

USA VOLLEYBALL REGIONAL

VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

ASSEMBLY MINUTES

May 20 -21, 2024

Virtual meetings * usavregions.org for call-information

Monday, May 20, 2024

I. JOIN OPENING SESSION WITH JA (8:00-9:30 am)

a. WELCOME

b. INTRODUCTION OF THE MINUTE TAKER

Kyla Majors will be the note taker for this meeting.

c. CEO UPDATE

Jamie Davis

d. USAV BOARD UPDATE

Dave Gentile

e. STAFF REPORTS

Michelle Goodall

f. EDUCATION

Dr. Jenny Johnson

i. Please refer to presentation presented

g. TRY VOLLEYBALL

h. OUTSIDE SPEAKERS

i. Hudl

Please refer to presentation document on the RVAA Website. Please reach out to Ali Alamdiar and/or Sophia Lembo if you have any questions.

ii. NCSA

Ashlee Lawson

Please refer to presentation document on the RVAA Website

iii. Sports Imports

Danielle Cho

Please refer to presentation document on the RVAA Website

Sports Engine

Mia Ramer

Please refer to presentation document on the RVAA Website

iv. Volleyball Hall of Fame

George Mulry

Please mark in your calendars for the next Hall of Fame inductees banquet October 19, 2024.

v. AVCA

Jaime Gordon

1. What is next for AVCA- Large scale of collaboration to work together with regions

2. Socialized vision for volleyball

3. We all need to share information and create a consistent narrative

4. Amplify the message and promote

5. Build personalities in the sport

6. Be mindful of threats/NCAA changes – lobbying efforts with other sports.

vi. RVAA Committee & Zonal Instructions

II. COMMITTEE MEETINGS (11:45-12:45)

III. ZONALS (2:15-4:15)

IV. WELCOME RVAA MEETINGS

Lisa Madsen

V. MINUTES/AGENDA

Joe Williams would like to add a discussion regarding representation.

Motion to approve the agenda (Reitinger, Sweasy)

VI. SPECIAL RULES OF ORDER
VII. ASSOCIATE CHAIR REPORT

Steve Kenyon
Lisa Madsen

Please refer to presentation document on share drive.

VIII. ROAS REPORT

Jen Armson-Dryer

They are through three rounds of the ROAS reports, there are 28 regions are in compliance and two regions are not: Alaska, Bayou. The last round of regions will be due September 15th. These are the following regions Aloha, Evergreen, Heart of America, Hoosier, Intermountain, Northern California, Oklahoma, Old Dominion, Pioneer, Southern California.

IX. RVAA BOARD REPS REPORT

Bob Baker

No report they were in executive session

X. VENDOR REPORTS

a. EPIC

Jennifer Rains/Sean Lankie

Please refer to presentation document on share drive.

a. NCSI

Suzanne Boyd/Sarah Thrasher

Please refer to presentation document on share drive.

XI. REVIEW OF ZONAL TOPICS

a. Discussion to allow the following memberships to be allowed on verified rosters: 8 and Under : Free

- i.** Atlantic – Keep the 8 and under the same limited memberships, if they want to play in a National Qualifier you need to upgrade.
- ii.** Border – If they want to participate in a National Qualifier they need to upgrade.
- iii.** Central – Needs to upgrade.
- iv.** Pacific – Are we addressing the real 8 year old memberships or are we focusing this on the coach's children being on the bench?

b. Presentation for new CEO – wish list that should include a priority list from the RVA. Must be presented in a positive manner and can include a history of the regions and the influence we have had on USAV.

- i.** A list of priorities was sent to Michelle Goodall

c. Concerns with Officials Junior National process and lack of communication surrounding changes.

