

**Ohio Valley Region
Club Directors' Meeting
July 30, 2006
Westerville South High School**

Attendance from Clubs:

Tina Collins	Miami Valley Jrs Club
Fred Fischer	CCYA Volleyball Club
Phil Anders	Dayton Jrs
Don Wood	Dayton Jrs
John David Holtsberry	Central Ohio VBC
Dave Reinhart	Blackswamp VBC
Doug Walters	Brown County VBC
Debbie Fajerski	Pittsburgh Elite VBA
Regina McKay	Pittsburgh Elite VBA
Steve Yates	Kaepa Buckeye VBC
John Dempsey	Columbus United VBC
Dana Johnson	Glass City VBC
Michelle Hills	Toledo VBC
David Williams	Wooster Elite
Gretchen Niebling	Lineshot VBC
Scott Monroe	Oiler Attack Club
Tony Geer	Glass City
Bill Zehler	Borderline & OVR Board of Directors
Jodi Schramm	Premier VBC
Bart Gensburg	East Ohio VC
Scott Nelson	Six Bucks
Doug Mace	Central Ohio VBC
Meredith Ervin	Westland VBC
Don Burroughs	Oiler Attack Club & OVR Board of Directors
William Smerglia	Portage VBC
Bojan Miocinovic	Great Lakes – Quicksilver VBC
Benjamin Plummer	Great Lakes – Quicksilver VBC
Bob Price	Westerville VBC & OVR Board of Directors

OVR Board and Staff:

Bob Price	Commissioner & Board Member
Bill Zehler	Girls Junior Program Director & Board Member
Tom Kohl	Junior Tournament Director
Don Burroughs	HP & Coaching Education Director & Board Member
Steve Donahue	Verification Officer & Board Member
Al Herbert	Board Member
Patty Salvatore	Board Member

As attendees arrived, they signed in and were given a list of the requested discussion topics. They were asked to rank the topics in importance. These surveys were tabulated and the results were used to determine the order in which the topics were discussed.

Steve Donahue called the meeting to order at 10:07 am. He introduced Bill Zehler.

Bill Zehler thanked everyone for attending. He also explained that this meeting was a forum by which the club directors could voice their opinions to the Board.

Bob Price commented on the following topics:

He had been invited by USA Volleyball to go to Colorado Springs for a three day meeting. The OVR was one of several regions invited. USAV wants to implement a club licensing process by which clubs could be rated. Each club would complete a form covering their financial status, coaches' experience, etc. The criteria to be completed are to be determined by the regions. The hope is to implement this by the beginning of this coming season.

The reason for this process is that USAV is worried about how the clubs may be representing themselves. That may reflect upon USAV as the parent organization. Clubs would be ranked upon the answers they provide on the form. This ranking would be published on the region's web page. In this way the players and parents could see how a club is ranked within the region.

Sportsmanship and ethics are areas that improvement can be made. We have over 16,000 members and we have no police force. There were a couple of problems with alcohol being brought to a site by parents. The OVR's lawyer recommended that no coolers be allowed inside a playing facility. This is a security nightmare. This policy needs to be published better for clubs to know about it.

The OVR is committed to helping the junior players to have a good experience.

Opinions and suggestions made at this meeting will be taken to the OVR Board of Directors' meeting to be held in two weeks.

Question – Will clubs need to get re-licensed each year?

Bob Price – the process needs to be developed.

Phil Anders – Clubs need to be notified of any issues that the Board may receive so that they can be addressed.

Dave Reinhart – Will there be a fee associated with this license?

Bob Price does not expect a fee for the process.

Bob Price mentioned that this is the end of the first 2-year background screening. Anyone screened two years ago will need to pay for screening again this year.

Don Burroughs spoke next:

Both HP teams from the OVR did better than ever before.

Coaching Education:

All coaches must be IMPACT certified before their first contact with any junior players. This is an insurance requirement. Don will work with any club to provide the 4 hour IMPACT certification course.

Names of all coaches should show up on the club's OVR information web page. This will also show if the coach is IMPACT Certified. But their name must match exactly with their certification records. No nicknames. Any name changes must be emailed to Don so he can update his database which is different from the OVR's membership database. Date of birth needs to be correct.

