

Carolina Region/USAV
August 23, 2017 Officials Advisory Board meeting
Online Meeting



Attendees: Joey Asis, Mitch Atkinson, Larry Cline, Chanel Davis, Gary Foster, Rex Hart, Glenn Horton, Jeff Hutcherson, Katrina Johnson-Lightbourn, Rick Laskey, Lawrence Millen, Kelly Moose, Ronnie Mutter, Dan Pickett, Sharon Scott, Stephen Shepherd, Robert Webb, Ron Zientek

Staff Attendees: Marilyn Thompson, Officials Program Director; Kevin Wendelboe, Executive Director

Meeting began: 6:30 pm

- I. Welcome & Introductions –Kevin opened the meeting with introductions of Stephen Shepherd, Referee Chair; Ronnie Mutter as Beach Referee Chair, Marilyn Thompson as Officials Program Director, Tony Hill as Officials Rep to Board of Directors, and Kevin Wendelboe as Executive Director.
- II. It was announced that Kyle Smith is currently in pipeline to go for his Junior National certification. We will discuss a possible updated process for National rating candidates later in the meeting.
- III. Kevin announced that Brian Webb and Bonnie Wishnietsky were 2017 Robert L. Lindsay Meritorious Service Award honorees by the Carolina Region.
- IV. Kevin went through items discussed at the recent Junior Advisory Board and Board of Director meetings that are of interest to officials:
 - A. Junior Advisory Board met May 7, 2017 in Greensboro. Board retreat held July 14-15, 2017 at the Region office.
 - B. Juniors Program grew by 373 players (7933 total) and 18 teams (767 total).
 - C. Playoff Work team determination – For tournaments with only two pools, in a three-way tie for second place scenario, if either tie-breaker set has not begun and the other pool has completed play, the last place team in the completed pool shall be allowed to leave. The third and fourth place teams in the pool involved with the tie-breaker sets will provide the work teams for the semi-finals.
 - D. Participant/Spectator Behavior Policy – first paragraph updated to specify that the policy is applicable at all USA Volleyball sanctioned events.
 - E. We will work to promote Professional officiating opportunities for the 16-18 age groups to all clubs before the season. Several clubs currently promote within their club but we can do a better job of spreading the word to all the clubs.
 - F. Text Message service – Region staff asked the Junior clubs if they thought having a text message service available to team reps would be a useful service to provide, especially in inclement weather situations. The Junior community agreed it would be something they would want the Region to offer. Kevin asked the officials if this is something they would also want to be included in. All agreed this would be useful to officials as well.

Staff will work on rolling this out to clubs and officials with the new season.

- G. Arbiter Mobile update – We provided this new benefit to our professional officials last year. Since last year, we have learned that the NCAA and several NC High School groups provide this to their officials as well. We do not want to duplicate payments for this service, so will not automatically renew it this season. We will still offer to any professional official that does not receive it through the NCAA or their HS group. An official just needs to submit a copy of their receipt for purchasing the Arbiter Mobile service and we will reimburse them.
 - H. USAV Test Rule – USAV is including a Test Rule language in the 2018-2020 DCR. The Region Board discussed it and decided that our Region would still follow the actual rule as written in the rules. The Rule in question refers to how to handle an illegal player on the court where several points are scored. We will follow the current rule where all points are removed while the illegal player is on the court.
- V. 2018 Schedule – Kevin went through the 2018 Junior Schedule dates. The schedule is now up at the Region website. There will be Sunday tournaments for age groups on every weekend again this season including East/West and Regional Championships. Our multi-day tournaments will be Quest (Dec 30-31, 2017); City of Oaks (Jan 13-15, 2018); Queen City Classic (Feb 3-4, 2018); MAPL Raleigh (March 10-11, 2018); and junior Hi Neighbor (April 14-15, 2018). We will hold the Regional Championships on the same weekend as the East/West Championships. We will need every official to work the weekends that have multi-day tournaments as well as Regional Championship Event weekends. We will discuss an incentive program to get more officials to our Regional Championships later in the meeting.
- VI. Officials Accelerated Advancement Program:
- A. Stephen gave an overview of the program after its first two seasons. He announced that Kyle Smith was awarded the Most Improved Referee at the conclusion of the 2017 season. He received his award at the OTP in Durham.
 - B. National Candidate Application Process – With the development of the OAAP, we have a better-defined training program in the Region that we can also utilize to train our candidates for National certifications. Our current process has applicants go through a 2-3 year training process but training events are not identified. Our OAAP expanded on that process and is ideal to incorporate our National candidates into. The Officials Program leadership is proposing that our Junior National candidates will apply to join the 3-year OAAP when they are interested in going for their Junior National certification. JN candidates will still be eligible to be put forward for their JN at end of first year if OAAP raters approve. Whenever they do move forward for their JN, they will use the remaining years in OAAP to prepare to go on for their National rating. National rating candidates will register for one year of the OAAP at \$50. We will accept them into the program as long as we have not reached the 24 officials max in the program or with approval of the Referee Chair.

