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USA Volleyball



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**Minutes of the Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting  
Great Lakes Region (GLR) - USA Volleyball (USA V)  
Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Trattoria Peppino Restaurant – Elmwood Park, IL**

**In Attendance: Sandy Abbinanti, Donna Smith, Angelo Iasillo, Paul Ickes, Mary Malpede, Denis Bergstedt, Dean Hoskin, Lea Wagner, Alan Feder, KC Johnsen, Kathy Steele, Pam Campbell, Deb DiMatteo, Erin Lorenz, and Joe Gedvilas.**

**Absent: Jeanine Hoskin, Paula McAleese, Cheryl Butler, Mike Hulett, Joel Anderson, Mark Cimaroli, Cindy Gritzman and Lori Cozzens**

**Welcome:**

**The July, 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 BOD Meeting for GLR of USA Volleyball was called to order by Commissioner Sandy Abbinanti at 11:03 AM. Sandy began by:**

- 1) Giving the status of absent BOD members.**
- 2) REMINDING GLR BOD AND MEMBERSHIP: Please submit any items for the GLR Summer Newsletter to Sandy by Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup>.**

**Sandy then stated that the meeting will be conducted under Robert's Rules of Order.**

**Review and approval of Minutes- Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010 GLR BOD Meeting.**

No revisions to the Minutes were required. Dean Hoskin made a motion to approve the Minutes as submitted and seconded by Erin Lorenz. Sandy then called the Motion to a vote: 12-0-8 APPROVED.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Commissioner's Report – Sandy:**

**Sandy made available to the BOD extensive information that included:**

**1) Rundown of RVA Assembly Minutes- May 2010**

**Information Session:**

- The insurance company is paying out more than it is taking in (approximately 265% loss ratio). Because of this, participant accident insurance is going up 25% (125% loss ratio).

- The biggest claim this season was with players colliding with spectators while past claims included problems with net dividers and referee platform.

- 74 individuals and officials have been disqualified because of the background screen policy. It is critical that SSCI looks at more than sex crimes.

- Numbers are up this year at Adults.

- Insurance Committee Questions and Answers:

Q: If someone does not have a green card can they coach?

A: Yes- there is still a check but is not as comprehensive of a search.

Q: Are there lifetime bans?

A: Yes.

Q: Do parents merely travelling with the team need background checks?

A: No

**Q and A with Doug Beal:**

- The relationship with AVP has never been better. Some international AVP matches will be brought to the US in 2011.
- Grassroots and development- both membership and participation have increased.
- Initiatives to help high school boys' volleyball: Grant programs for new high school and club programs, NCAA will develop a new men's championship in 2012, and if money is the issue more could be directed toward high school age boys' volleyball.
- USAV is committed to target the \$10 increase towards grassroots development and national branding and broadcast opportunities. (Some Region branding too at no cost to the Region)
- Vision for the Compliance Commission: Bring administrative manuals closer together and provide a template and general guidelines for RVA's.
- Ranking System: It is still being worked on- not live yet (Mike Chandler).
- May 7 and 8 will be the last date for Regional Championships in 2011.
- 2011 USAV Junior National Championship Sites: Girls- Atlanta; Boys- Minneapolis.

**Rules Testing:**

- Two Liberos- Active Libero and Reserve Libero: If you indicate two liberos on the roster either one may be in the game but not two at a time. This will be used at High Performance (HP) at the end of July. **Denis Bergstedt will be at HP and he will follow up with the GLR on this issue- in particular, whether this will be a rule change for the 2010-2011 season or not.**
- Also, the possibility of allowing the Libero to serve is being examined.

- Electronic score sheets will be used at HP championships this year.
- From the Risk Management Committee: No problem thus far with the centerline and net rule.
- Sandy encouraged the BOD to read the complete report that also touched on issues related to: Ethics and Eligibility, Outdoor Volleyball, Events, Membership Options for Grassroots Programming, Paralympics Programs, Officials' Development, Beach, and High Performance.
  - Sandy also pointed out that:
    - Cecile Reynard is heading up a Special Commission on Athlete Safeguards. Issues to be considered among many others include Mandated Reporter requirements; clarifying communication protocols for reporting inappropriate behavior; age-appropriate material for athletes and parents; hazing; concussions; eating disorders; specific alcohol rules when coaches are responsible for their athletes while travelling.
    - Junior Assembly Motion and RVA Vote: Juniors wanted to change the way that trickle down bids are re-allocated. The Junior Assembly would like the bids returned to the Qualifiers and not the National Events Division. The RVA defeated the motion 9-22-0.

