



From the Referees' Chair

Brian Hemelgarn

The collegiate and high school seasons are well under way, and I wish you plenty of success as you progress through the fall! The OVR Board has been busy getting ready for the upcoming USAV season, and as always, great things are on the horizon!

Clinics: Our 2003-04 clinics will be at Westerville South HS on Dec. 6th, Toledo St. Ursula on Dec. 14th (tentative), and Ambridge Jr High on Jan. 3rd, 2004. There is also a clinic tentatively scheduled for Jan. 4th in Charleston, West Virginia! Please mark your schedules accordingly, and remember: attendance at one of the clinics is pertinent to maintain "good standing" in the OVR. As a new feature of our website, online pre-registration for the clinics will be available. It's important that we all use this function, as it will let our staff plan for the expected attendance.

Website: Speaking of website features, our awesome webmaster, Nick Nystrom, has been working hard to improve online functions for all of us! As these added features become available, I'll send out further details! Online availability calendars and the ability to update your own database are on the way, and an online officiating forum is already up and running. I highly suggest that you check it out at www.ovr.org/forum/. You'll need to register a user name and password, then you'll be all set! I plan to utilize the forum to discuss officiating topics, OVR regulations, and USAV rule interpretations. You'll be able to pose questions online, and have me or other OVR members respond. It will be a great addition for us!

Registration: Registration time is just around the corner, and our dues will again be \$50 for the season. The online registration process is almost ready, and we're hoping for 100% compliance by our officiating cadre! The process will be easy, efficient, and similar to last year's. I'll send an email to everyone when the system is ready (sometime before the end of the month). Remember, dues must be paid by October 31st, so plan accordingly! *Note:* Even if you are also a coach, player, or

club director, you must first register as an official!

Online testing: The most efficient way to take the test (and eliminate time from our clinics!) is to go online! If you're currently taking the NCAA rules test, you are more than welcome to take the USAV portion now – either online or by using the hard copy. If you take the written test, please be sure to send me a copy of your answer sheet! If you take it online via the USAV/PAVO website, you'll need a password. Please contact me, and I'll be happy to get it to you. I'll receive a copy of your answers automatically.

Recruiting: As is always the case, we need to do some recruiting of new officials! Being the largest region in the country means we obviously run the most tournaments. And all of those tournaments require officials! An ideal place to start recruiting is at the high school level. Considering the change to rally scoring for next season, officiating in the OVR will give those folks a head start on the transition to the new rules. If you work at the high school or junior high level, consider recruiting some of your fellow high school folks!

OVR Success Stories: We have added five new Junior National referees to our ranks! Congratulations to Rich Hambrick, Nathan Mahaven, Kristine Mullen, Rich Pillar, and Jim Sagenich! Also, Dan Litteral and Jimmy McKinzey successfully completed the National Referee certification process in Minneapolis in June, and we're glad to add them to our list of top officials. Our scorekeeping cadre also has some new members: Tom Joseph, Bill Kissell and Ron Moose attained the rating of National Scorekeeper in Minneapolis as well.

If you're interested in upgrading to Regional, Junior National, or National Referee or to Junior National or National Scorekeeper, contact me right away! We want to be sure you're well prepared for the task!

That should wrap things up for now. As we approach the USAV season, you'll be receiving more details from me about all of these items. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Wishing you a pain-free fall season,

Brian