

Special Edition

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THE OFFICIAL WORD

NEWSLETTER



“FREEDOM”

By Glenn Sapp
Vice President - Officials Division

Freedom and common sense is the two rationals behind the new “National Clinic” program that we hope to initiate this season. In the past, when one attended a National Championship (either Jr. Olympic or Adult) it was necessary to attend a “National” clinic before being cleared to work. With the advent and requirements of the “housing” program, it has become more difficult to adequately hold clinics, especially at Jr. Nationals (where with as long as the events are now, we almost could do a “clinic” every other day), so that persons will be able to attend the clinic and still be able to take advantage of the housing program.

With the new “National Clinic” program Officials will be able to choose to go to a National Clinic and get that issue resolved so it will give an Official more “Freedom” in planning and attending National Championships. The proposed plan is to travel a clinic program to approximately 30 different cities/Regions so that person close by can attend. The clinic will include both Scorekeepers and Referees. Once this is completed, when one attends the National Championships they will have to be informed of protocols for the tournament and any other pertinent information by the work room or other designated “Event” staff and then will be cleared to work. Let us make it perfectly clear that this clinic is in lieu of the National level clinic presented at the National Championship events. IT

ABSOLUTELY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY DOES NOT TAKE THE PLACE OF OR ABSOLVE ONE OF ATTENDING THEIR OWN REGION REQUIRED CLINICS OR MEETINGS.

The “clinics” will be conducted beginning with the PAVO Convention in December and continue through January. It will not be restricted to just National level officials and anyone will be able to attend but again, this clinic does not take the place of any Region requirements but will just be additional opportunity for education and networking. **NO CERTIFICATIONS** will be any part of this program. The program will cost between \$15 and \$20 per participant to offset the cost of the program. Unfortunately Hawaii and Alaska will not have this opportunity due to location though I argued strongly that I should, as the VP of the Officials Division go and give the clinic in Hawaii. Sue and Kathy both looked at me in such a threatening manner that I thought it best to agree that we could not feasibly include Alaska and Hawaii. To be honest I did not even consider volunteering to go to Alaska in January to give a clinic. This is probably, just a little hypocritical? There will be those who either do not want to do the extra travel or pay the extra money for this Freedom. For those folks, we will still offer a clinic at the beginning of each National Championship event but probably just one and they will have to plan accordingly. Of course those

wanting to work the “Open” at Adult Nationals will have to attend the additional meetings generally held for that division.

As for the “common sense” aspect of the program, it has never made sense to me to have the “National Level” training clinic at the very end of the year for the last events of the season. Holding them earlier will avail us of the opportunity to use the information during the bulk of the USA indoor season. **AGAIN, THIS PROGRAM ABSOLUTELY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY DOES NOT TAKE THE PLACE OF OR ABSOLVE ONE OF ATTENDING THEIR OWN REGION REQUIRED CLINICS OR MEETINGS NOR DOES IT BESTOW ANY CERTIFICATIONS.** It only satisfies the already existing requirement to attend a National Clinic before working at the National Championships.

Again, thanks to all of those who have sent positive criticism and feedback on the proposed “Renewal” program. The information is being collected, consolidated and will be re-worked at the OD Spring meetings. We will again disseminate and seek feedback so that the program will be viable for all of the National level Referees.

Finally, have a great and fun season.



Rule Changes

2007-2008 DOMESTIC COMPETITION REGULATIONS SIGNIFICANT INDOOR RULE CHANGES AND CLARIFICATIONS

USAV 4.3.3

1. Deleted USAV 4.3.3: "The players' jerseys must be numbered from 1 to 99. Duplicate numbers are not allowed."
2. Replaced with: "The players' jerseys must be must be numbered in a permanent manner from 1 to 99. Duplicate numbers are not allowed."