National candidates may go for their rating at end of the year with approval of the OAAP raters. Motion by D. Pickett, Second by R. Mutter to:

Motion 1: update the Carolina Region National Certification Training and Approval Process to use the OAAP for all candidates applying for a National certification. Junior National candidates will enroll in the full 3-year OAAP. National candidates will enroll for 1-year OAAP at \$50. National rating candidates may be eligible to apply for their National ratings at the end of their first year in the OAAP upon successful ratings from OAAP raters and the approval of the Carolina Region Indoor Referee Chair. **Motion Passed**

- VII. Deadlines Review – Stephen presented our current deadlines that are applicable to Officials and led discussion about some other deadlines that need to be implemented. Our current deadline for officials to apply for a certification upgrade is December 15. The OAAP deadline is October 1. Motion by M. Thompson, second by R. Hart to:

Motion 2: change the application deadline for Junior National and National candidates to October 1 and to establish a clinic/test completion date of December 31 for all Professional officials. **Motion Passed**

- VIII. Certification Upgrades – Stephen indicated that we will require all officials wanting to upgrade their certifications this season to take the “Referee Advancement Clinic” in the USAV Academy. We will work with USAV staff to have the applicable module put into each candidate’s USAV Academy account so we can track completion. We also plan to update the application form to make sure it mentions that candidates are expected to work Regional Championship Events since that is where ratings will take place. We will also be asking Provisional and Regional Professional officials to keep score on a semi-final or final match during the season if possible and submit them to the Scorer Chair.
- IX. Loyalty Bonus – The Board of Directors discussed at the retreat ideas for increasing the number of referees working our season-ending Regional Championship events. We usually need all the referees we can get since we are on the stand all tournament. The board approved staff implementing a Loyalty Bonus for referees that are loyal to Region events. Two ideas were presented to the group to decide which one to implement this season. For clarification, there are 13 tournament weekends in the 2018 season counting multi-day events and an official only gets credited for one weekend by working one of the days of that weekend even if they work both Saturday and Sunday of the same weekend.
- A. Option 1 – Increase pay at the Regional Championships for officials. Pay would increase \$25 for those working 7 CR events (including multi-day events) or \$50 for those working 10 weekends.

- B. Option 2 – Increase tournament pay by \$10 for officials working 6 weekends (multi-day tournaments do not count). An official will get \$15 extra per tournament after working 9 tournament weekends (multi-day tournaments do not count).

Motion by R. Mutter, second by R. Hart to:

Motion 3: select Option 2 as the Loyalty Bonus program for professional officials that work multiple weekends in the Carolina Region. **Motion Passed**

- X. Region Clinics/Rating Opportunities – the online clinics are under development and will hopefully be available in early September. Officials will need to register for and access the clinics from within their member record again this season. Kevin reminded everyone to make sure they confirm their certification shows in their member record and on their member card after they complete their clinics. Officials Program Staff presented a proposed policy change to change the rating length for Regional 1 and 2 to last for 3 seasons. Provisional 1 and 2 would remain at 2 seasons. Motion by R. Mutter, second by R. Hart to:

Motion 4: allow Regional 1 and 2 ratings to last for 3 seasons. **Motion Passed**

- XI. Junior Beach Officials Reports – Ronnie reported that the Local/Zonal Beach certification clinic did not happen in Wilmington as they had a couple late withdrawals. He will look to set up some local certification clinics early in the 2018 Beach season. He mentioned that those officials that have a Local certification will need to recertify if they have not worked in an official capacity within the past two years.
- XII. Retention Gift Program – Kevin reviewed the Retention Gift Program that we have implemented for professional officials. This year’s gift will be a Referee bag with our logo on it. Returning professional officials will have their name on it. First year and junior referees will not have a name and will not receive their gift until after working their first tournament. All referees will need to apply for 2018 membership and submit their Independent Contractor Agreement before they will be sent their welcome packet/gift.
- XIII. Purple Card Program – The Region Executive Committee has approved our implementation of a new program to help control behavior by spectators at events. We will order Purple cards for all our officials. Officials will now carry red, yellow, and purple cards. Officials can use the Purple card for spectators only. Participants on the court still only get red/yellow cards. The purple card is used along with the yellow and red cards to Warn or Penalize a spectator. A Purple/Yellow combination will warn the spectator that their behavior is inappropriate and they need to stop or they will be subject to further sanction. A Purple/Red combination will be a penalty against the spectator. The opposing team of that spectator will receive a penalty point.

Stephen recommended that this be put in Tournament Director Handbook and that it be addressed at the Coaches meeting so all coaches know what the program is about. We will also create a Survey that officials can report any time they issue Purple cards so we know how often it is happening and for what reasons. It will need to be recorded in the Remarks section if a penalty is given. This is for Carolina Region one-day events only. Multi-day tournaments may utilize it as long as all participants are notified before tournament but that will be decided by that Tournament's Administration.

- XIV. ArbiterPay – Kevin reminded everyone that we use ArbiterPay to pay referees after the tournaments. All new officials will need to register with ArbiterPay and link it to ArbiterSports in order to be paid. Our 1099's are distributed through ArbiterPay now also. New officials can contact Marilyn if they need help signing up.
- XV. Registration Review – Kevin reminded everyone about the registration process for referees. Registration will begin for 2018 season after September 1. Referees should check that they are interested in working Junior tournaments as a referee. This will trigger the background screen if they need it this season. If a screen is added to your fee, DO NOT pay during the renewal process. Check the box to “submit payment per region policy”. This will submit an Unpaid application. The referee can then mail in a check for just the membership dues or go to our Online Payments page and submit a credit card payment for only the membership dues. New Business:
- XVI. SafeSport – Kevin mentioned that soon all professional officials will need to have a SafeSport certification in order to work. We recommend all officials get this certification this season.
- XVII. Adjournment at 6:54 pm

NEXT MEETING

August, 2018 – Online meeting - TBA