

COMMISSIONER'S NOTES

Right now we are well into the 2009 Season. We currently have 11,561 member registered and paid. There are still 491 members remaining on the Region's Unpaid List. Club directors are reminded to constantly monitor their club database and ensure that all of their members are paid. If a club director has someone on their unpaid list, and they have no idea who the member is, then please contact me and I will take the necessary action to get the name remove, and placed on the proper listing with the correct club. Additionally, club directors should ensure that each of their players are listed on their team rosters. In those events (tournaments) where the AES entries are not being required, the Team Roster from your club database is designed to be used as the tournament entry method. The Webpoint System team roster provides all the information necessary for the tournament entry. In those cases where you are using the AES entry, for Junior tournaments, the data is being imported into AES from the USAV Webpoint System, and will always be current as long as the club director logs in and requests that data be exported from the USAV Webpoint, into the AES. As mentioned, this will only apply to the Junior Events. Events for the adult tournaments, in some cases, are also on AES, but are not yet tied into the USAV Webpoint System.

Club directors are also reminded when creating their team, that these team names are stable entries in the club database. You cannot delete the old team and create a new one. If you wish to do that, then you must contact the Region Office, because we are the only ones who can make the changes in the team data. This is why we asked each of you to create a system for naming your teams, so that we would not be required to make changes to the team names, each year. You should not incorporate the coaches' names into the team name. What happens when the coach move up, next year, with the players? Now, you will have to create a new team with the coaches' name at the next level. Eventually, some of the larger clubs will have a great number of inactive teams, which is nothing but junk in the club database. If you develop a numbering system, or a color system, for your teams, all you need do the next season is add the members' names to the teams. And, you're not creating excessive junk in your system. **If this sounds familiar, it's because I include it in the Newsletter each season, at this time.**

Finally, it's already time to start considering your options for attending one of the National Championships. On-Line applications are now being accepted. Talk with your people and make your decisions, now. As a number of teams now know, once you've gone to the Regional Championships and finished high enough to get a bid, it's too late to submit then. Log on to the USA Volleyball web site and get all the particulars, make your decision, and get your entries into the system.

2008 USA VOLLEYBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The adult pre-tournament package is already on the USA Volleyball website(www.volleyballteamusa.org). All events will be played in Minneapolis, MN, on May 23 - May 30, 2009. On-line entry information and fee are available at the above site. Entry deadlines have been established by USA Volleyball and the Lone Star Region. Deadlines are as follows:

- Adult Nationals: Open; Seniors (60, 65, 70, 75); U-Volley; Co-Ed - **In the National Office by 5:00 pm; Mar 18,**

2009

- Adult Nationals: Club (AA, A, BB, B); Masters (40 & 45), Seniors (50 & 55) - **In the Region Office by 5:00 pm; Mar**

23, 2009

The Junior National Championships will be in Miami, Florida and Atlanta, Georgia. Additional information and entry instructions are outlined in Pre-Tournament Manual on the USA Volleyball web site. Entry deadlines are as follows:

- Girls Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships (**Open At-Large**) - **In the Region Office by 5:00 pm; Apr 11, 2009**

- Girls Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships (**Nat'l & American**) - **In the Region Office by 5:00 pm; Apr 24,**

2009

- Boys Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships (**Open At-Large**) - **In the Region Office by 5:00 pm; May 23, 2009**

- Boys Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships (**Club**) - **In the Region Office by 5:00 pm; May 30, 2009**

NOTE: If you're sending anything via special delivery (UPS, FedEx, Express Mail, etc) do not send it with a signature or receipt required. This could only delay the delivery process, should I happen to be out of the Office at the time of delivery.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

