spoke about OAAP plans – will use City of Oaks and Queen City. We will not use the Rocky Mount tournament as our third event as it did not really have the space needed to do the training well. Stephen is working on a third site, and we will announce it to the OAAP group once it is finalized.
- XIV. Additional Items/New Business:
- A. Question asked how officials could get help outside the group including help with registration or paperwork. Stephen answered to just send an email to him or the office, and we can walk officials through things.
 - B. Advisory Board update – one item out of the Strategic Planning process was plans to possibly restructure the board. One possible option is to change the Advisory Board structure to have specific appointed or elected positions on the Advisory Boards instead of just open meetings. Stay tuned for more on possible changes and be aware that future meetings may look different.

- C. Question asked how to promote Carolina Region officiating to their areas. The Charlotte area was mentioned as a big recruiting area. We reminded everyone that officially people should register in the Region where they live. Once certified they can work at any USAV-sanctioned tournament. We reminded officials that as they are attending college or high school clinics around the state, they can promote USA Volleyball as another avenue to expand their training and work experience. Word of mouth is our best advertising. Have people contact the Region Office or the Officials Program staff if they have questions about becoming a CR official.
- D. Wade gave an update on the 2025 World University Games that he just returned from as an observer. NC is hosting the 2029 Games and we will need a lot of volunteers to host. Our staff will be highly involved in the Volleyball competition. We will be promoting volunteer opportunities ahead of the games, so everyone keep an eye out for it if you're interested in being involved.
- XV. Adjournment – Motion by Wade B., second by Ronnie M. to:

Motion 1: adjourn the July 28, 2025 meeting of the Carolina Region Officials' Advisory Board at 8:09 pm. MSA
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