Bob Price – When submitting the background screening request, you must supply a complete Social Security Number. Not just the last four digits. When coaches are registered, the system will automatically flag those who need the background screening this year.

Jodi Schramm – Can the cost of CAP certification be decreased this year?

Don Burroughs – No. This is a USAV price.

- Is there any other coaching education that would be cheaper than CAP?

Don Burroughs – He is trying to offer a general coaching clinic.

Bob Price – next weekend (Friday & Saturday) is the Ohio High School Volleyball Coaches Association (OHSVCA; <http://www.ohsvca.org>) clinic in Columbus. It is open to anyone. This contains two days of many different modules.

- This information needs to be sent to all club directors.
- Could the OVR and the OHSVCA partner this clinic in the future?

Bob Price – Any one can be a member of the OHSVCA. You do not need to be a coach in a school system. The OVR does work with the OHSVCA.

If a coach breaks a rule they can be suspended and/or fined. If a player is suspended by OHSVCA, they cannot participate in any high school sport for one year.

Junior coaches (who are also coaches in a school system) cannot coach any of their players from their own school.

Only three players for any school can be on a team in USAV. Seniors do not count in this rule of three. This was a recent change in policy. Bob Price will seek clarification on the details of this new rule such as can a high school coach continue to coach their own seniors in the USAV season?

Non-interscholastic rules can be found on the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) web page: <http://www.OHSAA.org>

Don Burroughs – He can only offer coaching clinics in the Pennsylvania counties that border Ohio. That is the OVR boundary. He will not run any clinics in Michigan, Indiana, or Kentucky.

Don Burroughs would like to offer an IMPACT Plus clinic. This is a 6 hour course.

Now the discussions moved to the suggested topics in the following order:

#1 – Specific Tryout dates/Specific commitment date for Juniors

Michelle Hills – The 10 day rule is cumbersome to clubs. Players show up for a tryout without any real intention of joining that club. She requested a \$50 tryout fee with some portion refunded to players who are accepted and subsequently join the club.

Jodi Schramm – Seconded this opinion.

Scott Monroe – Prefers the 10 day rule. He may not have his facility available to him on the first weekend of tryouts. The 10 day rule allows time for players to attend his tryout before they have to decide.

Dave Williams – Likes idea of raising tryout fee and offering rebate if player joins the club.

Phil Anders – also likes \$50 fee proposal.

Doug Mace – Has had up to half of players offered contracts refuse them to join different teams.

Jimmy McKinzey – Is this just a problem for large clubs?

Bart Gensburg – Tryouts are for the players as well as the teams.

Bob Price – Expects USAV to require a 10 day rule in the future for all regions. The rationale is that the players will have all of the rights for those 10 days. After that, the club has all of the rights over that player.

Phil Anders – Can a player sign a contract on the 3rd day and then withdraw it on the 9th day?

Bob Price – As Commissioner, he would side with the player and allow them out of their contract.

Fred Fischer – A contract should be binding unless there is a due date included.

- Prefers a 15 day rule so that three weekends could be covered not just 2.

Jodi Schramm – Thought clubs could not contract with players before the 10 day expired. They do not hold an organizational meeting until after the 10 day.

Bill Zehler – Clubs cannot hold organizational meetings until after 10 days but can offer and accept signed contracts before then. The club cannot require that a contract be signed before the 10 days are up.

Jodi Schramm – Once a player signs a financial agreement, they should be bound to that club.

- Can a player be released to another team if they have not played for the original team yet?

Bob Price – USAV will say it is up to the Region to decide.

Jodi Schramm – 10 Day rule is fine but contract should not be offered until after the 10 days.

Dana Johnson - \$50 is too much. \$25 would be better.

Tom Kohl - \$10 is current maximum tryout fee.

Bill Zehler – Clubs can petition for larger tryout fee with justification.

Bob Price – Only sanctioned tryouts are covered by the OVR insurance policy.

Phil Anders – Is \$10 fee a per day limit or a per club tryout limit (if they run more than one tryout)?

Bill Zehler – Doesn't matter.

Dave Williams – Has posted team lists and then players signed with other clubs. He would not accept that player back the next year. Does he have to allow that player to tryout with his club again?

Bob Price – Yes, they must be allowed to tryout. But you could tell their parent that the player will not be picked.