## **2) USA Meetings notes- May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Phoenix, Arizona:**

### **Officiating:**

- USA Volleyball officials training site is available for officials, parents, players, coaches, and fans.

Free presentation is available at: [www.volleyballreftraining.com](http://www.volleyballreftraining.com)

There is also a blog: <http://volleyballreftraining.net/usavreftrainingblog/>

### **2010 USA High Performance (HP; Tom Pingel):**

- 2011: Hoping for Anaheim, CA for coaches clinic.

- 2010 total HP tryout participation: 2,846 girls; 960 boys; total- 3,806.
- Several camps are being offered again this summer.
- HP Championships- held in the Wisconsin Dells from July 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> with approximately 85 teams including teams from Peru, Dominican Republic, and Chile.

**Grassroots Commission- John Kessel:**

- Go to the website <http://usavolleyball.org/grassroots> for a variety of grassroots resources- including the recent addition of free posters with pictures and techniques for indoor and outdoor volleyball.
- Symposium on Best Practices for Clubs and Facilities (several sports and international speakers) to be held in September, 2010.

**Boys and Girls Commission- Mike Chandler:**

- The Qualifier Manual is being thoroughly examined- to clean up policies and discrepancies. (Examples: 1. Foreign teams attending qualifiers and national championships; 2. Tie-breaking procedures.)
- A person cannot be a head coach or chaperone on two rosters playing at the same time; however, assistant coaches can be listed on two or more teams playing at the same time.
- National Ranking: If your Region plays 2 game matches in tournaments, they cannot be used in the ranking system. (Some regions currently do this.) The commission is trying to find a way to use a value system for each game.

**National Federation of State High School Associations- Becky Oates:**

- To access a free 20-minute session on concussions, go to: <http://www.nfhslearn.com/index.aspx> . You will need to set up an account with NFHS before you can preview the material.
- Other education programs for purchase- including *Fundamentals of Coaching Volleyball* created by NFHS, USA Volleyball, and the AVCA, are available along with other volleyball resources at <http://www.nfhs.org/volleyball.aspx> .

Sandy encouraged the BOD to read her complete report on the meetings that also touched on issues related to: Junior Elite Division Commission, Competition Committees, Special Commission on Athlete Safeguards, and the Junior and RVA Meeting.

**The following statements were made regarding WEBPOINT leading into Donna Smith’s report:**

- 1) Use your **full legal name** to avoid duplicate screening and registration issues.
- 2) All members register themselves.
- 3) Donna is working with and will talk to all necessary parties, especially GLR Club Directors, in regard to the use of WEBPOINT. (There were some issues detected with the test group.)
- 4) WEBPOINT training will be available at the Extravaganza.

**Membership – Donna Smith:**

Donna shared a chart comparing 2010 Membership in GLR vs. the 2009 figures. The final tallies are as follows:

<b>2010 Membership Registration</b>			<b>2009 Membership Registration</b>			<b>+/- '10 vs. '09</b>	
Category:	Individuals:	Teams:	Category:	Individuals:	Teams:		
Adult Men	1084	43	Adult Men	1088	47	-4 (I);	-4 (T)
Adult Women	1380	41	Adult Women	1389	37	-9 (I);	+4 (T)
Jr. Girls	9924	977	Jr. Girls	9375	923	+549 (I);	+54 (T)
Jr. Boys	1941	1950	Jr. Boys	1950	178	-9 (I);	-4 (T)
Volleykids	883	8 clubs	Volleykids	626	7 clubs	+258 (I);	+1 (T)
Total Members	15212		Total Members	14428		+785 (I)	
Full Members	14329		Full Members	13802		+527 (I)	

Donna also clarified that Volleykids is an instructional- not competitive- volleyball program for young kids.