USAV Rule 4.3.3.1 a and b

1. Deleted USAV 4.3.3.1 a: "Numbers must be clearly visible. Each jersey must use the same color and number height for all players except the Libero."
2. Replaced with USAV 4.3.3.1a: "Uniform numbers must be clearly visible and centered on the chest and back. Each jersey must use the same color and number height for all players except the Libero".
3. Deleted USAV 4.3.3.1 b: "The number must be placed in the center of the back. For the front, the number must be either centered or the top of the number must be no more than 12.5 cm (5") down from the shoulder seam. The medial edge of the number must be no more than 7.5 cm (3") from the midline of the jersey. It is recommended now and required Nov. 1, 2007: Uniform numbers centered on the chest and on the back."

USAV Rules 5.3.1 and 5.3.2

1. Deleted USAV 5.3.2: The assistant coach(es) may give instructions to the players on the court. The assistant coach(es) may give these instructions while standing or walking within the free zone in front of his/her team bench from the extension of the attack line-up to the warm-up area, without disturbing or delaying the match."
2. Added USAV 5.3.1 to read: "While remaining on the bench, the assistant coach(es) may give instructions to the players on the court."

USAV Rule 7.2.2

1. Edited USAV rule 7.2.2 to read: "For nationally sanctioned adult competition, it is recommended that teams warm up together at the net for 10 minutes if both team captains agree; otherwise each team will have five minutes separately. For consecutive warm-ups, the team with first service has the court first."
2. Deleted: "For nationally sanctioned USA Volleyball Junior Olympic competition, it is recommended that teams spend two minutes with ball handling and spend four minutes separately at the net. The team with the first service has the court first."
3. Replaced with: "The protocols described on pages 155 and 156 will be used at the Open Division of the Adult Championships, High Performance Championships, the National Junior Olympic Championships and the Junior Invitational."

Rule Changes
continued from page 2

Rule 9.1.2.3

1. Deleted Rule 9.1.2.3 “If simultaneous hits by two opponents over the net lead to a “CATCH”, it is a “DOUBLE FAULT” and the rally is replayed.”
2. Replaced with 9.1.2.3: “If simultaneous hits by opponents over the net lead to extended contact with the ball, play continues.”
3. Deleted USAV rule 9.1.2.3 “USAV is testing this rule. A joust occurs when players on opposing teams cause the ball to come to rest above the net through simultaneous contact. A joust is not a fault, and play continues as if the contact were instantaneous.”

USAV Rule 19.1

1. Edited USAV 19.1.2 to read: “The Libero may be designated for the set and must be indicated on each line-up for each set.”

USAV Rule 19.2a

1. Added USAV 19.2a “It is recommended now and required November 1, 2009 that the Libero uniform must be a contrasting color and not include any color from the regular team jersey (excluding the color of the numbers). Color combinations such as purple/black, dark green/black, navy/black, or navy/maroon are not distinctive enough to comply with the rules.”
2. Renumbered the USAV 19.2 to become USAV 19.2b.

USAV Rule 19.3.3.1

1. Added USAV 19.3.3.1: “The player thus re-designated as Libero must remain as the Libero for the remainder of the set.”

USAV Rule 23.3.3

1. Deleted USAV 23.3.3: “At the end of the match, he/she is not required to sign the score sheet, but is still required to check the score sheet for accuracy.” The effect of this is to require the first referee to check and sign the score sheet.

USAV Rule 25.2.3.3

1. Deleted USAV 25.2.3.3: “The team captains and the referees are not required to sign the score sheet. However, the referees are still required to check the score sheet for accuracy.”
2. Replaced with USAV 25.2.3.3: “The team captains and the second referee are not required to sign the score sheet.”

Editorial Clarifications:

1. Corrected USAV 4.3.3.2 - change 1 cm to 10 cm (4”).
2. USAV 15.6 - moved item a. “The sanction for a wrong position entry request is an improper request.” to the end (f.) and re-ordered.
3. Add USAV 27.2.1 to read: “When flags are not used, the line judges will perform their functions as shown in Diagram 11, Officials Hand Signals 3, 5, 7, and 13.”
4. Update hand signals to remove the flag signals (4, 6, 8 and 9) from the Officials Hand Signals. Renumber the hand signals as Diagram 11. Add Diagram 12, which will include the Lines Judge Signals (with flags).