The annual Board of Directors meeting will be on Friday, April 3rd. The meeting is open to all members provided space is available, and will be at the Hilton NASA Clear Lake; 3000 NASA Parkway; Houston TX. The meeting is scheduled to start at 8:00 pm. Directors up for elections are:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>INCUMBENT</u>
Commissioner	Will Vick
Treasurer	Helen Janak
Scorekeeper Chair	Steve Crane
Media Director (Appointed)	Annell Neale
Coaches Development	Gene Chambliss
Legal Advisor	Michele Hanlon
Player Representative (Women)	Rachel Nobles
 <u>Area Representatives</u>	
Corpus Christi	Melissa Garcia
Golden Triangle	Toni Leach
Houston	Gordon Morrison

Although only current Board members present at the meeting may vote, nominations can be made by any Lone Star Region member. Not only can you nominate someone for a position on the Board, you may also wish to appear and make a presentation on behalf of the nominee. The only thing that I ask when making the nomination is that you also provide notification, so that time can be made available for the presentation. If you think that one of the Region incumbents is not properly representing you and our Region, now is the time to speak. Nominations should be mailed, faxed or email (NLT March 24, 2009) to: Regina Daniel or Will Vick. The contact information is listed on our web site under Contacts.

From the Scorekeeper's Table

The season is almost over now and a number of you have not completed your certifications yet. We have conducted over 80 clinics all around the Region. NO EXCUSES if you have not attended one!

Remember, the requirements for certification are:

1. Attend a clinic
2. Take and correct the test
3. Submit completed score sheets from two sets (games)
4. Submit a scorekeeper application
5. Register in the Lone Star Region
6. Pay applicable fees

The Official's information is now posted in the same database that tracks your registration in the Region. If you want to know your status simply log in to your account, click on Officials Certifications. If one is listed as current then you are good to go for this season. If it says pending or there is no record then you should contact me to see what is missing.

C.L. 'Steve' Crane, Scorekeeper Chair
Lone Star Region - USA Volleyball

FROM THE REFEREE STAND

We ask that everyone get to a clinic to get updates on the rules, even if you are renewing or just want to observe, and just sit through the clinic portion of the rules to be up-to-date. Here are basic changes and some clarifications for this year. Please make sure your Adult and Junior members and coaches are up-to-date before your respective Regional competitions take place this year.

USAV 4.3 (page 15) This clarifies the fact that the Libero exposed undergarments need not be similar to, and may be a different, contrasting color from, the regular team players' uniform.

USAV 4.5.1 (page 18) This change removes the possibility that a player may play while wearing a cast.

New USAV 5.2.3.4 "During play, the coach may give these instructions while standing or walking within the free zone in front of his/her team's bench from the extension of the attack line up to the warm-up area, no closer to the court than 1.75 m (5' 10") from the sideline and its extension, without disturbing or delaying the match. The extension of the attack line is drawn to a distance of 1.75 m (5'10") from the sideline."

USAV 5.3.1 (page 22) "One assistant coach at a time may leave the bench to give instructions to the players on the court. During play, this assistant coach may give these instructions while standing or walking within the free zone in front of his/her team's bench from the extension of the attack line up to the warm-up area, no closer to the court than 1.75 m (5' 10") from the sideline and its extension, without disturbing or delaying the match. The extension of the attack line is drawn to a distance of 1.75 m (5'10") from the sideline."

USAV 15.6f (page 48), USAV 15.11.3 (page 52) and USAV 16.1 (page 53) This more clearly explains that requests for an illegal substitution or excess time out result in a team delay if acknowledged (i.e. whistled) and are improper requests if not acknowledged.

USAV 19.2a (page 56a) The Libero player's jersey must contrast in color with that of the predominant colors of the jerseys of the other team members. Color combinations such as purple/black, dark green/black, navy/maroon, and white/light yellow are not distinctive enough to comply with the rules.

New USAV 26.2.2.1: "In addition to recording the details of the Libero replacements, the assistant scorer records all substitutions."

New Rule 26.2.2.4: "It is recommended that someone other than the assistant scorer operate the visual scoreboard."