- i.** Atlantic - Didn't get to discuss in detail
- ii.** Border – Process and expectations need to be made clearer. The Junior National candidate process should not be more difficult than receiving a National rating. They would also like to reduce the amount of National Qualifier events that are required.
- iii.** Central – The biggest focus should be on the success of the candidate. The ultimate goal should be success and currently we aren't helping them just failing them.
- iv.** Pacific - Didn't get to discuss in detail

d. Draft RVAA Admin Manual

- i.** Atlantic – A lot of wording conflicts
- ii.** Border – Didn't get to discuss in detail
- iii.** Central – Didn't get to discuss in detail

- iv. Pacific – A lot of errors and more time to get it more draft like. Suggestion of hiring a professional.
- e. **USAV Ranking System discussion – are regions using this system & is it accurate?**
 - i. Atlantic – Would like to see the raking system on a neutral site or portal. Would also like to see additional tools on how to add results that are not entered.
 - ii. Border – Only one region uses it for smaller events.
 - iii. Central – Some of the regions didn't know where this ranking system was found. If we are promoting it, then it should be strong enough to use for National Qualifiers.
 - iv. Pacific - Data is important but we need to make sure that we use the correct data. The regions would like to know the algorithm that the platform and system is using.
- f. **Where to Register & survey results**
 - i. Atlantic - The results of the survey were consistent, and they recommended no changes.
 - ii. Border – The Club Director should decide where they want to register.
 - iii. Central – Their needs a written policy where people should register, if there is a disagreement there needs to be a mediation board.
 - iv. Pacific – We need more description policy that is written. There needs to be a lot more conversation about this.
- g. **Zonal Chairs for 2024 – 2028**
 - i. Atlantic – Valerie Podczasy
 - ii. Border – Steve Carrera
 - iii. Central – Jen Armson -Dyer
 - iv. Pacific – Jason Badell

h. Insurance Motion #1

Motion:

To lower the collected insurance rate per member to \$7 for future years, starting with the 2024-25 season for all Full Membership categories. The portion of the membership fees that goes to USA Volleyball would be lowered to \$23. (Krueger, Funk)

Rationale:

Recommendation Insurance Retention Fund The current and future cost of insurance is determined by 2 major factors:

1. Insurance renewal rates (premiums)
2. Membership growth

In the current structure of an unaudited policy, if membership growth sustains, it lowers the effective insurance cost per member.

When the last adjustment was made to increase the amount that was collected per member, to \$9, there was a lot more uncertainty over the

rising cost of premiums and the membership growth than there is currently.

With the insurance market stabilizing and the membership growth continuing, the amount of money that we are now collecting is higher than we need in the fund for the foreseeable future. Since the funds are now invested in CD's, we are also drawing decent amounts of interest as well.

Estimates are that by the end of 2024-25, at the current rate per member, we would be looking at a balance in the Insurance Retention Fund of well over 3 million dollars. The subcommittee believes that a 3 million dollar retention fund is the appropriate amount about for our business and future rate stability.

We have looked at several options for additional or new coverages but have concluded that our current insurances are sufficient for the purposes of all regions. There are some other policies that are of interest, but the committee feels that those would be up to the regions to decide if they want to purchase them, or not.

The recommendation of the sub-committee is to lower the collected insurance rate per member from \$9 to \$7 for future years for all Full Membership categories, starting with the 2024-25 season. Unless there are unexpected developments, we expect that we can move possibly 5 years forward with that amount.

The portion of the membership fees that goes to USA Volleyball would be lowered to \$23. Regions can decide if they want to increase their part of the fees to keep the total cost for the members the same or pass on the discount.

i. Insurance Motion #2

Motion:

To transfer the interest accumulated thru May 31th totaling \$16,000.00 from the RVAA insurance Fund to the RVAA general Fund. (Actual interest total is \$15,994.99) (Peixoto, Madsen)

Rationale:

This amount will be used to pay for the RVAA and JA meeting expenses and should carry us through the quad.

j. Op Code Motion #1

Motion:

Para 5.02.D.2.c, states "Each team shall register with the RVA in whose area the team representative resides". DELETE: "in whose area the team representative resides" ADD: "where the majority of the team resides." ADD after item 5.02.D.2.c.: "EXCEPTION: Teams who wish to register with a club formed in another region may do so with the written

permission of the Principal Representative of both RVAs." (Compoc, Donaghy)

Rationale:

A team forms where the team members reside and subsequently conduct team operations (i.e. practice, train, meet). Principal Representatives and RVAs should have the authority to grant exceptions as deemed appropriate. In cases where regions have close proximity border opportunities, the Principal Representative and RVAs should have the authority to define a Border Region transfer policy.