2007-2008 USAV News & Notes for Officials

By Brian Hemelgarn

USA Volleyball Director - RVA Referee Development

REFEREE CHAIR OF THE YEAR!

Margie Ray of the Evergreen Region was selected as the 2006-2007 Referee Chair of the Year! She was presented with the award during the National Referee Clinic held in Austin earlier this summer. Congratulations to Margie, and "Thanks!" for providing strong leadership and guidance to Evergreen officials and referees across the country!

RULES EXAMS

On October 15, the USAV Form A and C rules exams will be available online, and hard copies of Forms A, B and C will be available to referee chairs. For Junior National and National referees, the Form A exam must be taken by February 15, 2008, with a copy of the results being sent to Kathy Ferraraccio by that same date. Remember, the USAV and PAVO/NCAA exams are separate this year, so USAV referees must take the USAV exam through their respective regional referee chair.

OFFICIALS DIVISION DUES

Officials Division dues for Junior National and National referees and National scorekeepers should be submitted to the USAV national office by November 1, 2007. Dues not received by December 1, 2007, are subject to a \$20 late fee. The dues must be submitted with the official's renewal form found on the USAV website at:
<http://www.usavolleyball.org/RulesOfficials/application.asp>

USAV CASEBOOK

Updates and additions to the USAV casebook are being completed as we speak and will be available online within a few weeks. The casebook can be downloaded as a PDF file from:
<http://www.usavolleyball.org/RulesOfficials/indoor.asp>.
 Be sure to check out this important document to help in preparation for the upcoming season!

USAV REFEREE GUIDELINES & INSTRUCTIONS

As part of our continuing effort to provide training and educational materials for referees and regions, a new document, "USA Volleyball Referee Guidelines & Instructions," is being developed for the 2007-2008 season. This document will include rules highlights, officiating techniques and procedures, and various other items to assist the USAV referee cadre in providing consistent and accurate officiating at local, regional and national tournaments. More information will be distributed to regional referee chairs as soon as it is available, and we'll also include a subsequent article in the Official Word early in the season.

USAV REFEREE CHAIR ASSEMBLY

The fourth annual USAV Referee Chair Assembly will be held in Sacramento, CA, on Saturday, December 15, 2007, in conjunction with the PAVO Convention during the Women's NCAA Final Four. Information has been provided to regional referee chairs, and we highly encourage a representative from each region (referee chair or designate) to attend. Pre-season information, including a rules/techniques clinic, will be presented. For more information, contact Brian Hemelgarn: bhemelgarn@sbcglobal.net

USAV NATIONAL CLINIC PROGRAM

In May 2007, the USAV National Referee Commission approved the implementation of a National Clinic Program to begin with the **2008-2009 season**. The goal of the program is to provide pre-season clinics across the country, reaching both grass roots and national-level officials. Our current clinic program is presented at our national tournaments, and we realize the importance of disseminating rule changes, rule interpretations and officiating techniques and procedures in a more-timely manner. The program is in the developmental stages, and more information will be available during our national meetings in Atlanta next spring.



USAV Referee Training & Education Program -- Camp Recap

by *Brian Hemelgarn*
USA Volleyball Director - RVA Referee Development

The USAV Referee Training and Education Program (TEP) hosted four referee training camps during our National Qualifiers this spring. More than 40 referees participated in the camps at the Mid East, Colorado Crossroads, Far Western and Northern Lights Qualifiers. We owe our thanks to the tournament staff at each site for being great hosts for the campers, referees and National Training Team members!

In addition, we were again excited to work with PAVO during the USAV/PAVO joint training camp at NIRSA in Louisville in April! Thanks to Gary Colberg and the NIRSA staff for allowing us to continue our training opportunities at this event. We'll look forward to Dallas in April 2008.

