Lone Star Region Jr Rankings

The region has received some questions regarding the LSR Rankings that were used for the 2016-2017 season. How it works, what are the parameters and how to improve your team's rankings. While the logistics of how the rankings continue to evolve, here are some principals that are used.

SCHEDULE: Publish dates of the rankings are set up so that tournament directors have info on the Monday before their events so that they can use it to seed the event. In general, the rankings are published every two weeks or sometimes adjusted to be available for the events that have a large number of LSR teams participating. There is a one week "lag" in the rankings due to the number of events and the ability to collect all the results. Rankings are completed on Fridays or Saturday and then published on Sunday or Monday. Therefore results from that weekend are not included and are rolled into the next ranking. The Preseason ranking is posted by Nov 1, followed by the first ranking after the 3rd weekend in December. Then new ranking approximately every two weeks.

THE EQUATION: The LSR Rank is not equation or math driven. It is done as if every team in the region was in a huge tournament and each team is ranked, so as many pieces of information that can be gathered are used. Tournament Finish and head to head results are the two most important data points used. Generally, teams are ranked in the order that they finished in a tournament then cross referenced by their head to head results. The most current results are more relevant than older results. Total "body of work" is important but "what have you done for me lately" is relevant especially in Junior volleyball Some teams start slow but get better and better as the season progresses (which is rewarded), others are great in December but never improve. Results that are one or two months old are less relevant than the last two or three events played.

LSR Ranking vs AES Rankings: AES rankings are not used at all when determining the LSR Ranks. First, not all results are in the AES system including some large events like Colorado Crossroads, Big South, Far Westerns, Omaha President's Day and others. Also, the AES rankings in Dec, Jan and Feb can be wildly inaccurate. Two examples: First, teams in the bottom have of the Tour of Texas are ranked very low in spite of playing in literally the most competitive power league in the USA (look at the number of teams that play Tour of Texas and qualify for OPEN divisions at nationals, frequently 25% of the field). These bottom half Tour teams frequently get ranked on AES below their 2nd teams that play only local or limited schedules. Second example are the teams that only play small one day events and nothing else. These teams frequently pop in to the top 50 teams in spite of not playing in any large region events or 2 day events. Nor do they have any wins verse anyone in the top 50 AES ranked teams. It looks as if AES is heavily Win % driven.

How to Get Ranked well: All LSR sanctioned events are asked to submit the final standings of their event to the region. If results are submitted, they are incorporated in the info used for the rankings. However, larger event and multiple day events allow for teams to make bigger moves in the ranks due to the large number of teams playing. Events such as FAST Warm Up, Houston Power League, Tour of Tx Qual, I-35 PL, MLK Challenge, Crosscourt Classic, Central Tx Power League and others have many LSR teams and a lot of head to head opportunities for teams to earn "good wins". (Possible indicator events may be designated in future seasons.) Also, all the National Qualifiers results are used. Strong performances at the Qualifier are rewarded as those have historically been good indicators. Teams that have strong qualifier performances, even without earning wins verse other Lone Star region teams, are rewarded with the assumption that the field is strong Small one day events do not have much impact on rankings as the field size does not provide much info.

The final ranking of the year will be based on performance at the USAV National Championships, finish at the Lone Star Regional Championships, finish at Lone Star Classic National Qualifier then previous regional rank (in that order). The highest finishing team at Nationals will most likely be the highest ranked team in the final rankings.

OPEN vs NATIONAL vs USA vs AMERICAN division results: How is a bottom half of the OPEN division compared verses the winner of the USA division. This is hard to standardize as teams that play at the highest level need to be rewarded but just signing up to play in an open division does not mean that team is better than every team in the USA division. There are many events that provide different "levels": National Qualifiers, Crosscourt, Hou Power League. The results

show that there is some overlap of low finisher in the top division compared to winners of lower divisions. Teams are encouraged to play in the highest level that is appropriate for your team.

PROTEST FORM: Posted on the web site is the "Juniors Ranking Protest Form". This is a method for teams to provide information to the Region to consider adjusting the current rank. Accepted protest will result in an adjustment in the NEXT ranking date, however egregious ranking errors may lead to immediate adjustments to the current ranking at the discretion of the LSR. It is important to follow all the directions. Any manipulation, exclusion or inaccurate information leads to immediate rejection and no further effort from the region is made. All results verses teams in your age group and in the Lone Star Region are used. Any explanations about injuries, missing players or bad officiating are irrelevant. Last year's results, height of your team's parents and player shoe size do not matter (we have received all of those). Also, if your "best loss" is to the 24th ranked team, that does not mean you are the 25th team. It means you somewhere below the 24th team. All protests receive one short e-mail response. Any further correspondence on the protest is ignored.