k. Op Code Motion #2

Motion:

Para 5.02.D.1.a.i AND Para 5.02.D.1.a.ii, states "...are required to register in the geographical area in which they reside or in which their club director is registered". DELETE: "or in which their club director is registered" ADD after item 5.02.D.1.a.iv.: "EXCEPTION: Individuals who wish to register in another region may do so with the written permission of the Principal Representative of both RVAs." (Compoc, Donaghy)

Rationale:

In order to maintain the intent of the region construct all individuals must be required to register in the region where they reside. Principal Representatives and RVAs should have the authority to grant exceptions as deemed appropriate. In cases where regions have close proximity border opportunities, the Principal Representative and RVAs should have the authority to define a Border Region transfer policy.

l. Tryout membership Motion #1

Motion:

To allow USAV to update the July-December Tryout membership to a June-December Tryout membership. (Myres, Wiedel)

Rationale:

With the 11-13's GJNC completed earlier and the 14-17 GJNC late in the summer, allow clubs to hold earlier tryouts for their younger ages. Allowing this membership to start in June will allow the younger ages an upgradable membership for the 24-25 season.

m. Marketing and Branding Motion #1

Motion:

Form an ad hoc committee to explore the creation and funding of an RVAA marketing coordinator or contracting with an outside marketing firm (Bush, Armson-Dyer)

Rationale:

The M and B Committee's goal is to advance and support Region initiatives via a focused social media campaign. While the M and B Committee values USAV's MarCom initiatives and partnership, the

committee would like to pursue a 40 Region/RVA focused marketing campaign(s) that is driven by and paid for by the RVA/RVA M and B.

n. Marketing and Branding Motion #2

Motion:

Request that USA Volleyball dedicate \$50,000 to region marketing annually and explore hiring a dedicated staff member to support RVA marketing and branding initiatives. (Armson-Dyer, Bush)

Rationale:

This will give a definitive amount for the RVA Marketing Committee to work with rather than a sliding scale based on regional contributions and will better help in planning strategic marketing initiatives for the RVA marketing committee.

o. Competition Motion #1

Motion:

No brackets should be larger than 16 on Day 3 of Qualifiers. (Committee)

Rationale:

Larger brackets would require teams to play up to 5 matches on Day 3. This requires teams to play later and delay their departure.

p. Competition Motion #2

Motion:

Girls National Qualifiers will present attending teams a binding choice to accept or decline bids at the beginning of the tournament or no later than the end of day 2. Potential penalties must be spelled out in the binding document. (Committee)

Rationale:

Teams have been winning bids with no intention of playing at the GJNC.

q. Competition Motion #3

Motion:

USA Volleyball and event directors should create a format for credentials for event officials to display at entry to National Qualifiers. (Committee)

Rationale:

Issue – people are walking into events claiming they are an “Official” – security/liability risk.

r. Competition Motion #4

Motion:

For GJNC competition: Update the QM to read: If all teams are tied in set percentage and point percentage, then the seeds for any tiebreaking sets will be determined by using the original ranking in the pool that is tied. (Committee)

Rationale:

The tie breaker wording needs to be updated to address the 3-way tie in both sets and point % when determining seeds for the tie breaker game(s). If all teams are tied set % and point %, then the seeds for any tiebreaking sets will be determined by using the original ranking in the pool that is tied. This language is currently not in the QM, and it needs to be, so we don't have an argument if it happens again.

s. Competition Motion #5

Motion:

Allow staff members to be changed during an event through Championship Desk. (Committee)

Rationale:

Why is it illegal to change staff members on a roster? Teams can change players for a price, but not coaches.

t. Competition Motion #6

Motion:

Expand 13 Open from 24 to 36 teams for the GNC, using the 8, 12, and 16 as respective tiers for granting number of bids. This will bring 13s to the same format other age groups. (Committee)

Rationale:

There currently are 2 at large for 13 Open, and 5 for 13 USA. 13 USA is already at 36 teams. 13 Open was initially lower because of not having too many at larges. Last year the 13 Open national champion was an at large so the current option is at danger of having a deserving team not get in. Lowering the tiers for giving bids away can alleviate that issue.

u. Motion on Rule 19.1.1 -Two Liberos

Motion:

Request the Rules Commission review USAV 19.1.1 in the current Indoor Rules Book as presented (see separate attachment). (March, Compoc)

Rationale:

Allow coaches more flexibility to give players opportunities to participate in different ways within a match.