Dana Johnson – Is there a penalty?

Bob Price – Club could be sanctioned.

Dana Johnson – Were there any sanctions last year?

Bob Price – No. Club licensing would help handle this issue.

Bill Zehler – He was made aware of several violations last year and he contacted the club directors personally.

Dana Johnson – She had heard of a club that offered 14 contracts for a particular age group team but only accepted the first 10 signed contracts.

Tom Kohl – Was there an incident report filed that documented this violation?

Dana Johnson – No

Bob Price – Incidents need to be submitted for him to investigate.

Dana Johnson – Can the 13s and 12s tryout earlier?

Bob Price – First weekend after the OHSAA tournament.

Dana Johnson – Can 10s start earlier?

Jodi Schramm – Would not want to start any earlier.

Dave Williams – Said he has had the same player tryout for two different age group teams.

Bill Zehler – You can restrict a player to only tryout for a single age group.

#2 – Seeding / Point System

Bob Price – There isn't any complete seeding system. All systems had good points and bad.

General Comment – Regional ranking should only include regional events.

Jodi Schramm – Michigan region only uses in region events.

Phil Anders – The OVR should publish a seeding system and then stick to it. The OVR has changed the process after the system was published to try to tweak it.

- Teams must be allowed to play out of region.

Michelle Hills – For a team to participate in the OVR Bid Tournament, they must have played in at least one OVR event.

Jodi Schramm – Agrees with at least one in region event rule.

Don Wood – OVR should have two seeding systems. One for Open teams and one for Club teams.

- Then OVR needs to use the published seeding system results without making changes on a team by team basis.

Scott Monroe - Agrees

Fred Fischer – Committee should be formed to develop Open seeding system.

Dave Reinhart – Seeding system should only use in region event results.

Phil Anders – Should include out of region results

Scott Monroe – Only use in region results.

Steve Yates – Agreed with need to play in region.

Meeting took lunch break until 1:00 pm.

Steve Donahue recalled the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Steve Donahue then introduced Jimmy McKinzey who is the Awards Committee Chair. Steve recommended that clubs identify outstanding coaches, club directors, etc. and send details to Jimmy. Awards are determined each year.

#3 – Release of Tournament Schedule (Open vs Club)

Phil Anders – How will sites be awarded tournaments this year?

Tom Kohl – There are many sites but not as many good tournament directors. Allocation of events will be discussed at Board Retreat.

Phil Anders – Clubs with their own facility should not be given a tournament every weekend.

Dana Johnson – At the January Board Meeting a committee was to be formed to discuss this issue.

Tom Kohl – Is willing to meet with anyone willing to run tournaments.

?? – There were too many tournaments sanctioned last year. So many did not fill or were canceled.

Tom Kohl – Many sites wanted to sanction early but with a higher entry fee. He then tried to balance with lower priced tournaments.

- There are many multi-court facilities in the I-75 corridor.

Bob Price – Board Retreat will discuss this further. There will be a balancing of sites.

Scott Monroe – Should facilities that do not host a club be allowed to run tournaments?

Some schools and colleges run tournaments as fundraisers. Facilities that host a club should be given priority.

Jimmy McKinzey – Were any sanction requests rejected last year.

Tom Kohl – Yes. In response to Scott's question, students at those schools may be USAV members on other club teams. So their school program does benefit and they benefit from the fund raisers.

Bob Price – Committee will analyze number of teams/age divisions in areas and then sanction limited number of tournaments. He understands that club teams do not travel much.

Dana Johnson – Tom Kohl called Tournament Directors to help assist with the problem of too many tournaments.

- How does the new OVR facility near Cleveland fit into this mix?

Bob Price – The OVR Board has had a philosophy of setting up facilities around the region. This was before there were many sites. The Board ran a large number of tournaments at Kent State up until 2004. The past two years the Board ran tournaments at Youngstown State.

Scott Monroe – Does the OVR now have a facility?

Bill Zehler – The Region has contracted (rented) a facility in which to run tournaments.

Jodi Schramm – She does not mind the competition. In fact the facility had run tournaments last year. So it is not an additional facility.

Bill Zehler – Tournaments at the OVR rented facility will be posted just the same as other tournaments.

