

## **RVAA COMPETITION COMMITTEE MEETING – 4/2/2025**

### **Topics for today's meeting:**

- Brief review of 10/12/24 meeting topics (see attached minutes)
- Was any clarification added about use of microphones during play by coaches as long as they do not interfere with the game? Was the rule interpretation just an opinion or is it actually being enforced?
- Request AES give tournament directors the option of allowing head coaches to appear on multiple team rosters at the same event. Matches will not be delayed if the head coach is not present and a rostered assistant coach is there. Small clubs often have coaches handling multiple teams. Realize this may not be allowed at Qualifiers & NC's.
- Discussion about conflicts at tournaments creating possible security issues or match disruptions. Is it mostly about spectator seating or are we seeing an increase in hostility toward officials?
- Requests have been received for review of age group definition to be by graduation year instead of date of birth. We are inconsistent in our rules for the 17s girls and the boys.
- Review of current officials' procedure regarding sideline management. Conflicts being created. Should players be allowed to stand in front of the team bench? As long as they do not interfere with the line judge, does it matter?
- Double-hit rule confusion. Are teams seeing consistency or are double-hits directed over the net not being called?
- 15 team substitutions in 2025-26?
- Do we want to tackle the gender issue based on the current presidential executive orders and its conflict with certain state laws? It would be nice to get ahead of this before it becomes a news item.
- Any other topics by committee members or others in attendance..or anything you remind me that I forgot.

## **RVAA Competition Committee Meeting Thursday October 12, 2024**

### **Boston, MA**

**Committee members in attendance:** Chair Joe Williams (Delta); Ann Davenport (Southern California) Valerie Podczasy (Keystone); Nancy Funk (Pioneer); Brian Hoffman (Ohio Valley); Shawn McCarty; (Oklahoma); Kent Ma (Aloha) Steve Mueth (Gateway); Skip Weston (Old Dominion) Eric Lazowski (Lakeshore) Donna Donaghy (Northern California)

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1) How do rule changes & interpretations get enacted without approval by RVA? Is it within the Officials Division's authority to create rules & interpretations or just to enforce the ones approved by the RVAA? Example: no microphones allowed on coaches. Who makes the final decision on domestic rules?
- 2) "Coach Safely" acts are being approved across the nation requiring coaches to have CPR/sudden cardiac arrest & Concussion certifications to allow events to be held at municipal or state-owned convention centers, universities or public schools. This has the potential to create issues for USAV member coaches attending events & qualifiers from being ineligible to coach without specific certifications. Can this be handled nationwide through USAV Education or will each coach have to ensure they meet the requirements of each state in which they might coach next season? There are multiple online companies offering to provide this training at \$50+ per coach. Playsafelysports.com; Coachsafely.org

• **MOTION 2024-10-12-01: RECOMMEND TO EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO INVESTIGATE HOW MEMBERS CAN COMPLY WITH COACH SAFELY RULES THROUGH USAV INSTEAD.**

- 3) Boys Volleyball issues—Large clubs are starting JVA Boys leagues. No rules on recruiting, etc. Still wanting to play in USAV bid events, but not planning on competing at BJNC. Will likely go to AAU's. Will Regions & other events allow this? Members discussed

• **MOTION 2024-10-12-02: RECOMMEND THE CREATION OF A BOYS' VOLLEYBALL WORKING GROUP TO BRAINSTORM WAYS TO RECAPTURE BOYS TO USAV.**

- 4) Age groups—the quad is over and again we have been asked to consider age groups to be based on graduation year, rather than date of birth. Does the Competition Committee want to bring this forward to the RVAA? **No consensus on this item.**
- 5) Registration issues for Qualifiers—simultaneous registrations—events filling as soon as they open. Is there an answer? Discussion centered on the fact most Qualifiers are filling up immediately. Events Department says teams want to be in qualifying division. One solution appears to be creating more "single division" qualifiers (Music City) where more teams compete for a single bid rather than multi-division qualifiers. This will require more weekends.
- 6) 15 substitution limit will likely be in effect 2025-26 season. 2) libero identification rule to match NCAA rule.

• **MOTION 2024-10-12-03: COMPETITION COMMITTEE ENDORSES THE PROPOSED RULES OF THE GAME CHANGES FOR 1) SUBSTITUTION LIMIT TO INCREASE FROM 12 TO 15. 2) LIBERO RULE To allow two libero players to be designated for each set by indicating the players' numbers on the lineup sheet for the set. Only one libero is allowed on the court at a time and is only allowed to serve in one position.**