Our 2006-07 Training Camp Program concluded with the USAV Advanced Camp for Referees at the Girls' Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships in Minneapolis. With 17 campers in attendance, members of the National Training Team observed these referees at work and offered feedback in post-

match debriefings. NTT members also officiated matches with each camper to provide on-court mentoring while another NTT member observed the match to give additional feedback. It was an exciting camp with many positive comments from those who attended. Thank you!

I'd be remiss to not give a big "Thanks and Kudos" to the members of our National Training Team who helped make our camps so successful: Gloria Cox, Kevin Cull, Mary Faragher, Kathy Ferraraccio, Tim Harlow, Wally Hendricks, Eric Hoffman, Joan Powell, Michelle Prater, Clark Radcliffe, Julie Voeck and Mara Wager.

Lastly, our plans for the 2007-2008 season are underway, and we'll post camp dates on the USAV website as soon as they're finalized. We'll include the dates in an upcoming issue of the Official Word as well. Plan on joining us at one of these premier training events!



Scorekeeper News

by *Nancy Funk*
Director Scorekeeping Certification & Evaluation

I want to begin by extending a HUGE thanks to all the National Scorekeepers in Austin, Texas who were gracious enough to have a candidate with them for an observation match to learn the operation of the USA Open tournament. It is great to know how you all can be counted on to help new officials. Many of you invited candidates back for another match prior to their ratings to observe. I received a lot of positive feedback about how great all of you were.

By November 1st the form for 2008 National Scorekeeping candidates should be posted on the USA Volleyball website. Scorekeeping Chairs need to start thinking about who they would like to send as a candidate and start grooming them so they are prepared when they arrive in Atlanta. Anyone interested in becoming a National scorekeeper needs to contact their Regional scorekeeping chair so you can get the wheels in motion to attend the 2008 USA Volleyball Open Championships in Atlanta, Georgia.

This year the date for the applications to be received by me has been moved up to March 1, 2008. Thus the candidates will be notified by March 15 of their acceptance. The class will be limited so be sure the applications are in by the cut-off date. For those of you wanting to start planning to be off from work, you will have to arrive for the clinic by 2:00pm on Tuesday May 27, 2008.

All National scorekeepers need to remember that you must remit your annual \$40.00 dues to the officials division to remain in good standing if you have not done so already. If you are a National referee there is only one fee due for the two disciplines. So if you were a National Scorekeeper candidate that received your National patch in New Orleans you will owe dues for the upcoming 2007 season. Send your check to; USA Volleyball, Officials Division, 715 South Circle Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80910. The form is located on the USA Volleyball website under Rules/Officials.



My USAV Advanced Referee Camp Experience

by Bob Bayless
Jr. National Referee

This past summer at the USAV Girl's Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships in Minneapolis, MN I decided to attend the USAV Referee Advanced Camp. Before signing up I sought the advice from many other officials on whether I would gain anything from working the advanced camp.

I had just officiated one of the SEC Tournaments at the University of Arkansas and had received some good ratings from Melinda Voorhies from the SEC Conference and Michael Blalock from the Ohio Valley Conference.

The advice I got was that in attending the USAV Advanced Camp I would receive some excellent feedback on my officiating skills and techniques from some very good raters and it would help me in my quest to attain my USAV National Referee Certification.

One of the reasons I wanted to attend the camp was that my duty to my country in the U.S. Army/National Guard had prohibited me from attending past National Tournaments and I wanted to obtain some feedback from National Rating Team members before going for my National Referee Patch. I was also a public school teacher and I was having a hard time figuring out how to get to the Adult Opens to obtain my National Referee Certification. The Adult Opens always started before my school got out for the summer.

I have now retired from teaching school after 28 years and am free to go after my dream of being a National Referee.

When the Advanced Camp started I will have to admit I was wondering what I had gotten myself into. I was the only Jr. National Referee in camp with all the others being Regional Referees.

Day 1 - My first camp assignment was to work with Kevin Cull (International Ref). He was the R1 and I was the R2. He was also my evaluator later in the week.