Michelle Hills – Colleges without a club affiliation should not be given priority on hosting tournaments.

Bill Zehler – Tom Kohl has done a fantastic job.

Scott Monroe – Tournament schedules should be posted earlier so that club directors can develop their budgets before tryouts and organizational meetings.

Jodi Schramm – In the past has requested her dates on September 1st and received confirmation back within a couple of days.

Tom Kohl – His reply back this year will be delayed more this year than in the past.

Scott Monroe – Likes idea of only offering 4 court tournaments for Open level teams.

Fred Fischer – Are Open level teams allowed to play up and club division allowed to play down?

Bob Price – No.

William Smerglia – Will we be able to fill our Open level tournaments this year?

4 – Recruiting Rules

Scott Monroe – Contract date should be after Nationals and not wait until October 31st.

Bob Price – Reason for the rule is this stops recruiting during the high school season.

High school coaches do not want club coaches to recruit then. He did agree that parents do the most recruiting.

Phil Anders – Region could not prove that club coaches are not asking parents to recruit for them.

Jodi Schramm – Lakeshore Region does not have any recruiting rules and it is bad. We need some rules.

Bill Zehler – Recommends \$5,000 fine for violating recruiting rules.

Dana Johnson – Recommended that the Club Directors' meeting become mandatory for all clubs to attend. Possibly offer several in different locations.

Michelle Hills – Likes to be able to tell other players that they played well during a high school match without it looking like she is recruiting.

Bob Price – There were a couple of dozen recruiting incidents filed last year. Almost all were invalid. Often the player made the contact not the coach.

Doug Mace – Recommended that players visit other clubs to make an opinion of where they would like to play.

?? – There is a difference between advertising and recruiting.

#5 – Bid Tournament the First Weekend in May

Bob Price – May is too late. USAV is looking at moving the Juniors National events to earlier in June.

Jodi Schramm - The later the better. That way teams that win bids at Qualifiers will not impact other teams playing for a bid at our tournament.

Al Herbert – To move the two-day Bid Tournament to the first weekend in May would mean the Region would not be able to accept as many teams at the Junior Regionals.

There were 60 courts available and all courts were in use. The Bid Tournament would take up 30 courts for a second day. This would mean that 120 fewer teams could play in the Regionals.

- Last year only two teams won bids at Qualifiers after our Bid Tournament. But 4 teams received Open At-Large bids after the first

weekend in May. So this was a bigger impact but it would not have been addressed by moving our tournament back.

#6 – Limit of 24 teams at Bid Tournaments

Al Herbert – Submitted a proposal for up to 36 teams using multiple waves of 3 team pools on the first day. Only the 3rd place team would be eliminated from Bid contention after each wave.

Scott Monroe – Since the seeding system is suspect, all teams that want to play should be accepted.

Jodi Schramm – For safety reasons, players should not play too many matches in a single day or weekend. The limit should be 24 teams.

Phil Anders – Agrees with the 24 team limit.

Bob Price – Club should not guarantee to their players that they will be playing in the Bid Tournament.

Scott Monroe – If the seeding system does not change, then there shouldn't be a limit.

Don Wood – The current seeding system forces teams to play out of region to get larger point values. Teams that only play within region are at a disadvantage.

Phil Anders – Recommends seeding system should use all tournament results but team must have played in at least one OVR event.

Scott Monroe – Recommends running qualifying events. Use the Open Power Challenge. Teams that finish in the top x number of teams get to go to the Bid Tournament.

A show of hands indicated over 10 club directors preferred 24 team limit. Only 3 directors preferred unlimited attendance. All agreed that teams must play in at least one region event to be qualified to enter the OVR Bid Tournament.

#7 – Change division designations from Open and Club to National and Regional.

- All agreed with the name change.

#8 – Change Boys contract time to September through August.

- Tabled until Board meeting when more Boys representatives are planning on attending.

#9 – Use of Club Directors' Email List

Jodi Schramm – There are too many requests going to the list for tournaments looking for teams to enter. These messages do not need to go out as frequently. Anyone abusing this list should be talked to.

Dom Burroughs – Most email programs allow for filtering of messages. If the same person is abusing the list, other club directors could filter any messages from that person into their Trash folder.

