

## ***Greetings Players, Captains, Tournament Directors, and Volleyball Enthusiasts!***

First and Foremost, Happy Holidays to everyone and their families. May the true spirit of the holidays find warmth in your homes this year and for many more yet to come. As you know by now, there are a LOT of changes going on in the volleyball world in our part of the country. There is a new Series in some areas, Projects in others, and most importantly a revamping of the OVR adult volleyball program. Both myself, and Brian (the Men's adult volleyball Tournament Director) believe that there are plenty of great well organized, volleyball events to go around for everyone to enjoy. All we care about is that you get yourself involved somewhere and keep playing. There are too many fun events in the volleyball community to sit home and not play this year.

Over the past few years, Volleyball in the OVR has run into some road bumps to say the least. Brian and I are going to fix those road bumps and potholes and turn this back into something fantastic and fun again, the way it should be. Strict rules, feelings of no one listening, cost, and general frustration about not knowing important information all seemed to be in the mix of what people were upset about in the past. Those are all going to change. Let me begin explain how...

First, cost for an Adult Player Only registration fee **has gone down**. USA Volleyball increased their costs to be a member for this upcoming year, which in turn trickled down to the OVR. From what was originally going to be a \$60 per year fee, Brian and I asked the Board of Directors to **LOWER** the fee. After explaining our reasoning, the board decided that they agreed it was best for volleyball players in our region and dropped the cost by 33% to \$40. On top of that, if you are part of a club with 10 or more teams, and all of those teams want to play, please contact us and we will get you a group discount if all 10+ teams register!

As for finding last minute substitutes to play, we addressed that as well. There will be 1 day only memberships available for a player for \$15, which makes them eligible to play and covers all of their insurance costs. We have also gone ahead and officially instituted a "Ghost Player" rule so that if someone is hurt or has an emergency and has to leave during the course of a tournament, a team isn't kicked out because they only have 5 players. We want to encourage people to play, not send 5 others home just so we can get done earlier. Brian and I feel strongly that's not what the spirit of competition is about.

In addition to allowing a ghost player, we have also created 1 parent club to govern all subsequent clubs. This Parent club will be called "Club OVR". The sole and only purpose is to allow any registered player from any registered team in the OVR or USA Volleyball to substitute on another team. Come regionals, a player will have to play with the team they hold a roster spot with, and is limited to that team. We want to encourage people to play, however, we want to be fair to all teams as well. If it is as simple as allowing a sub so a team can enter a tournament when one of the players on their roster can't make it, let's simply do it and get out there and play!

We are also introducing a few new things as well. Sanctioned Season Friendship Tournaments; A new Point Accumulation Scoring System (PASS) for regional rankings based not only on performance but participation; more relaxed uniform rules; a Facebook group for anyone to add pictures, comments, or to stay in touch; more friendship tournaments in the fall beginning in 2011; a new revamped co-ed division; and for the first time a co-ed friendship tournament in Columbus at the convention center to coincide with Regional Championships. These are just a few changes to say the least. To see a full version of what changed for the 2011 season, you can go online to <http://ovr.org/adults/rules.php>

We also believe communication is key to making this work. Listed below are both Brian's and my contact information. Please understand, that although it might take up to 48 hours for a response, we will respond. If you have any questions, would like to open a dialogue with us, or simply get us your contact information so we can keep you updated on new events and changes, Brian and I will always be available for you. You can reach us at:

Matthew Taylor:           440-915-9212           Email: [MatthewOVR@gmail.com](mailto:MatthewOVR@gmail.com)  
Brian Valore:             216-401-6362           Email: [BVman15@gmail.com](mailto:BVman15@gmail.com)

Our Facebook group can be found by either going to: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=134465399935237> or by searching Ohio Valley Region Adult Volleyball.

Respectfully,

**Matthew Taylor**, OVR Women's Adult Tournament Director