Clark Radcliffe was my evaluator on the match and he provided me some great feedback in the debriefing session following the match. Clark mentioned that I was professional, had good mechanics, a strong whistle and was very observant. He did suggest that I place the scorekeeper closest to me to help with communication and that I was leading my R1 with my four hit signal. He also mentioned that I tracked the ball too long on its upward and downward flight. Something I would hear from later evaluators as well.

Day 2 - I got the thrill of working with Kathy Ferraraccio as my R2. Kathy mentioned in the debriefing that she was only able to evaluate me when there was no play at the net but that she felt very comfortable working with me as a partner. Really, I was the lucky one because I was able to observe Kathy work as an R2 on the match previous to mine. I saw how she managed hot coaches when they were upset with calls from the officials. Trust me on this - you don't want to challenge Kathy's non net calls. Kathy supported her R2 fully and kept control of the match when it could have gotten out of hand.

Day 3 - I was observed by Mara Wager. This time there were two officials from the camp working and Mara was a neutral observer. Some confusion happened on this match due to court scheduling and a work crew being absent when we were trying to get the match started. A lot of the debriefing discussion after the match was about the way we handled the situation and how to better deal with that problem next time. Mara also mentioned that I tracked the ball too long (starting to get a pattern here). I tried hard as camp went along to not follow the ball looking for spin. Now don't get me wrong. I do take my eye off of the ball and placed my eyes on the next players contact. But I obviously needed to keep working on it.

Day 4 - I was observed by Brian Hemelgarn (USA National Director and RVA of Referee Development) as both an R1 and R2. These were on

Continued on page 7

*Advanced Referee Camp
continued from page 6*

high level 17's Open matches. Brian mentioned in the debriefing that my knowledge of back row play was good and my positioning and transitioning as an R2 was great. Brian liked that I made sure the scorekeeper was fully ready before giving the set back to the R1. He also mentioned that I should work on my lateral eye movements making it visibly evident that I'm checking the whole work team before signaling loss of rally and the fault. He too mentioned that I tracked the ball too long on its upward ascent. Brian's suggestion was that I not move my head when the ball goes up.

Finally the "LIGHT BULB" clicked on in my head ∴ I stopped watching for spin as the ball went up and I held my head perfectly still. It was amazing because I then focused on the next contact sooner and I saw everyone's actions on the court better.

Day 5 - I was observed by Kevin Cull and I was able to put everything I had learned at the Advanced Camp to use on my matches for the day. The matches went very smooth because I was incorporating everything the observers had discussed with me. I felt like I had received a fine tune up for my car. Only it was my mechanics that had received a fine tune-up.

After all of my concerns about being the lonely Jr. National in the Advanced Camp, I felt that the end experience was well worth it. It was an awesome experience to work with some top notch officials and the feedback I received was well worth the time and the cost.

I would like to encourage other Jr. National Referee's and even National Referees to register for the Advanced Camps offered by the Officials Division of USAV. It was a great refresher for me personally and it would be a good tune-up if you're trying to obtain a higher rating.



New National Referees

by Mary Blalock

Twenty-three new National referees were certified this past summer at the Boys Junior National Tournament held in Atlanta, Georgia. The following referees met all the requirements and will attend next years' Adult Open Tournament as National referees. When you see them down the road, congratulate them on a job well done. They are:

Brad Aaberg (North Country)
 Joe Aguila (Southern California)
 Steve Arichea (Rocky Mountain)
 Connie Brennan (Lone Star)
 Fred Chase (Western Empire)
 Phyllis Coleman (Chesapeake)
 Tim Craft (Lone Star)
 Monika Deckers (Chesapeake)
 Eric Goreham (Columbia Empire)
 Gary Hesse (Ohio Valley)
 Bill Kissel (Ohio Valley)
 Shannon ('Moose') Knudtson (Arizona)
 Ric Lomibao (Puget Sound)
 Chris Mares (North Texas)
 Jeff McKinney (Western Empire)
 Devonie McLarty (Great Lakes)
 Jerry Moews (Arizona)
 Laura Nelson (New England)
 Alyson Parry (Arizona)
 Ron Pelham (Arizona)
 Mark Prater (Southern)
 David Saenz (Lake Shore)
 Bob Willis (Old Dominion)