Don Wood – Suggested that club directors might be able to subscribe to certain topics. This might be something they could update on their Preferences web page.

#10 – Tryout Dates for 10s and 12s

- This discussion took place earlier.

#11 – Player designated to one team for a season

?? - If a player gets injured, can you move another player onto that team from the same club? Answer – Yes.

Bob Price – Teams are moving Open players onto Club teams for a tournament.

Phil Anders – Open player should not be allowed to play on Club teams.

Don Wood – Do adult teams allow players to play down a division (A to BB; BB to B, etc)?

Bob Price – Yes, one player per team. Often due to injuries an adult team will have to pick up a player. The OVR could set a policy that Open teams are not allowed to play for a club level team.

Scott Monroe – What stops a team from moving a player from the #1 Open team to their #2 Open team? Nothing.

Michelle Hills – This policy would need to be published.

Fred Fischer – Open players should only be allowed to play for an open team.

Jodi Schramm – We should follow USAV rules.

#12 – Set up a National and Regional division for 13s and 12s

Rational – Teams would prefer to know the strength of the tournament they are going to. By having all of the 12s in one division, the tournament could be very strong or very weak.

Don Wood – Are there enough teams for the split?

Jodi Schramm – If USAV goes with a split then the OVR should follow.

Dave Reinhart – Clubs could offer Invitational Tournaments and only allow stronger teams to enter.

#13 – Infractions

- The OVR should provide a list of infractions and violations that have taken place.

Bob Price – The OVR lawyer is thinking about how much information can be published. The Club Licensing system might help handle this. Clubs that have been sanctioned would have their club ranking lowered.

Michelle Hills – Players should be able to see if a club is being sanctioned.

Phil Anders – But a whole club should not be punished for a single individuals violation.

#14 – Boys High Performance Team

- Tabled until August Board of Directors meeting.

Other Business:

Date for next year's meeting.

Michelle Hills – Should there be a summer meeting as well as a December meeting? That way opinions could be discussed in summer and then the clubs could all know the rules and policies at the December meeting.

Don Wood – It should be the same weekend next year (last weekend in July).

Bob Price – That looks best because the next weekend is the Ohio High School Volleyball Coaches meeting as well as the USAV Juniors meeting in Colorado Springs.

Phil Anders – Club Directors' meeting should become mandatory. Only 25 clubs were represented today.

Bob Price – Said that USAV is going to require clubs to have an official Due Process Procedure in place. Also the Club Director should not be the final decision maker. A committee of three people is better.

Bob Price – Requested that clubs think about additional criteria that should be included in the new licensing process.

Don Wood – There should be multiple categories in the licensing process. Such as: Administration, Coaching, Facilities, etc.

Jodi Schramm – Include certifications, meeting attendance

Bob Price – We will have to learn as we go with the process.

?? - There needs to be a process by which a club can improve their rating as well as one by which the club's rating could go down.

Fred Fischer – There should be two separate meetings next year. One meeting should be for clubs with Open teams and another for clubs with Club teams. If a club director wanted to attend both it would be up to them. One meeting could be in the morning and the other in the afternoon of the same day.

?? – If a club were to change their name, would their ranking follow them? Or if their administration changed, how would that affect their ranking?

Jodi Schramm – Next year the same weekend could include the two Directors' Meetings as well as a meeting for Tournament Directors, Club Directors certification class, etc.

Scott Monroe – If a club has satellite teams, how would the ranking system be applied to them?

Jodi Schramm – All satellites should have the same ranking.

Scott Monroe – When will license info be published?

Bob Price – We are trying for a September 1st deadline. USAV wants a ranking system in place before next season.

Jodi Schramm – Is the OVR on the list for hosting another national event?

Bob Price – Cities not Regions request to host the events. Columbus is always asking but has not yet received another event since the 2000 Adult Nationals.

Jodi Schramm – Can the OVR tournament results be automatically entered into TIVA? This would save club directors a lot of time.

Al Herbert – Is considering running a three day event during Memorial Day weekend for club teams. Possibly run a wave of six 4 team pools of 16 Club in the morning and

another wave of 18 Club in the afternoon of each day. Then run playoff brackets on the third day. Several clubs expressed an interest in sending some of their teams to such an event. They would not need to travel to Penn State for the East Coast Championships.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.