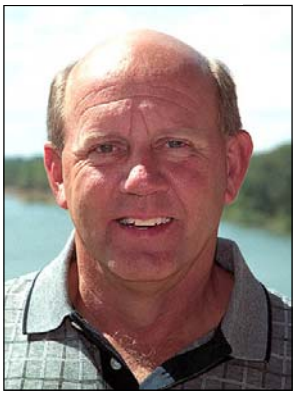
Commissioner's Corner



The 2003 season of the Ohio Valley Region is shaping up to be an extraordinary experience. The number of events being offered at both the adult and Jr. levels already exceeds the 2002 season, and additional events are still needed to meet the demands of growth. I want to encourage any member who could access a facility to host an event. The OVR staff will be glad to offer any assistance needed.

The Ohio Valley Region will be hosting some of the largest events in the country in 2003. In February the *Early Bird Extravaganza* will make its debut in the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The *Ohio Valley Region–Molten® 2003 National Bid Qualifier* will be held for the first time in the GCCC on April 11, 12, and 13. The *OVR Adult Regional Championships* will be held on April 13, with space for 160 teams to play at one time, at one site, in the Convention Center. A special note: over 200 college clubs will be participating in their National Championships, also on that weekend in the GCCC. There will be 48 Sport Courts, and over 500 teams in the GCCC that week of April 9-13! It will be volleyball heaven! If you plan on staying in a hotel for any of that weekend, please contact those hotels listed on our website. They have rooms available at special rates I secured for OVR members!

On May 3, the largest Junior Regional Championships in the country begin with play in the Columbus area for the 10s and 12s age groups. The event will continue at the Columbus Convention Center on May 10-11 and conclude on May 16, 17, and 18, with over 750 teams having participated.

The amount of time and effort required to coordinate and produce events of this magnitude is extraordinary. The officers and staff of the OVR are an exceptional group of dedicated individuals who give of themselves for the benefit of volleyball. All OVR members should make an effort to thank those who had made and who continue to strive to make the OVR a leader in volleyball. I appreciate everyone one of these people for their efforts. *Thank you*.

I want to make all members aware that demonstrating appropriate behavior at OVR sanctioned events is a must. Be advised that violations of the *Code of Conduct* or the *Junior Coaches' Code of Ethics* will result in individual or team sanctions. Unsportsmanlike behavior is unacceptable and will not be tolerated: this is a point of emphasis for officials! I encourage all incidents to be reported. Please access the *Incident Report* on the website [www.ovr.org/forms/Incident_Report.pdf], returning your completed form to me at the Commissioner's Office ASAP!

A major concern was addressed at the January 20 board of directors' meeting in Kent. It was brought to our attention that the *adults are not complying with the uniform code*. The OVR requires participating teams to wear *identical shirts and shorts of the same color and style*! Teams not complying to these requirements will be subject to fine or sanction. Over 10,000 junior members have not had a problem with this rule: how can 2,000 *adults*?

In closing I want to make special mention of two OVR directors, Mr. Glenn Purdy and Mr. Bob Dickenson. Both of these special people have or are experiencing some health problems. Glenn is recovering from open heart surgery, and Bob is battling some specific diabetic issues. Let us all keep them in our prayers and hope for a speedy recovery. The OVR needs them back! *Soon*!

Play hard and play often!

Respectfully,
Bob Price
Commissioner & President
Ohio Valley Region, Inc.
USA Volleyball