**Evaluation- Kathy Steele: Tabled initially; no report at this time- will be done by the Extravaganza.**

**Finance- Angelo Iasillo:**

Region Controller- Angelo Iasillo- reported that GLR has ended its fiscal year with a surplus. The surplus represents an increase in membership and tight budget controls by division heads. The annual audit performed by Leonard & Co CPA's has begun. All financial statements appear on the GL Region website. If a member has any questions regarding the financial status of Great Lakes Region, they should be directed to Angelo. Fiscal year-end financial statements will be made available after accrual adjustments and audit have concluded. Audited statements and financials along with our Corporate 990 tax return will be posted on our website as soon as they are available.

Mary Malpede presented the following data prior to making two motions:

- There were 61 teams for GLR that qualified this year- 42 girls and 19 boys. (61 teams times \$300 per team would equal \$18,300.00)
- This year was the first year that the GLR Junior Regional Qualifier Series did not generate a surplus- the deficit was \$1,105.58.

Sandy added that GLR did NOT give money to teams that qualified this year.

After prolonged discussion, the following motions were made by Mary Malpede:

- 1) To set aside up to \$18,300.00 of the 2009-2010 fiscal surplus to provide assistance to junior teams who qualify and participate in a USA Sanctioned National Qualifier or USA sanctioned Bid Tournament for the 2010-2011 USA Volleyball Junior National Championships.

This motion was seconded by Dean. The vote was 13-1-8; APPROVED.

- 2) Any surplus from the GLR sanctioned Junior Regional Qualifier Series would automatically be added to the aforementioned motion but not to exceed \$400 total per team.

This motion was seconded by Donna. The vote was 14-0-8; APPROVED.

Regarding the 2010-2011 budget year:

- Insurance costs have already been included; GLR is in the process of securing 3 bids for workmen's compensation insurance for all Great Lakes Region employees (which includes officials working for the region).

- Private contractor rules were reviewed. **NOTE TO CLUB DIRECTORS:** Clubs who run their own tournaments must make sure they have sufficient coverage. For instance, this coming budget year, one club is doing workmen's compensation for all employees.

A motion was then made by Dean and seconded by Denis to approve the budget report as presented by Angelo. Vote: 13-0-9 APPROVED.

**Structure and Function: No Report.**

**Juniors –Joel: No Report.**

**(The BOD of GLR then took a break from the meeting to eat lunch. The meeting then re-convened following lunch.)**

**Beach – Paul Ickes:**

**First, Paul thanked Joel Anderson for his work on beach volleyball for the Region as well as for his personal support as Paul assumes this new duty as Beach Chair for the Region.**

**Since our last BOD meeting, the following beach activities have taken place or will soon take place in GLR:**

**- USA Beach Volleyball High Performance Tryout Summary- Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at Montrose Beach:**

Ali Wood-Lamberson and 'Anjinho' were present for and conducted the tryout on Memorial Day which Paul attended. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate- the tryouts were cut short due to lightning and thunder. This was the first tryout of its kind held in our Region, and Paul believes that the staff was quite happy with the turnout despite the weather. Paul thinks Ali will include Chicago as a permanent stop now in the USA Beach High Performance Tryout Process.

**- USA Junior Beach Tour Stop in Chicago- North Coast Open:**

The annual tournament will take place on Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at Montrose Beach located at 4400 North Lake Shore Drive in Chicago. More information is available at: <http://www.usabeach.org/eventDetail.asp?event=63> .

**- USA Junior Beach Tournament Championship in Fort Lauderdale, Florida:**

This is the first time that this championship is being played outside of the state of California. It will take place on Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> (Extravaganza date & beach session). Further information on this event is available at:

<http://www.usabeach.org/eventDetail.asp?event=65> .

**WEBSITE OF THE JUNIOR BEACH TOUR:** <http://www.usabeach.org>

**- Inaugural Illinois High School Sand Volleyball League and Tournament:**

Teams are currently in the middle of their season. The championship is slated for Friday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at Montrose Beach. Schedule and result updates are posted regularly at: <http://www.brvolleyball.com> .