ORIGINAL: USAV 19.1.1: Each team has the right to designate from the list of players on the score sheet (roster) up to two specialized defensive players called Liberos. If the team chooses to designate two Liberos at the start of the match, they are designated as Liberos for the entire match. If the team chooses to designate only one Libero (or no Libero) at the start of the match, the team may choose to change the player designated as Libero for each set, including playing any set with no Libero, but may not designate a second Libero for any subsequent set in the match. (see also 5)

PROPOSED: USAV 19.1.1: Each team has the right to designate from the list of players on the score sheet (roster) up to two specialized defensive players called Liberos. The team may choose to change either or both players designated as Libero for each set, including playing any set with no Libero, 1 Libero, or 2 Liberos. (see also 5)

v. Motion on USAV Bylaws

Motion:

Modify The USAV Bylaws section 6.0.2.I.3.b.1 and 8.0.2.d.1.b.iii.a to reflect the following change. Current wording - Recent leadership role within an RVA (current or previous role as a commissioner not required).

Proposed wording – They must be a current member of the RVAA at the time of their election. (Kenyon, Lucci)

Rationale:

This requirement was approved by the RVAA in our October meeting and added to our RVAA manual. The Structure and Function committee informed us the requirement as presented was in conflict with the current USAV Bylaws. This motion is to resolve this conflict.

w. Motion on Substitution Rule

Motion:

Request the Rules Commission to review USAV current Indoor Rules Book, "...allows up to 12 substitutions per set for each team..." to allow up to 15 substitutions per set for each team. This rule would be for Juniors only. (Davenport, Donaghy)

Rationale:

Allow coaches more flexibility to give players more opportunities to participate in a set. More substitutions would allow more players to play in each set.

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

XII. SURVEY OF WHERE TO REGISTER

Bob Baker

Great conversation about this. Bob Baker would like to get 1-2 people from each zone to create a committee:

- Valerie Podczasy (Atlantic)
- Jimmy Peden (Atlantic)
- Angelle Simms (Border)
- Andy Reitingner (Border)
- Terry Sweasy (Central)
- Craig Wiedel (Central)
- Cindy Compac (Pacific)
- Donna Donaghy (Pacific)

XIII. RVA ADMIN MANUAL

Bob Baker

A lot of discussion was made to help get this draft to where it needs to be. This Manual needs to be turned around quickly. Lisa requested that if the zones had any questions, please email her so they can get them to the share drive. Discussion of an electronic vote and 10 day review period from the last day. This will help with transparency and good governance. The manual is not changing the policies.

XIV. USAV Administrative Council Committees

a. Committee report

Jen Armson-Dryer

Discussion was made on if a motion gets declined or accepted that the committee that brought forth the motion get notified on the details of why it failed.

b. Nominating Committee

Chris Clause

c. Structure and Function Committee

Bob Baker

The Junior Assembly manually should be getting approved tomorrow at the Board meeting.

d. Insurance

Dave Peixoto

e. SafeSport

Cody March

Several resource available on shared site

XV. RVAA COMMITTEES

a. Beach committees

Steve Bishop

Please refer to the RVAA Website for meeting notes. Discussion was made USAV is still using the age definitions and 2 year grouping, while the competition (AVP) is using graduation year.

Keith Murlless will be the new Beach Committee Chair.

b. Competition Committees

Joe Williams

c. Education Committees

Brett Myers

Hybrid education

d. Marketing and Branding committees

Laura Bush

Marketing will adjust its monthly meetings to have USAV is every other month.

Jimmy Peden will be the new Marketing and Branding Committee Chair.

XVI. DISCUSSION ABOUT REPRESENTATION

Joe Williams

Discussion was made about the structure on the voting and how much power our current layout awards the adult player representative. We need to make some changes and voting matters.