Hope you have had great season!
Thomas Hoy, Referee Chair
Lone Star Region - USA Volleyball

YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE

Letter to John Kessel from an appreciative coach.

My name is John Rodriguez. I was at the OTC for the High Performance Coaches Clinic. I was a member of the CAP I course in which you got nailed in the head during Art's drill. I will never forget my first trip to Colorado. Not just for that moment but for the wealth of knowledge I gained from the clinic. You should know, that most of my interest came from your passion to change the way in which coaches are teaching the game today. Your presentation made me change my methods of instruction.

The difficulty has been that everybody thinks I'm doing less and I've come under some scrutiny because I'm less involved in the drills during practice. However, the facts don't lie, my team's record since speaks for itself. My team has a much better understanding of what it takes to win and they enjoy participating in competitive mini games during our practices. We spend close to zero time on non-game like drills. They are serving, passing, and playing points from the moment they step on the court until the very end of every practice sessions. I'm proud of what they have accomplished.

My high school team, Dripping Springs High School, has benefited the most because I have the team in the gym every day for volleyball class. And we have only done game action drills during our class sessions. They are looking forward to the season as much as I am.

I've joined the newly formed YNVA. I'm one of the site directors and I look forward to passing on the wealth of knowledge I gained from your training. Also, I'll be coaching a select team from the Lone Star Region in Florida this summer.

I have a passion for teaching and training younger athletes because while growing up in Puerto Rico I had to figure the game out on my own. I did well mainly because of what you pointed out. I played a lot. I want to make sure that all my players learn how to love the sport as much as I do. The more they play the better they will play. I can help them perfect the skills but never at the expense of court time. I have used instant visual feedback by having a memory camera hooked up to a TV during practice. The players can watch themselves and go back to doing it better.

Thanks for inspiring me and for energizing my passion for the sport. I have an unrestricted grant that I can use to improve my coaching. I would love to volunteer, time permitting, in any training program that you may be involved with. Please let me know if you have any opportunities in the next year so I can put it on my busy calendar.

--

John Rodríguez
Sustained Excellence
<http://www.theynva.org/>
Help us promote the great sport of volleyball.



COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (March 9, 2009) - USA Volleyball announced today that it has signed an agreement with VB Stuff Magazine as the national governing bodies' "Recommended Junior Volleyball Publication," according to USAV Secretary General Kerry Klostermann.

"USA Volleyball believes it is important to provide quality publications covering the athletes, events and activities of the junior volleyball community, and this cooperative venture with the staff of VB Stuff will assist in this mission," Klostermann said. "The junior membership is by far the largest segment of our registrant population, and the more coverage devoted to these quality athletes and their accomplishments, the better it is for the sport overall."

"For some time, we have felt the need for the largest segment of our sport, youth, to have its own image, its own voice...and its own magazine," said Carly Rivera, president of Libero Media Partners, LLC. "We are thrilled to partner in this endeavor with USA Volleyball, whose record of success in developing the sport is self-evident. Our aim is to ensure VB Stuff Magazine becomes a catalytic agent and a major contributor to the growth of volleyball across the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico. We couldn't think of a better partner for this project than the sport's governing body in the U.S. with its 240,000 strong membership base."

VB Stuff, which will debut on April 15, is a visually oriented full-color publication with intent to publish as a quarterly magazine. The publication will use a network of professional writers and photographers from across the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada to serve the junior community with 52-60 pages dedicated to youth volleyball, both indoor and beach.

"I am excited to work with VB Stuff Magazine," said Erin Pryor, editor of VB Stuff Magazine. "There is definitely a need for a publication of this type in the juniors market. This is a unique concept in that we are focusing not only on the athletes themselves, but also ways to improve their game, get recruited and become both mentally and physically stronger. Volleyball is not just a sport, it is a lifestyle."