**AVP Nivea Tour Kentucky Grilled Chicken Chicago Tour Championship:**

This year, the Chicago stop of the AVP Tour is also the tour championship. The tournament takes place the weekend of Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. More information is available at:

<http://www.avp.com/Schedules-and-Tickets/Tournaments/2010-AVP-NIVEA-Tour/AVP-Tour-Chicago.aspx>

**Future Goals:** In light of the increased development and enthusiasm for the beach game, especially NCAA Division II (spring, 2011) and Division I (spring, 2012) for women, Paul plans to focus GLR Beach efforts initially in the following areas:

- Regular communication with Ali Wood-Lamberson and USA Beach Volleyball Programs.
- Collaborate with USA Beach Programs, the AVP Tour, and the AVCA for future coach, official, and player development in GLR.
- Collaborate with GLR clubs and leaders in further developing beach sanctioning, training, and programs in our Region.

Please feel free to contact Paul at any time- whether for sanctioning, program development or reporting, or for any other questions or suggestions related to Beach Volleyball in GLR.

Once Paul concluded his report, Sandy then informed BOD that there is an issue regarding beach officials certification for GLR with the Elevation Group- the company that actually runs the USA Junior Beach Tour. Sandy has spoken with Ali Wood-Lamberson about the issue and Paul stated he would follow-up on this issue also.

**Adults –Mark Cimaroli, Joe Gedvilas & Lorri Cozzens: No report.**

**TD –Dean Hoskin and Paula McAleese:**

There were questions regarding junior players being allowed to participate in adult tournaments were there was prize money. Sandy said that she contacted the IHSA and as long as the money was given to the club and not the players everything was legal. Paula and Dean will speak to adult player representatives about this issue.

**Officials – Mary Malpede:**

- We have 4 new National officials 3 Referee (Mike Chapman, Sean Doheny and Dan Riggs) and 1 Scorekeeper (Colleen Madera).
- Region Assignor: Will be used for the 2010-2011 boys' season.

- Rules Interpretation for 2010-2011:

- 1) Yearly rules interpretation will be required.
- 2) Interpretation sessions will be limited to four (4) per year.
- 3) Regional and Provisional Officials will be allowed to take the rules test at the interpretations in their small groups. Junior National and National Officials who have already taken their online rules test will lead the small group discussions.
- 4) All officials will be required to pre-register for each clinic.

Rating Process Changes:

- 1) Fee Structures: Candidate fees will be \$100 for Adults and \$50 for Juniors. These fees give the candidates their rule interpretation, one rating date, and, if successful, an official's shirt and patch. Candidates who do NOT pass their rating date will have the option of a second rating date at an additional fee of \$50 for Adults and \$25 for Juniors.
- 2) Beginning Training Camps: These will be offered for a fee of \$125. They will be conducted after the Candidate rule interpretation dates but prior to the rating dates.
- 3) Advanced Training Camps: These will be offered for a fee of \$125. These camps will help candidates interested in upgrading as well as for existing officials who would like feedback.

**Fee Structure Note:** Candidates for upgrade will be charged a \$50 application fee, which will be waived for anyone that attends the Advanced Training Camp.

Officials Newsletter: This will be sent out twice per year.

**Web Point- Donna, Angelo & Sandy (including try out memberships):  
Addressed earlier in the meeting.**

## **Old Business:**

1) **Time Waivers:** These will be handled as they have been in the past, on an individual basis. A consensus, after prolonged discussion, was reached on the following points:

- a) No time waivers for tournament schedules that include double waves **and** playoffs all in the same day;
- b) No time waivers for tournaments with 'phantom' pools;
- c) A fine will be assessed for violations.

2) **Regional Championship at McCormick Place in 2011:** After a prolonged discussion about the pros and cons of having this event at either McCormick Place or Schaumburg Convention Center, as well as the lack of response to Sandy from club directors on the issue, Dean made a motion to call the issue for a vote and seconded by Erin. The vote was 6-7-9 against having this event in 2011.

DEFEATED

3) **Tournament Director's Guide:** Sandy will assist Dean with revisions to the Tournament Director's Guide.

