

Carolina Region/USAV  
May 2, 2009 Juniors Advisory Board meeting  
Forsyth Country Day School, Lewisville



Attendees: Sherry Fadool (Triangle), Trina Sharpe (Sports Academy), Francois Atallah (CCVC); Elaine Bowman (TCV); George Bowman (TCV); Linda Osterman (Alamance Force); Fred Wendelboe (Set Point); Rick Kiser (Carolina Juniors); Ashley Clark (Set Point); Tina Readling (Piedmont VBC); Jeff Hoppen (Set Point); Mike Marks (Triangle); Audun Runde (Cary YMCA Boys)

Staff Attendee: Kevin Wendelboe, Executive Director

Meeting began: 1:12 pm

- I. Welcome & Introductions – Kevin Wendelboe
- II. Review Agenda
- III. 2009 Season Review – Junior membership grew again this season despite the economy. We had 3927 junior girls (+214 over last year) and 73 boys (+15). We kept membership rates the same for at least the 5<sup>th</sup> season in a row. We actually reduced rates for the Youth (11 and under age group) and the Boys to \$15. We eliminated the annual \$60 club fee for player movement privileges so all clubs were able to make club player movements under the guidelines of the policy. Junior girls teams grew by 19 to 393 teams and we will probably need to add a division to allow us to stay in 2- and 3-court sites.
- IV. Recruiting/Tryout Guideline Review:
  - A. Tryout Policy – There was a discussion about how to protect athletes from clubs offering spots but not keeping the spots open. Several people commented that if a club makes an offer to a player then that offer should be good until the signing date. Fred commented it would be a code of conduct violation for a club to make an offer and not honor that offer. This would hold true regardless of whatever tryout policies we were to pass. It was suggested that we add a process to formalize how clubs make offers to players. The region will develop a survey to go out to the junior membership on whether they would be in support of formalizing the club offer process to include either the use of our current Letter of Commitment form (the club would sign it first and submit to player) or develop a separate document to make offers to players. This survey will be sent out before the August retreat of the Board of Directors.
  - B. There was a long discussion of the pros and cons of including the 15's age group with the earlier tryout period. One major con was this age group usually includes HS freshman and if they are on the varsity team, they may still be participating in the state playoffs. The benefits included giving more time to clubs with limited access to court space to hold tryouts for the younger age groups. Motion by Sherry, second by Mark to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 1: Move the 15's age group to the later tryout period. **Motion FAILED.**

Motion by Trina, second by George to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 2: Move the signing date only for the 15's age group to the later signing date. MSA

Fred requested that the guidelines be rewritten to reflect its status as guidelines and not a policy.

- V. Sportsmanship/Behavior Policy Review – A question was asked how we can help coaches be positive role models in their interactions with the officiating crews. It was pointed out that we need to also educate the officials to make more use of the penalties allowed in the USAV rule book to control behavior. We also need to educate them that they may hand out Behavior Policy Cards to spectators that need it. However, only the Tournament Directors should be removing spectators from the premises under the policy. Kevin indicated that the Region would try to give out the behavior cards to the professional officials at our pre-season clinics.
- VI. 2010 Schedule – Two options for the 2010 Junior schedule were proposed for consideration. Neither option as presented was ideal. After some discussion option 2 was amended to allow the older age groups to begin on January 2; the younger age groups Regionals would be on March 20; the older age group Regionals would be on March 27; and the Jr Hi Neighbor would be allowed to choose from the weekends of April 10, 17, or 24 with the National bid tournaments on the earliest April date not chosen. Motion by Mike, second by Rick to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 3: approve the 2009/2010 Adult and Junior Tournament schedules as amended. MSA

- VII. Format/Tournament Issues:
  - A. A request to modify the playing schedule came up this year at a tournament with only one 5-team pool. The teams wanted to play everyone in pool. We allowed the exception to our approved format and would like to formalize that for future seasons. Motion by Fred, second by Jeff to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 4: approve a round-robin, 5-team pool-play format where all teams play each other to be applied only in tournaments that have only one 5-team pool. MSA

- B. The region was asked if we could come up with a way to equalize the playing time between 4-team pools and the modified 5-team pool format. In tournaments with those combinations of pools, the 4-team pools are finishing much quicker and causing teams to wait an extended time for playoffs. Motion by Fred, second by Jeff to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 5: change the approved play format for the modified 5-team pool format to two sets to 25 only for tournaments that have a combination of 5-team and 4-team pools. The first tie-breaker in the 5-team pool will still be match play if one team wins both sets. MSA

- C. Bid Tournaments – Kevin asked whether it would be wise to have a 3<sup>rd</sup> place match at the bid tournaments. There may be instances where one of the top two teams gets an at-large bid from USAV or earns a bid at a later qualifier. If that happens, we would be able to pick another team from the region for our bid but we do not always have an identifiable third team. Motion by Mike, second by Tina to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 6: adopt a policy to hold a 1 set to 25 third place match at the bid tournaments. MSA