This concern has been raised with USOPC and they have expressed it has come from congress.

The RVA would like to form a committee to look at the current structure and how we can make our voting matter.

Dave Gentile will help with this following committee:

Steve Bishop (Atlantic)

Harold Cranswick (Border)

Joe Williams (Border)

Eric Lazowski (Central)

Laura Bush (Central)

Jason Badell (Pacific)

Andy Reitinge (Admin Council)

XVII. USAV ALL STAR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Steve Bishop

If you would like to bid on a future year, please submit your request to Steve Bishop by September 1. Participation is required to host, and to vote on future locations you do have to participate in the prior year.

Please let Brett Myers know how many teams will be participating this year.

XVIII. ANOUNCEMENTS, AWARDS, AND ELECTION RESULTS

Lisa Madsen

a. 5 years

i. Kevin DesLauriers

ii. Craig Wiedel

iii. Cody Marsh

- iv. Jen Armson-Dyer
- b. 15 years**
 - i. Meredith Coupland
 - ii. Lisa DiGiacinto
 - iii. Julie Weber
 - iv. Andy Reitingering
- c. 20 years**
 - i. Joe Williams
- d. 25 years**
 - i. Phillip Bryant
- e. 45 years**
 - i. Will Vick
- f. Retiring**
 - i. Hazel Goldstein

XIX. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME RVAA MEETINGS

- a. Call to order, Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by 11:05 am by Lisa Madsen

Present: Alaska, Julie Weber; Arizona, Harold Cranswick; Badger, Jen Armson-Dyer; Bayou, Angelle Simms; Carolina, Kevin Wendelboe; Chesapeake, Lisa DiGiacinto; Columbia Empire, Cody March; Delta, Joe Williams; Florida, Steve Bishop; Garden Empire, Kevin DesLauriers; Gateway, Steve Mueth; Great Lakes, Dan Ames; Great Plains, Craig Wiedel; Heart of America, Lisa Madsen; Hoosier, Terry Sweasy; Intermountain, Jason Badell; Iowa, Brett Myres; Excelsior Empire, Hazel Goldstein; Lakeshore, Eric Lazowski; Lonestar, Will Vick; New England, Dave Peixoto; North Country, Laura Bush; North Texas, Andy Reitingering; Northern California, Donna Donaghy; Ohio Valley, Brian Hofman; Oklahoma, Shawn McCarty; Old Dominion, Skip Weston; Palmetto, Jimmy Peden; Pioneer, Nancy Funk; Puget Sound, Cindy Compoc; Rocky Mountain, Keith Murlless; Southern, Steve Kenyon; Southern California, Ann Davenport; Sun Country, Natasha Campbell; Western Empire, Rocco Lucci;

Proxy Holders: Aloha, Kent Ma, Donna Donaghy; Evergreen, Meredith Coupland, Lindsay Callaghan; Gulf Coast, Phillip Bryant, Steve Bishop; Keystone Michelle Carlton, Valerie Podczasy; Moku O Keawe, Angie Andrade-Morioka, Donna Donaghy;

Board Reps Present: Bob Baker

Athlete Representation: Erin Aldrich-Shean (In Person) Kawika Shoji (Zoom)

Quorum is present

XX. RVAA representation to the USAV Board of Directors

Motion accept the uno by acclimation (Vick, Goldstein)

- a. RVA BOARD Rep**
 - i. Andy Reitingering**
- b. USAV Board Nominating Committee Rep**
 - i. Nancy Funk**
- c. USAV Rules Commission RVA Beach Representative**

Motion to nominate Keith Murlless (Reitinger, Bishop)

d. RVAA Chair

- i. Steve Kenyon**
- ii. Steve Mueth – Winner**

XXI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Records Retention

Motion Records Retention – scoresheets and Rosters (Armson-Dyer/Bishop)

Discussion was made about do we need to keep score sheets and rosters and if so, how long. There is no current guideline, the group agreed that the best practice is to keep them to the end of season and dispose of them as you need to.