In conjunction with the printed product, VB Stuff Magazine has launched a companion Web site - www.vbstuffmagazine.com - for additional timely information. Individuals can subscribe to the magazine through its Web portal.

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Junior News

Dick Kappel, Jr. Development Director

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

1. The 2009 USA Junior National Championship (JOVC) Tournament in Miami will host both Club and Open divisions with two subdivisions in Club – National and American. The Lone Star Junior Regional tournament on May 2-3 will qualify one team for the National Club division and three teams for the American Club division for ages 13-18. The 12-year-old division will qualify one team for the National Club division and two teams for the American Club division. The Open division will be composed of teams that win bids at national qualifying events or open-at-large bids.

2. Please note that the application date for the Junior National tournament is PRIOR to the Lone Star Junior Regional tournament.

Important Note: No LS regional team can be accepted to Junior Nationals unless the team representative has submitted all Junior National entry materials to Will Vick by **April 24**. There are no exceptions.

3. Teams should make every effort to use the on-line entry system as outlined in the 2009 pre-tournament manual.

See USA Volleyball website

http://volleyball.teamusa.org/event/event/571?page_id=2447

4. List of important dates:

April 10 – deadline to register for LS Junior Regional Tournament

April 11 – LS region deadline to apply for open-at-large bid

April 24 – LS region deadline for application to attend Junior Nationals

May 2-3 – LS Junior Regional Tournament

May 23 – Boys LS region deadline for application to attend Junior Nationals

June 26-July 5 – Girls USA Junior National Tournament

July 1-8 – Boys USA Junior National Tournament

2009 LONE STAR JUNIOR REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

The 2009 Junior Regional Championship tournament will be held on May 2-3 in Houston, for all ages 12-18.

This year there will be **TWO** divisions in each age group – **BID** Division and **CLUB** Division.

The **BID** division in each age group is for teams who are attempting to earn a bid to the Junior National Championships in Miami, FL. All teams participating in the BID Division at LS Regionals are required to have completed and submitted to the Lone Star Region office all necessary application and paperwork for Junior Olympics no later than April 24th, 2009. If these forms have not been received by the Region office, you will not be allowed to participate in the BID Division.

The top teams from the LS Junior Regional BID Division qualify for a bid in the JOVC Club Divisions as follows:

12's - **One** National Division Bid; **Two** American Division Bids

13's - **One** National Division Bid; **Three** American Division Bids

14's - **One** National Division Bid; **Three** American Division Bids

15's - **One** National Division Bid; **Three** American Division Bids

16's - **One** National Division Bid; **Three** American Division Bids

17's - **One** National Division Bid; **Three** American Division Bids

18's - **One** National Division Bid; **Three** American Division Bids

A reminder of the conditions that must be met in order for entries to be considered for the participation in the LS Regional BID Division. Teams shall -

- a) not have qualified previously for the Jr. National Tournament
- b) have application and fee on file to play at Jr. Nationals
- c) play in their assigned age division
- d) have a coach who has completed the IMPACT clinic
- e) have certified scorekeeper and referee
- f) be registered in the Lone Star Region

Since all application deadlines for Junior Nationals are scheduled BEFORE the LS Junior Regional tournament, remember to submit all entry materials for Junior Nationals according to the requirements of the LS Region and the USA National Office.

The **CLUB** divisions in each age group are for those teams who wish to participate in the Regional Championships but who do not want to compete for a bid for Nationals.

2009 USA JUNIOR NATIONAL GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS (JOVC)

Host City: Miami, FL

Competition Dates: June 26 – July 5

Age Classifications & Dates:

12 and 13 National & American: June 27 – June 30

14 Open, National, & American: July 2 – July 5

15 Open, National, & American: June 30 – July 3

16 Open, National, & American: June 26 – June 29

17 Open, National, & American: June 28 – July 1

18 Open, National, & American: July 1 – July 4

Please Note:

- 1) In years past, some teams have seen their applications disqualified when they submitted late materials and failed to meet national deadlines. To avoid this disappointment, send entry materials (forms & fees) to Will Vick by **April 24**.
- 2) However, if a team wins a bid at a National Qualifier Tournament, entry materials are due no later than 10 days after the qualifying event.