- D. MVP determination – There has been confusion in the process of identifying the MVP at the Regional Championships. The current procedure has the two head coaches of the finalist teams, the officials, and the tournament director on a committee to select the MVP. There is not an identified final authority to make the decision should there not be consensus. Kevin would like the JAB to formalize the process. Motion by Mike, second by Rick to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 7: establish an MVP selection committee at each Regional Championship to include the tournament director and the two participating finals Head Coaches. The Head Coach of the Champion team will Chair the committee and break ties. MSA

- E. 12's Competition Rules – The 12's division has grown over the past two seasons and we are holding events for them consistently. One discussion at every coaches meeting is what serving rules will be used and it can sometimes cause friction. The region would like to formalize the serving rules so all teams will know ahead of time what the serving rules will be. Motion by Trina, second by Fred to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 8: establish the following serving rules for the 12's age group tournaments: (a) For the first regular season tournament of the sanctioned season, all 12's divisions will establish service lines 6 feet and 3 feet inside of the normal service line. Players will be allowed the option to serve from the 6 foot line on their first serve during each term of service. If the team wins the point, they must move back to the 3-foot line. If they win that point, they must serve from normal service line for the remainder of that term of service. (b) Beginning with the second tournaments of the sanctioned season and continuing to the end of the regular season, the 12's Platinum division will play using the normal service line in the USAV Rule book; the 12's Gold and below divisions will play using the modified service lines described above in (a). (c) For all Regional Championship tournaments and National bid tournaments, all 12's divisions will play using the normal service line in the USAV Rule book. MSA

- F. Adding a 6<sup>th</sup> Division – We had three divisions with over 70 teams this season. This can cause issues with finding enough 3-court sites. Kevin would like the option of adding another division in those divisions to help with the scheduling of tournaments. Motion by Mike, second by Fred to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 9: allow the Carolina Region staff the flexibility to establish a sixth division as needed called “Nickel” in age groups with over 70 teams. MSA

- VIII. Officiating Issues – Our professional officials have provided feedback about the difficulty they are having in late-season tournaments with teams that are using less experienced first referees. This is a difficult issue as on one hand if an official has attended a clinic and passed their tests they are eligible to serve as an official and can only get better by working matches. On the other hand, it may not be fair to the participating teams to have inexperienced referees that late in the season. We will try to address at the coaches' meetings/IMPACT clinics this issue and try to encourage coaches to use more experienced referees as the season progresses.
- IX. Boys Issues – The Raleigh area created a boys league this season that was well-received. It gave them more playing opportunities and will likely continue. Our next goal is to get more clubs involved in offering playing opportunities for boys. This does not have to revolve around forming teams. It could be registering brothers of their current players and letting them have practice opportunities.

- X. Elections:
- A. Boys –Audun was nominated in advance of this meeting. A call among the boys’ team reps did not produce any more nominations. Audun was elected by acclimation for a one-year term.
  - B. Girls – Nominees for the Girl’s Rep were solicited from the floor. Trina Sharpe and Ashley Clark were nominated. Motion by Rick, second by Sherry to:

Motion 10: Close the nominations for the Girl’s Representative to the Carolina Region Board of Directors. MSA

By secret ballot, Trina Sharpe was elected as the Girl’s Rep to the Carolina Region Board of Directors. She will serve a one-year term.

- XI. Other Business:
- A. There was a brief discussion on how the Region pays tournament directors for their courts. It is currently by team with a guarantee of 4-teams per court. Motion by Fred, second by George to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors to:

Motion 11: change the pay structure for our Tournament Hosts to begin paying them a flat fee per court with the goal of increasing the amount they receive beginning in the 2010 season. MSA

- B. Fred mentioned that he would like the format for 6-team pools looked at. We did not have time to address during this meeting, so Fred will propose alternate formats and that will be sent around for feedback.
- C. Trina expressed a desire for higher rated officials being assigned to the Platinum divisions. An alternate viewpoint was also expressed that our most experienced officials should be at our lower levels to aid in the junior officials and tournament play development. Motion by Trina, second by Mike to recommend to the Carolina Region Board of Directors that:

Motion 12: the Region assign Regional or higher officials where possible to the Platinum division tournaments. MSA

- XII. Minutes – Approve the minutes of the May 3, 2008 Junior Advisory Board meeting. Motion by Sherry, Second by Ashley:

Motion 13: to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2008 Junior Advisory Board meeting. MSA

- XIII. Next Meeting – May 1, 2010. Time/Place to be announced.  
XIV. Adjournment - Motion by Fred, second by George to:

Motion 14: adjourn the May 2, 2009 meeting of the Junior Advisory Board at 4:43 pm. MSA

**NEXT MEETING**

May 1, 2010. Time and site TBD

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- ❖ Region Office – create and distribute survey on the Recruiting and Club Offer guidelines.
- ❖ Fred – investigate alternatives for 6-team pool format.

**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 meeting of the Carolina Region Board of Directors to verify that the motions passed at the Junior Advisory Board meeting were adopted.