



## Official Website Of The Great Lakes Region USA Volleyball



Great Lakes Region Board of Directors Meeting: April 25, 2014

Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

In attendance: Sandy Abbinanti, Donna Smith, Angelo Iasillo, Mary Malpede, Dean Hoskin, Lorelee Smith, Scott Harris, Eric Schulze, Janet Galvin, Deb DiMatteo, Pam Campbell, Keith Kujawa, Dan Ames. Mike Hulett, Mark Cimaroli, Amanda Craig, Joe Gedvilas and Milissa Parrish-Kutyla

### GRASS VOLLEYBALL – Jay Mabry

Before meeting started Sandy introduced Jay to the board hoping to represent grass volleyball. Jay and Amanda also were in attendance to represent the concept. Jay introduced himself and gave a summary of what grass volleyball is, how he can give back to the region with scholarships and funds. Jay would like to bring to our region his expertise on grass volleyball. Jay opened discussion for any questions or discussion items:

- Eric asked what was the time frame? Club volleyball runs 11 months a year so when will they play? There was much discussion from club directors on over training. Jay insures that there will not be any training just playing.
- Mary suggested that Jay focus on recreational kids instead of established club players.
- Scott suggested that grass volleyball should possibly focus on Regional teams that have limited play and are done mid-April.
- Dan is in favor and asked what is the difference between grass volleyball and sand volleyball? None, we added sand so we should also add grass.
- Insurance- Sandy said they all would be USAV members and a different USA membership for “grass”, if it was conducted like sand, so they would be insured.
- Who officiates? Kids officiate their own match but there would be an adult chaperone to oversee a few courts in case of problems.
- Jay would like to know if we would support the program. He would like a starting date of June 14, 2014.

BOD Meeting started at 7:32

**PVL Women’s Amanda:** Try outs were held over two dates at Dominican with over forty women turning out. We accepted a thirteen member roster but it is now down to twelve players. Four of the twelve were overseas players but the rest were chosen from try outs. Our team lost in the Badger Region but in the next tournament they won and the money goes back to region. They also won the Best of Midwest, Indoor Luau. They scrimmaged the Fusion 18 team for practice and have one more tournament in Indiana on May 10 before Nationals.

Special thanks to Dan Ames who helped with Underarmour apparel and Mary Malpede who will be screening the uniforms.

**PVL MEN:** tryouts are complete with a fifteen man roster. Some players are from California, one from the east coast but most are local. Angelo remarked that both teams will be very good.

**December Minutes:** Dean moved to pass minutes, Pam seconded- Motion passed, unanimously

### **Standing Committee Reports**

### **Commissioner's Report:**

Sandy brought up that this season was filled with many behavioral problems with parents and their unsportsmanlike behavior at our events.

Kathy Steel is now in charge of investigation the allegations and has done a great job taking care of the issues and hearings.

**Membership Report:** Donna submitted her report (attached) and informed us that we now have ONE more member than we did last year at this time, but our spring/summer membership is still coming in.

**Windy City Power League-** Donna reported that this season we had 465 teams and everything would have gone much smoother without our horrible winter and cancellation of the first date. Overall things are running smoothly. Sandy commented on our progress and how well we are doing.

Mike shared his concerns on the timing in getting information out to the clubs and coaches about the scoring requirements. Some coaches had less than five days to get it done. Sandy said this is a National issue and will be something that will be first on her list to discuss at the National meetings. We just don't get the information early enough, they promise but do not come through and this is the second year in a row that this has happened.

Pam asked if there would be some consideration on how teams are seeded and come through the divisions. Teams in the bottom divisions can come through without a loss and are not challenged. Donna said if they did not come through the seeding tournaments on top they are put in the division where they belong. It's difficult forecasting how the younger aged players will play from just the seeding dates.

Ballots for all-tournament team suggestion -possible on line voting be instituted so more participation could be represented. Discussion followed and Sandy brought up the option to drop the All-tournament ballots because not all coaches turn in their votes. Sandy will review this situation.