A big thanks to the raters who had the dubious task of evaluating the candidates as well as re-evaluating some existing Jr. National referees. They were: Crystal Lewis, Julie Voeck, Verna Klubniken, Steve Kenyon, Ken Cain, Larry Dolvig, Scott Atkinson, Wally Hendricks and head rater Mike Carter.



USA/International Scorekeeper Commission

by Janet Blue, AVP
USA/International Scorekeeper Commission

I would like to thank all of those who participated as scorekeepers for the Open and High Performance tournaments, World League matches and the most recent NORCECA Men's Continental Championship.

As I have acknowledged previously all these individuals except for those from the latter, I would like to mention them here. Head scorekeeper for this event was **Cathy Hoy**, Lone Star. The other scorekeepers were **Becky Brockney**, Rocky Mountain, **Kim Williams**, Puget Sound, and **Terry Lawton**, Southern California. The report from the Referee Manager, **Tom Blue**, and the International referees working the event was that these individuals did an excellent job! My thanks to each of them!

For those qualified and certified USA/International scorekeepers living on the east coast, I apologize for the lack of assignments. In an attempt to limit budget expenditures, USA Volleyball has asked that I only assign **available** scorekeepers residing nearest the event locales.

Enjoy your regional seasons. I look forward to seeing all of you in May in Atlanta.

BE THERE!!

PAVO Officials' Convention

December 13-15, 2007

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It's All About You!





2008 Junior National Candidacy Information

by Charles Ezigbo

Director, USA Jr. National Referee Certification & Evaluation

The application period for submitting applications to become a USAV Junior National referee begins on January 15 2008. If you are thinking about applying as a Junior National candidate for 2008, now is the time to start the ball rolling. Because applicants are not automatically accepted, here are a few things that you must do to improve your chances of being a candidate this coming summer. Since each Region is limited in the number of candidates that can be send, each candidate should make sure that he/she knows and follows the procedures in order to not run the risk of being eliminated for such things as missing deadlines.

Applying - First and foremost, you must be recommended by your Region. If you have not already done so, make your intention known to your Region's Referee Chairperson and Commissioner. They are aware of the steps that are necessary to guide you through the process. You should also seek guidance from them on the best way to properly train for the rating process. Many Regions have their own process for selecting candidates to represent them. Along with this, it would be a good idea to seek advice from a person who has recently gone though the national rating process. They can often offer a tidbit of information here and there that may prove useful.

The Process - During the national rating process you must demonstrate practical proficiency as both a first and second referee. You must also show theoretical proficiency by taking and passing a modified scorekeeper exam.

Pre-requisites - You must be in “good standing” both in your Region and with the USAV Official's Division (OD). Examples of being in “good standing” are: membership with your USAV Region; all Regional and National dues paid on time; required tests taken, passed, and submitted by its due-date; etc. Anyone not in good standing at the time of application through the end of the entire rating process will not be considered or will be disqualified after acceptance.

Deadlines - You must be aware of and must meet all deadlines in order to remain in the process. These deadlines will be published in more detail in early January 2008. The candidate registration period will begin on January 15 2008. The deadline for submitting your application will be April 1, 2008. Candidates will be notified as to whether or not they are accepted as a candidate by May 1, 2008.

More detailed information about the Junior National process requirements, expectations, and entitlements can be found on the OD page of the USAV website, www.usavolleyball.org. Simply navigate to the section on “Becoming an Indoor Volleyball Referee” under the “Rules/Officials” tab. On January 15 2008, you will also find the application for becoming a Junior National referee on that site.

Good luck and hope to see you at the USA Girls Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships.

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