

Carolina Region/USAV
July 10, 2019 Officials Advisory Board meeting
Online Meeting



Attendees: Irene Better, Robb Boggs, Darryl Buck, Ritchie Buffkin, Callie Davis, Chanel Davis, Karen Ellis, Rex Hart, Tony Hill, Michael Holder, Glenn Horton, Dan Jampole, Leann Madtes, Kelly Moose, Chuck Morris, Ronnie Mutter, Dan Pickett, Dusty Rhodes, Kaitlin Sexton, Stephen Shepherd, Kyle Smith, Marilyn Thompson, Tad Watson, Brian Webb

Staff Attendees: 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, Brian Webb as Officials Rep to Board of Directors, Amber Fulk, Scorer Chair, and Kevin Wendelboe as Executive Director. Kevin announced that the Marilyn has retired as the Officials Program Director. We'll be posting the job opening on our website in next couple weeks.
- II. Attendees were notified of the status of our officials that went for national certification upgrades this season. Darryl Buck received his National certification this season. Callie Davis, Betsey Smith, and Kyle Smith earned their Junior National certifications just recently. Ronnie Mutter and Betsey Smith received earned their Beach National certifications as well.
- III. Kevin announced that Gary Foster was recognized as a 2019 Robert L. Lindsay Meritorious Service Award honoree by the Carolina Region.
- IV. Kevin reviewed items discussed and approved at the recent Junior Advisory Board and Board of Director meetings that are of interest to officials:
 - A. Junior Advisory Board met May 6, 2019 online. Board retreat held June 14-15, 2019 at the Region office.
 - B. Juniors Program grew by 638 players (9000 total) and 60 teams (875 total).
 - C. Tie-breaker sets have been eliminated at all East/West Championships going forward. The same process we use during regular season events will be utilized to break ties. The Regional Championship tournaments will still utilize tie-breaker sets if needed.
 - D. The pay for Retired National officials has been updated to the current Regionals pay plus \$10. This pay schedule will only be applicable for any National officials that retire in the future. All current Retired Nationals will continue to be paid at the current National Referee rate.
 - E. Our in-person officials clinics hosted by junior clubs will be reserved for the 14-and-under age groups only. Clubs with 5 teams or fewer may still allow anyone in the club to attend up to the current maximum of 75 players allowed per clinician. We will still allow any adult junior coach to attend the in-person clinics and not count against the maximum count.

- V. 2020 Schedule – Kevin went through the 2020 Junior Schedule dates. The schedule is up at the Region website. The pre-season Quest tournament may be in jeopardy based on the calendar and prior events scheduled for their facility. Our other multi-day tournaments will be Carolina Kickoff (Jan 4-5, 2020); City of Oaks (Jan 18-20, 2020); Queen City Classic (Feb 1-2, 2020); MAPL Raleigh (Feb 29 – Mar 1, 2020); and Junior Hi Neighbor (April 4-5, 2020). The Big South Qualifier is back to one weekend on April 10-12, 2020.
- VI. Loyalty Bonus Review – We implemented a program two seasons ago to reward officials that work Carolina Region one-day tournaments. 58 officials received at least one bonus payment in 2019. 16 received at least one \$15 bonus payment. We paid out \$2365 in bonus payments, and the top bonus earner received \$120 total. Some questions were asked about the program and whether multi-day tournaments could count. The program was put in place as a way to incentivize more officials at our one-day events as that is where our greatest need is. We're open to updating and improving the program, and any suggestions along those lines is welcome. We will continue the bonus program in 2020.
- VII. Officials Accelerated Advancement Program:
A. Stephen gave review of the 2019 OAAP activities and numbers. There are currently 13 officials in the program after 5 graduated out after the 2019 season. We are looking to add up to 8 more officials next season. Application deadline is October 1. Three of the OAAP participants earned their Junior National certifications recently, so we are seeing this program have a great impact on the number of National officials in the Region as well. The 2019 Most Improved Referee will be announced at the OTP clinic.
- VIII. Deadlines Review – The current deadlines relevant to our Officials were reviewed:
- OAAP Application - October 1
 - Junior National/National Applications – October 1
 - Certification Upgrades – January 15
 - Clinic/Test completion – December 31
 - Score a match – April 30
- IX. Ratings Updates – Stephen reviewed the ratings process. Officials must apply for a rating upgrade by new deadline of January 15. These will be performed at the Regional Championships. Renewal ratings will be scheduled by Stephen when a rater is assigned with an official that needs a renewal rating. Officials will need to renew their rating every three seasons and Stephen is tracking that. It is looking like we will need to do about 49 re-evaluations next season. Stephen reviewed the scoresheet requirement as well. Junior Regional refs that are no longer playing will need to apply for an upgrade to a Provisional as well. Those will be done during the season, so we can issue a patch during the season.