**Finance and Budget:** Angelo reported that the First Quarter financial report was sent electronically to the board. A balance sheet was handed out at the meeting for review. Our region website was totally re-done by Chris Rentz, we added a PVL men's and women's site, and a Qualifier website, twitter and Facebook page is now being managed by Eric Schulze. All of these new and/or improved offerings have put a strain on the budget. Angelo said we have not raised dues since 1998 and suggested that we raise dues for next season by \$5.00 per person. The Qualifier will have some big expenses throughout the year and the Region will need money to cover those costs.

Mike raised a question on fee raise about the \$10.00 dues increase four years ago. Angelo said that money went directly to the national office. Great Lakes Region did not benefit from that increase. Angelo also shared that Great Lakes Region has the lowest membership price in the nation. Sandy also stated that other regions charge more and do not give back as much as our region does. Other regions run all of the tournaments and the profit goes to the region not individual clubs or teams.

Dean recommended that we raise dues \$10.00 not \$5.00. Angelo wants to make sure everyone knows that the qualifier will bring in additional funds, right now he felt that the \$5.00 increase would be sufficient.

There was more discussion regarding the increase.

**Motion** by Dean Hoskin to raise dues for 2014-15 season \$10.00 across the board, full time membership. Mike Huelett seconded. 15-0-1 Motion passed.

### **Structure and Function**

Board will meet twice a year on the second Sunday in November (November 15<sup>th</sup> 2014) and the first Sunday in May 2015.

Sandy said that Lea's position cannot be filled, because there isn't a "past commissioner" so let's consider her position open as an advisor. Hopefully we can bring someone from the business community to the BOD. We also need to consider restructuring the BOD. We have more adult

representation than is needed with the number of junior players in contrast to the adult population. Should we only have one man and one woman player rep? Mark and \_\_\_\_\_ volunteered for this committee.

Sandy discussed that the board meetings and attendance are becoming a challenge. Board members have to be involved, attend meetings, and we need input. Dean suggests that the committee to discuss board structure put that on their agenda.

**Evaluations:** Deb passed out job descriptions for Finance Director, Region Administrator, and Commissioner and said that staff is doing an outstanding job but is severely overworked. Deb shared that Sandy has goals to grow the game; she has a vision. Deb suggested that if we are to grow the region we need funds. Everyone is donating their time to this qualifier without expecting any compensation. Sandy wants to work on new ways to grow the region but she is stifled with existing budgetary constraints.

**Juniors:**

1. Keith- Open gyms, should clubs be allowed to have open gyms? Keith sent out a survey to all clubs, received 11 responses and most were in favor of open gym.
  - Sandy said that she received calls regarding the issue. Clubs said they were not in favor of open gyms because the large clubs will get bigger, the small clubs will be eliminated. Only the clubs owning facilities will see the benefit from Open Gym.
  - Mike asked, are there recruiting issues? Are the clubs advertising to fill their facilities, are they recruiting? Open gym and recruiting depends on how you define the term. Are you offering an opportunity to see the facility, see the atmosphere and not actually actively talk or go after the kids to play on their club?. Mike said he posts open gym on website, that's it. Everyone agreed that fall leagues are not the issue.
  - Sandy stated that she did not even know that open gyms were going on.
2. Pam agreed that she had many calls from clubs that needed clarification of what an open gym is.
  - Pam brought responses from clubs and offered to share with whoever is interested. Most who own their own facility have an advantage and use this "open gym" not as a recruitment tool but a tool to generate income, fill their facility, and offer a place for kids to play.
  - Sandy mentioned that the term "open gym" is not in our guidelines.
  - Pam suggested that we establish guidelines and are advertising with the proper verbiage it would be advantageous for all.
  - Dan said that we should not even be discussing open gym and should not put it in the handbook.
  - Sandy disagreed and said that the larger clubs know what they are doing and it should definitely be in our guidelines. Scott said he agrees but keep in the guidelines on our recruiting rules in our policies.