Pre-Tournament Manual

http://volleyball.teamusa.org/event/event/571?page_id=2447

email: gjovc@usav.org

SUBMITTED BY GORDON MORRISON

Houston Area Representative

Club Representatives: I am sending out this email as an attempt to clarify some things. I need to say up front that many clubs are doing things correctly. However since I am sending this out, some clubs are obviously having problems.

The first is a very simple rule.

THE LIBERO DOES NOT SERVE. I heard that the Libero served twice two weekends ago.

The second issue is a simple one as well.

Any competition at 14 or younger has a different service rule than the older players. If the server tosses the ball up and lets it hit the floor, there should be a whistle to end that service attempt and a new whistle to start the next service attempt. (By the way, no time outs, line up checks or subs may happen between those two whistles.) The server must serve the next toss. If the server completes that serve, the server may have another serve tossing error on the next attempt. Every time they complete a serve, they may have another toss on the next attempt. The server has 5 seconds to complete each toss and serve. If they take longer than five seconds or if they have back to back serve toss errors without completing a serve or if they catch the ball after the toss, it is a side out. There were two protests over this rule last weekend. For the 15 and older competitions, they have eight seconds and they must hit the toss. They will not have a serve toss error at this age level or above. This includes any 14 and under team that is playing up in the 15s tournament. It is the age of the tournament that determines the rules, not the age of the team.

Here is the third topic.

The third area of confusion is about information sent out by Dick Kappel and Thomas Hoy regarding using the players as referees. I asked for an exact interpretation so that I was not confused. I will see if I can help out here.

Paid referee tournaments:

16 and older teams may have the players be the R2

15 and younger teams must have an adult referee as the R2

Non paid referee tournaments

16 and older teams may have the certified referee coach or players as the R1 or R2

15 and younger teams must have the certified referee coach as the R1

15 and younger teams may have the players as R2

The letter does not say that the 15 and younger age groups must have only adult referees. It says that the PRIMARY referee must be an adult.

The fourth topic is big problem.

The last two weekends have provided me with the three worst score sheets I have EVER seen. Considering the number of tournaments that I have run and all of the score sheets that I have seen, that is really saying something. And one of the two protests at Willowbrook over the last two weekends was due to scorekeeper error.

Third worst ever was the score sheet that only had the team names and the winning and losing teams filled in. There were no lineups and the running score column was not even filled in. They copied off the visible scoreboard.

Second worst ever was the score sheet had the team names and the running score column filled in. (The numbers were actually colored in, instead of slashed.) That was it, there were no lineups, no subs and nothing else filled in on the score sheets.

And the **worst score sheet ever** was the one where they only filled out the running score column, PERIOD. There were no team names, no lineups or subs or even court number. The only marks on the sheet were the running score column, and this was a playoff match. All three sets were done like that. I had to ask the team that won if they won the first and third or the second and third sets.

The region rules are as follows:

The teams must provide a referee and a scorekeeper on the roster. They must either be currently certified with application and fees paid OR application on file with fees paid while they are getting certified. I would hope that they would attend a clinic before they try to referee or keep score, but it is not a region requirement. (I would require it if I was coaching that team, but that is just me.) Everyone works hard at training the teams to play, but not everyone works hard at training their teams to be the work team. It is equally as important for the game to be fair. (I have had just one work team receive a compliment from a parent of a playing team. She said everyone on the team paid attention and there were no hang-ups with the scores or the scorekeeper. And the referees did a good job. Compare that to the hundreds of complaints that I get about errors.)

As I said, most clubs are doing a good job with all of these topics. However if these problems are still happening, there is still some work to do. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.