- X. Uniforms – The old white uniform is no longer approved for USAV or NCAA events. The link to order the new uniforms was provided and is also at our Officials section of the website. CR officials do not need to match at our regular one-day tournaments, but they are encouraged to contact the other officials assigned to their site to match if possible. For all multi-day events, we do want referees that are working the finals to match. The white uniform is always the default uniform if there is a question.
- XI. Beach Referee Report – Ronnie reviewed a proposal that will be presented to Beach tournament hosts to have a Beach Referee monitor at all CR Beach Tour events. Monitors are required now at all National Beach Qualifiers and National events, so this is just an extension of that program. The monitors would assist the TD with court rules, score assistance, rules issues, and parent/coach control surrounding rules of the game. A suggested pay schedule was provided. We will submit this to our Beach hosts but will not be able to require it as entries do not come into the Region like it does with indoor. Paying for beach referees will be an issue for many of the smaller hosts. A question was asked about beach certification opportunities in the region. Ronnie will look at his schedule to see if we can get one scheduled before the end of this beach season.
- XII. Stephen gave an update on our Regional referees that were accepted to work at the USAV Junior National Championships. Victoria Ivie, Robert Webb, Chanel Davis, David Bryant, and Leann Madtes were able to work the USAV Junior National Championships and two of them also attended the Referee camp that was run before the event. All indicated the experience was well worth it, and their skills improved. Any other referees that get this chance were encouraged to take advantage of it. Stephen also mentioned that we had 36 new officials that worked with the region this season. This included adults and juniors that worked on their off weekend when not playing. Stephen asked for help among the professional officials to identify High School refs and those good junior refs in the 16-18 age groups that could be encouraged to work with us. Officials should include the player's parents when talking with them and direct them to Region staff to follow up. Kevin indicated we have some specially-designed tags that officials can get that has a special website with information on how to get involved as a referee for those that show potential. Discussed the Junior National rating process and how many can be sent by the region. We're usually guaranteed one candidate but can often send more. We rank our candidates after MAPL and then send that along to USAV. We'll try to send as many that are qualified as possible. Stephen suggested those interested in going for a National certification to keep their officiating resume updated with number of matches they work at all levels.

- XIII. Retention Gift Program – Kevin reviewed past gifts that our referees have been given as our appreciation for their service to the Region. This year’s gift will be a CR branded shoe bag and some other small surprise items. Returning officials will receive their gift along with the new 2020 rule book after they renew, complete their background screen, complete SafeSport, and submit their 2020 Independent Contractor agreement. New officials and junior referees will receive after they are approved to work their first tournament for pay. A question was asked about specific items for future gifts. We are open to suggestions, but everyone should keep in mind that we have a limited budget for these items so clothing items and larger items may be harder to accommodate with so many officials to purchase for.
- XIV. Purple Card Program – Kevin reviewed the Purple Card Program. We had four reports from officials using our online reporting tool this past season. 3 Warnings and 1 penalty was reported. All indicated that behavior improved at the tournament after a Purple card was shown. We will continue to promote the policy and try to get more information out to the officials.
- XV. ArbiterPay – Kevin reminded everyone that we use ArbiterSports to assign our tournaments and ArbiterPay to pay our officials. 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 the ArbiterSports account as well. We ask that all officials put a professional photo in their Arbiter profile so your fellow officials will recognize each other on site.
- XVI. Registration Review – USAV has selected a new provider for their Member Management System. The process of registering for your membership will be much different this season. The system is scheduled to be operational after September 1. The system is still under development, so we will send out instructions for registering after September 1. We are hopeful that the process of providing complimentary background screens to our officials will be much simpler with this new system.
- XVII. Region Clinics – We will post information about the Referee clinics and in-person meetings on our website once all information is confirmed. The clinics will be inside the USAV Learning Management System again, but with a new Member Management System coming we are not sure yet how officials will register for and access the clinics. We will send out information as soon as the details are known or confirmed.
- XVIII. SafeSport – All officials are now required to have a current SafeSport certification in order to work. The Safesport Center is now requiring an annual course, but the second year will be a shorter refresher course. There are plans to develop a course specific to referee Safesport issues, but we are not sure when that will be available.

- XIX. Facebook Group – All officials were encouraged to join our Carolina Region Officials Facebook Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CarolinaRegionVolleyballOfficials>). We use this private group for announcements, accomplishments, and instruction/interpretations.
- XX. New Business:
- A. Uniform Waivers – A question was asked about how uniform waivers are handled. We issue a letter to the team for any waivers granted that the team must show to the TD and officials. We will look at posting teams that have a waiver so officials will know which teams have waivers.
 - B. Head Officials – A question was asked about how officials are notified about the Head Officials. We list that in Arbiter, but we will try to do a better job of notifying officials of the head officials in the future.
 - C. Officials Program Director – a question was asked about the Officials Program Director position. A job announcement will be posted shortly, and applications will then be accepted. Kevin confirmed that the position is open, and that we have no one in mind for it since we have not even finalized the job posting or advertised it. Thus, we do not have any applications in for the position at this time.
 - D. Transgender issues – USAV has a committee in place to handle Transgender applications. If we have these issues come up in the future, we will direct them to submit the required information to USAV. We will honor the decision that committee makes place.
- XXI. Adjournment – Motion by S. Shepherd, second by R. Mutter to:

Motion 1: adjourn the July 10, 2019 meeting of the Carolina Region Officials' Advisory Board at 7:46 pm. MSA

NEXT MEETING

June - August, 2020 – Online meeting - TBA