## **New Business Discussion Items:**

### **Extravaganza – August 22:**

Sandy presented two tentative schedules for the day- one for officials and one for coaches and clubs that include indoor and beach volleyball sessions. Registration will take place at Brother Rice H.S. from 8:00-8:55 AM. Sessions will be held at:

- Brother Rice H.S. at 99<sup>th</sup> Street and South Pulaski Road in Chicago, IL

- Mother Mc Auley H.S. at 3737 West 99<sup>th</sup> Street in Chicago, IL

- Circle (Klein) Park Sand Volleyball Courts at the corner of 97<sup>th</sup> Street and South Homan Avenue in Evergreen Park, IL (Brother Rice will provide bus transportation to and from the park if desired.)

This year, GLR has also invited members of the newly-formed Illinois High School Volleyball Coaches Association (IHSVCA) to attend the Extravaganza as well. Please alert all interested girls and/or boys high school coaches to either

download a registration form from [www.brvolleyball.com](http://www.brvolleyball.com) or call or E-mail Paul Ickes for questions or further information at (773) 428-1957 or [pickes@brrice.org](mailto:pickes@brrice.org) . Paul will handle these registrations and will work with Sandy on communicating final numbers from this group.

**NOTE:** CPR/ AED certification will be presented by Deb DiMatteo from 9:00-10:25 AM but individuals must pre-register for this session. The cost is \$25 per person for this certification. If more than 25 individuals are interested, another session will be held but the first 25 will have the 9:00 AM time slot, so please sign up ASAP!

Sandy strongly urges all GLR clubs, coaches, and officials to attend the Extravaganza and to respond to her previous request for numbers attending, lunch numbers, and session preferences ASAP! When Sandy has a better idea of numbers per session, she will communicate the final schedule- including times and locations for all sessions- to all parties.

### **Not in Good Standing concept:**

Sandy presented this issue in the following way and the BOD agreed. If a party is not in good standing in the GLR, they cannot be registered. (WEBPOINT would not allow you to register if you are not in good standing.) The club is responsible for informing that player as to why he/ she is being reported as not in good standing in writing- both by regular and certified mail.

Mary Malpede asked if this concept also applied to vendors who are owed money by a club. The BOD considered the issue and believes that it is possible but more investigation will occur on this.

**Compliance Committee – Pete Lapin WILL NOT BE IN ATTENDANCE. No report.**

**Sponsorship of a sitting team at Opens in 2010-2011 and Wounded Warrior Program:**

Mike Hulett requested in advance that these two items be considered by GLR BOD. He asked for \$4,000.00 to support a sitting team from GLR and funding from GLR for the Wounded Warrior Program. Sandy explained the background for these two initiatives- more information on these can be found at:

**USA Paralympics- Sitting Volleyball:**

<http://usparalympics.org/sports/summer-paralympic-sports/sitting-volleyball>

**Wounded Warrior Project:** [www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org)

The discussion that followed was quite positive toward possible participation by GLR. Mike was unable to attend this meeting, so both items were tabled.

**Mailing Labels vs. Email Communication:**

The question arose as to whether or not GLR can sell E-mail addresses similar to the way that GLR sells its mailing lists. The GLR BOD believes that it can sell E-mail lists like mailing lists as long as the person agrees or does not object to it. WEBPOINT will give each person an opportunity to separately give or deny permission for their mailing address and E-mail address to be sold to third parties.

**Recruiting Issues:**

Sandy mentioned that there have been many, many recruiting violations reported and investigated. Many of the BOD members expressed varied viewpoints on the subject. Should we just do away with recruiting rules entirely? If so, what will happen to the smaller and medium-sized clubs vs. the larger clubs? Should we only enact recruiting rules that are enforceable? Is Sandy spending too much time on compliance issues? The BOD tabled this issue for a future meeting having reached no consensus and since time was running short.

**Adjournment:**

Prior to adjourning, Erin made the following motion: At the Extravaganza, can we consider turning the Regional Tournament into a regular and bid tournament-meaning separate divisions playing concurrently? The motion was seconded by Deb. The BOD vote was 8-0-14; APPROVED. Sandy will follow up on this at the Extravaganza.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dean and seconded by Kathy. The BOD vote was 14-0-8; APPROVED. The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Ickes  
Secretary- GLR