XXII. MOTIONS

a. Insurance Motion #1

To lower the collected insurance rate per member to \$7 for future years, starting with the 2024-25 season for all Full Membership categories. The portion of the membership fees that goes to USA Volleyball would be lowered to \$23. (Krueger, Funk)

Motion carries

b. Insurance Motion #2

Offer amendment from April to May 31st

To transfer the interest accumulated thru May 31th totaling \$16,000.00 from the RVAA insurance Fund to the RVAA general Fund. (Actual interest total is \$15,994.99) (Peixoto, Madsen)

Motion Carries

1 abstained

c. Op Code Motion #1

Cindy Compoc motion withdrawn

d. Op Code Motion #2

Cindy Compoc motion withdrawn

e. Tryout membership Motion #1

To allow USAV to update the July-December Tryout membership to a June-December Tryout membership. (Myres, Wiedel)

Motion carries

2 opposed

f. Marketing and Branding Motion #1

Form an ad hoc committee to explore the creation and funding of an RVAA marketing coordinator or contracting with an outside marketing firm (Bush, Armson-Dyer)

Motion carries

1 opposed

2 abstentions

g. Marketing and Branding Motion #2

Request that USA Volleyball dedicate \$50,000 to region marketing annually and explore hiring a dedicated staff member to support RVA marketing and branding initiatives. (Armson-Dyer, Bush)

Motion Carries

1 abstention

h. Competition Motion #1

No brackets should be larger than 16 on Day 3 of Qualifiers. (Committee)

Motion Carries

4 opposed

7 abstentions

i. Competition Motion #2

Girls National Qualifiers will present attending teams a binding choice to accept or decline bids at the beginning of the tournament or no later than the end of day 2. Potential penalties must be spelled out in the binding document. (Committee)

Motion Carries

2 abstentions

j. Competition Motion #3

USA Volleyball and event directors should create a format for credentials for event officials to display at entry to National Qualifiers. (Committee)

Motion Carries

8 opposed

6 abstentions

k. Competition Motion #4

For GJNC competition: Update the QM to read: If all teams are tied in set percentage and point percentage, then the seeds for any tiebreaking sets will be determined by using the original ranking in the pool that is tied. (Committee)

Motion carries

2 abstentions

l. Competition Motion #5

Allow staff members to be changed during an event through Championship Desk.
(Committee)

Motion Fails

1 abstention

m. Competition Motion #6

Expand 13 Open from 24 to 36 teams for the GNC, using the 8, 12, and 16 as
respective tiers for granting number of bids. This will bring 13s to the same format
other age groups. (Committee)

Motion Carries

2 abstentions

n. Motion on Rule 19.11 -Two Liberos

Request the Rules Commission review USAV 19.1.1 in the current Indoor Rules
Book as presented (see separate attachment). (March, Compoc)

Motion Carries

4 abstentions

o. Motion on USAV Bylaws

Modify The USAV Bylaws section 6.0.2.I.3.b.1 and 8.0.2.d.1.b.iii.a to reflect the
following change. Current wording - Recent leadership role within an RVA (current
or previous role as a commissioner not required). Proposed wording – They must be a
current member of the RVAA at the time of their election. (Kenyon, Lucci)

Motion Carries

2 abstentions

p. Motion on Substitution Rule

Request the Rules Commission to review USAV current Indoor Rules Book,
"...allows up to 12 substitutions per set for each team..." to allow up to 15
substitutions per set for each team. This rule would be for Juniors only. (Davenport,
Donaghy)

Motion Carries

1 opposed

1 abstention

XXIII. OCTOBER BOSTON MEETING PRESENTATION

Dave Peixoto

October 12-13, 2024

XXIV. NEW BUSINESS

a. Adding two JA Motions

Motion to add 2 new JA motions to new business (Mueth, Wiedel)

- i. Motion to add a rule of 2 of adding no more than 2 athletes from an already qualified team from the same club to participate in USAV 18's GJNC. **(Reitinger/Mueth)**

Motion Carries

2 opposed

1 abstained

- ii. Motion to add any player who qualified on an 18's team frozen roster cannot play in a younger division at GJNC's. **(Reitinger/Kenyon)**

Motion Carries

7 opposed

1 abstained

XXV. General Session Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (Goldstein, Everyone)