

Carolina Region/USAV
August 6, 2016 Officials Advisory Board meeting
UNC-Chapel Hill



Attendees: Mitch Atkinson, Dennis Branch, Doug Fagan, Gary Foster, Jim Frey, Rex Hart, Tony Hill, Michael Holder, Frank Motondo, Ronnie Mutter, Michael O'Connor, Pat Paine, Stephen Shepherd, Kyle Smith, Brian Webb, Charles Yang

Staff Attendees: Wade Brence, Programs Director; Kevin Wendelboe, Executive Director

Meeting began: 4:40 pm

- I. Welcome & Introductions –Kevin opened the meeting with introductions of Ronnie Mutter, Referee Chair; Suzanne Lowry 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 Darryl Buck received his USA Volleyball Junior National Rating this summer. It was also mentioned that Aisha Boyd received the Bronze whistle recently as top referee from the past Junior National Referee class.
- III. Kevin announced that Mitch Atkinson and Stephen Shepherd were recent Robert L. Lindsay Meritorious Service Award honorees by the Carolina Region.
- IV. Kevin went through items discussed at the Junior Advisory Board meeting that are of interest to officials:
 - A. Junior Advisory Board met May 1, 2016 in Greensboro
 - B. Juniors Program grew by 721 players (7560 total) and 84 teams (749 total).
 - C. Assistant Coaches under the age of 18 will be allowed this season (ages 16 and 17 only). They must still take the IMPACT/Safesport class. There must be a Head Coach and Chaperone on the roster and on the bench (both over the age of 25). They must be coaching a team at least 3 age groups younger than they are. If the Head Coach is expelled/disqualified, then the Junior Assistant can continue as coach for the rest of the match. The junior Coach cannot start a match as the only coach.
 - D. We are only distributing ONE rule book per team this season. All interested parties are encouraged to get the rules electronically if they want them. Professional referees will still receive a copy of the rule book when they register, but this is not a new rule book year so most will not receive this year (unless they request a new copy).
 - E. Teams can play in more than one tournament on a weekend if the schedule permits it.
 - F. There were no changes to formats or tournament procedures.
 - G. A parent Code of Conduct will be provided to clubs during the registration period. We are also purchasing sportsmanship banners for all facilities for viewing as spectators enter the facility.

- V. Junior Beach Officials Reports – We are sharing Suzanne with the Palmetto Region since she has recently moved to SC. We held one clinic in Wilmington at the beginning of the season. Ronnie mentioned that opportunities for beach referees are growing with the growth of collegiate beach events. Tony Hill recently received his Zonal certification.

- VI. 2017 Schedule – Kevin went through the 2017 Junior Schedule dates. The schedule is now up at the Region website under the Juniors section. There will be Sunday tournaments for age groups on every weekend of the season including East/West and Regional Championships. Our multi-day tournaments will be Quest (Dec 31, 2016 – Jan 1, 2017); City of Oaks (Jan 14-16, 2017); Queen City Classic (Feb 4-5, 2017); and MAPL Raleigh (March 11-12, 2017). We do not know yet what weekend Junior Hi Neighbor will be this season as we will not sanction it again opposite our Championship events. We will hold the Regional Championships on the same weekend as the East/West Championships. Participating teams in the Regionals will be identified as the top 4 teams in the rankings from the East and West that enter that weekend. We will need every official to work those championship weekends as we are on the stand the whole day.

- VII. Region Clinic Opportunities: We plan to hold informational meetings for new officials again this fall. Marilyn is working on those dates and sites now. We will post information on the Clinics page once confirmed. We will continue to have all certification clinics online through the USAV Academy. It will still be linked through the member's USAV record. Kevin asked if we still need to offer the National clinic in person since it can be done in person. We normally held the first Sunday in January, but since we now have tournaments every Sunday, we would have to have it in December which can be problematic also. Ronnie will check with National Officials Division to see if in person clinics are still required. If not, then everyone agreed to just let our National referees take the national clinic online.

- VIII. Officials Accelerated Advancement Program (OAAP) – Stephen spoke about the program. Several of the participants were in the meeting and gave their testimony about the benefits of the program. We will accept up to 8 more officials into the program this year. Application deadline is October 1 and everyone will be notified of their status by November 1. Program information and the application is available at the Officials section of the website.

- IX. Region Rating Opportunities – We will again hold training programs for brand new referees at an early junior tournament. We also plan to have more National referees observe/train/rate at tournaments this season. These will occur on Sunday tournaments as we will not need as many referees on Sunday. Anyone needing to get rated should contact Ronnie and Marilyn so we can schedule a rating opportunity.

- X. Officials Pay Update – Kevin confirmed that referees will be getting another pay increase for the 2017 season on top of the increase that went into effect last season. Juniors/Junior Regionals will receive \$145 per tournament; Provisionals - \$150; Regionals - \$160; and Junior National/National - \$185. Travel pay remains the same. Tournament entry fees are being raised \$25 to cover the increase to officials and an increase to tournament hosts. A question was asked about pay to referees when an extra referee is not assigned to a site. Kevin indicated that the Region already put in place an additional fee for referees in those cases. Each referee will receive \$50 additional if there is not an extra referee assigned to the site. This was put in place for the 2016 season and will continue.
- XI. National Rating Candidates for 2017 – Ronnie indicated that we do not currently have anyone in the pipeline to go for a national rating. We are hopeful that participants in the OAAP will desire to go for National ratings when they complete the program. They would need to apply to get into the National rating pipeline if they are interested.
- XII. Retention Gift Program – Kevin reviewed the Retention Gift Program that was implemented as a small appreciation to referees for their service to the Region. Past gifts included a CR branded whistle; lanyard; flipping coins, and lapel pin. This seasons gift will be a CR branded set of Red/Yellow cards in a pouch. We have also purchased a subscription to ArbiterMobile for all our referees! This is active now for officials to use during the college season if they are using ArbiterSports for their assignments. Kevin reminded everyone that they will only receive their gifts after they register for the new season and complete the electronic Independent Contractor Agreement.
- XIII. 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.
- XIV. Registration Review – Kevin reminded everyone about the registration process for referees. Registration will begin for 2017 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.

XV. New Business:

- A. Tony Hill mentioned that Ron and Carol Weigand are retiring as officials. He asked whether we have referees to help cover tournaments in that part of the state. Kevin replied that we do not have a lot of referees on that state at this point. We often get referees from SC and VA to cover those areas if they are interested and available. Referees from other parts of NC that are interested and available to travel to coast should let Marilyn know. They would get additional travel money if they travel further distances as the travel fee does scale depending on distance traveled. We could also use help with recruiting more officials in that part of the state.
- B. Stephen asked about the process upgrading a rating. It seems like at this time anyone can just state they want to be upgraded and if a rater agrees and does a rating then they can be upgraded. He felt there should be more formal process. Kevin agreed and mentioned he has asked for several years that ratings go back to the formal rating form and process. Kevin suggested we form a committee to come up with a standardized process to request and receive an upgraded referee certification. Stephen, Tony, and Charlie agreed to serve on that committee and will send their suggestions to Kevin and Ronnie after they have met.

XVI. Adjournment Motion by Tony Hill, second by Doug Fagan to:

Motion 1: adjourn the August 6, 2016 meeting of the Officials Advisory Board Rep at 5:45 pm. MSA

NEXT MEETING

In conjunction with July/August, 2017 OTP clinic. Time and site TBD