**Beach:** Lorelee

Sandy said Lorelee has done a great job growing the sport.

Lorelee: Beach is getting ready to start and will grow even more after nationals is over. Our region will host two or three events and USAV will also schedule throughout the summer. Our Beach Qualifier is June 22 and should be a large event but both AAU and NVL are both starting a junior tour so they might

take away from our success. There are tournaments offered every weekend so opportunities are there for the kids to play for all of the organizations.

**Adults:** Dean

Joe asked how many tournaments were run. Dean did not have an answer but said that the Regional adult tournament was cancelled so there are not many teams at all registered. Adult membership, according to Donna, was 2,200 and is decreasing every year. Melissa asked if the formats were an issue. Dean said he ran four tournaments and they were difficult to fill. The way we do business is just not working.

What works?

- Non USA membership requirements.
- Offer tournaments for nonmembers with no USAV sanctions.
- Melissa said let's try "networking" and picking up players.
- Dean said he will not give up on adults but as a tournament director it is not worth his time to offer tournaments; facilities are locked in and not being used.
- Donna said the rule of 4 actually hurt the adult population.
- Lorelee suggests we might want to consider offering one adult membership and not a team. Register as individuals and that way they are not locked into any team.

Motion: Mark motioned that adults register as individual members and not be locked into any team. Seconded by Dean

Discussion: That's a great idea! What about uniforms? The player rep or coach would be responsible for uniforms.

Motion passed unanimously

Dean will talk to Chris Rentz about how to monitor their roster and registrations.

**Juniors-** Dean

No complaints about any problems or about how tournaments are being run.

**Girls try out date/Badger.** Donna

She contacted Badger and asked if they would be willing to coincide with our try out dates. Badger said they would if we would move ours. Donna recommended keeping our as we have done them in the past.

**Combine:** Sandy stated that she had a complaint from a club director that we were stealing their clients. We will mention that verbiage should read "your club may offer a combine so please contact your local club"

**Revamped GLR website:** Region website went live April 24<sup>th</sup>. Chris Rentz did a great job.

**Qualifier website:** Eric has designed the qualifier website and it is also live. It will be updated as time goes on.

**Final Four:** Angelo announced that men's final four is being played at Loyola this year and is sold out.

**World league:** June 13-14 at UIC Pavilion and June 20-21 at Sears Center.

**CAP Clinics:** The listing site for the Great Lakes Cap I/II Course is now up and registration is also open. Adversity is the host site.

**Power of the Serve-** The Region has formed a partnership with an organization that runs the event for a serving competition. Energy VBC did this last year and it was very successful raising over \$17,000 on one night. They run the event and monies raised goes back to the community. Club director is asked where the funds are needed most. Very little of the percentage goes back to the organization. Military are visible and show their support by attending the event, shaking hands with participants, cheering them on.

Sky High, Kane County, Celtic Force have agreed to take part in this.

**Old Business:**

We won't have an Extravaganza this year. Sandy is not sure if we will have "town meetings" regarding SafeSport but will keep us posted

Dean motioned to adjourn, Mark seconded. The motion passed unanimously  
The meeting adjourned 9:58 PM

**Windy City Qualifier**

Sandy is pleased with Windham Jade – Housing will be \$131.00 per night for most hotels in the downtown area. Wyndham Jade is attempting to get some lower rates.

McCormick Place – GLR signed the contract for both the North and South Halls

We will have: 140 courts, approximately 176 officials, and up to 1024 teams.

United Airlines- Committed to go 5% below their lowest rates and offer a variety of services.

Parking is being worked on for best rates.

ARC is the marketing company that will help us secure sponsors.

Floor contracts are in the hands of their respective lawyers.

J & J is the event exhibition service. Coordinates the unions, teamsters, pipe and drape, carpenters, fork lift drivers, equipment, court marking and layout.

Motion to adjourn by Dean, seconded by Pam

The meeting adjourned at 10:06 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Malpede