

Ohio Valley Region Board of Directors meeting
Sunday July 10, 2022
Columbus Airport Marriott, Cassady Ave. 10am

Call to order - Attendance Board of Directors (Brian Hofman/Commissioner elect)
Chris Bielby, Steve Donahue, Stephanie Grieshop, Jim Hammar, JeriAnn Helfer, Brian Hemelgarn, Todd Higginbotham, Diane Hood, Tom Kohl, Donald Leckey, Bob Price, Angela Shafer, Linnea Wolf, Bill Zehler
Staff – COO Ron Wyzynski, Al Herbert, Josh Hall, Glenn Freed, Valerie Gillespie (10:45)
Guest – (1) Linda Logan

Absent: Matt Mihelic (COVID Quarantine), Dave Chapman, Randy Cline

Meeting called to order at 10:09 am by Robert Price.

Price passed out Conflict of Interest forms for all Board and Staff to sign and return to him during the meeting.

Newly elected Board members, Donald Leckey and Linnea Wolf, were recognized. Both will serve a three-year term.

Bob Price presented Brian Hemelgarn with the USAV Glenn Davies Award for significant contributions to USAV's referee development programs over the years.

The Board affirmed Brian Hofman as the Regional Commissioner for a four-year term. Hofman thanked the Board for their confidence in him.

MOTION – Price: - Approve the election results from the June 24th election. Hemelgarn seconded. Passed 14-0.

Price resigned as a member of the Board of Directors. Hofman accepted his resignation and extended an offer to Price to serve as Assistant to the Commissioner for one year. Price accepted.

Diane Hood nominated Brian Hofman fill the vacant Board position. Steve Donahue seconded. Motion passed 13-0.

Financial Report – Ron Wyzynski: Wyzynski and Donahue meet with CLA, our accounting firm, to reconcile our finances each month. Vendors are willing to offer the OVR VIK but not cash. The OVR's 2021 IRS990 is published on the website. Wyzynski has signed contracts with the GCCC for 2023 dates; 2024 dates are being negotiated. Wyzynski has also signed contracts for Cedar Point events in 2023, Q-Sport as apparel vendor for our GCCC events, and Molten for volleyballs. Still negotiating a contract with BallerTV. Mizuno is interested in sponsorship of all of our GCCC events.

Valerie Gillespie, Hotel Liaison, felt the 2022 season was well done by Event Connect. Contracted 9,000 hotel rooms across our events and filled about 7,000. Junior Championships did not do as well as past years. Most families want to stay downtown. The hotel nights in Columbus resulted in approximately \$800,000 in revenue for the hotels.

Linda Logan, Columbus Sports Commission, confirmed the 2023 USAV Girls 18s JNC Tournament will be in Columbus in April.

Tom Kohl, HR Committee Chair. Committee has developed contracts for the staff members.

Jim Hammer, Finance Committee Chair. Salary review/evaluation underway for new and existing staff.

Brian Hemelgarn, Strategic Planning. We will utilize USAV's transgender athlete policy. Committee is reviewing the size of the Board; evaluating restructure options and composition. USAV is reviewing all Regions by using an Organizational Audit. The OVR has gone through the process and submitted our report to USAV.

Al Herbert, Competition Committee. Several seeding point value changes were approved. Discussion about having the losing or winning team ref in brackets. Current policy is the losing team refs but Tournament Director may modify/publish that the winning team ref. Can the OVR use head-to-head results in the seeding system? Not without every tournament director submitting complete match results.

Bill Zehler, Girls Program Director. 162 female clubs and 2,232 Girls teams. 1,509 teams played in the Girls Junior Championships. Zehler would like to add an 11 American Division. National teams would like to play in a two-day JC instead of one day. Online JC check-in worked well. May merge the 18 National and 18 Regional teams into an 18U division at the JC. Reviewing options for additional fun activities at JC. Teams that are no call/no show will be fined; impact on tournament is significant. Teams must have played in at least two OVR events in order to play in the JC event. Teams must have at least three USAV/OVR results before they will be placed in the Gold Division of either the American or Regional Divisions at the JC. The Junior Advisory Board will be re-activated. Linnea Wolf will be one of the Chairs. Region has a need to add more Coaching Education options for clubs.

Brian Hemelgarn, Officials Chair. Considering virtual/online clinics instead of in-person for 2023. Evaluating referee hiring policy for local tournaments, currently 1.5 refs per court, to reduce overall number of refs a tournament should hire.

MOTION – Hemelgarn: that referees be given a \$5 per match raise for 2/3 set matches. Jeri seconded. 8 in favor, 0 no, 6 abstentions.

Josh Hall, New Official Development. Presented a report with the number of new officials. Looking for ideas on how to recruit more referees; how to better match the referee skill level with level of tournaments; how to lower the cost of entry for new referees; incentives to keep our referees working for OVR events.

Angie Shafer, Social Media Coordinator. Would like to develop a phone app for parents and players. Continuing work on standardizing OVR branding; create a “Why OVR” video; OVR staff apparel at our events. Use technology and social media platforms to create kid-friendly activities at our events.

Diane Hood, SafeSport Coordinator. Six current cases. USAV recently sent out their MAAPP (Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies) program. Everyone’s SafeSport certification expires every season.

Glenn Freed, All Star Coordinator. All Star camp starts Monday, July 11th. There are 79 teams going to the All Star Championships in Tulsa, July 20-23. USAV is looking at running a Best of the Best player clinic in various Regions. Clubs would submit names of their best players for attendance.

Al Herbert, Registrar. Families will not be allowed to purchase a full membership until the club sends a Club Assignment Request. This will avoid multiple memberships being purchased for one member. Insurance will likely increase an additional \$5. The OVR will absorb the increase for the 2022-2023 season.

New Business:

By-Law amendment: tabled; by-laws will be reviewed again with proposed changes presented at a future meeting.

MOTION – Jeri Helfer: to increase regular season tournament entry fee to \$235 for one day and \$475 for two days. Stephanie Grieshop seconded. 11 yes, 1 no, 2 abstained.

Summer Tryouts: Grieshop presented the results of the club survey. Some National Qualifiers require a verified roster in order to register and be accepted in their events. July tryouts would allow teams to be formed earlier and start receiving club fees early. This would spread the fees out more for the parents to pay smaller amounts each month. Clubs would know how many teams they have in each age/division. They could better plan which tournaments they would enter when tournaments are posted in September; may reduce number of teams needing to be dropped from tournaments because a team didn’t form after tryouts.

MOTION – Hemelgarn: that the OVR allow July tryouts starting in 2023. Jim Hammar seconded. 7 yes. 2 no. 5 abstained.

OVR GCCC admission fee:

MOTION – Helfer: to allow the OVR to charge adults an admission fee for OVR GCCC events. Seconded by Leckey. 13 yes 1 no 0 abstained

JNC entry fee rebate:

Teams that qualify and participate are allowed a rebate for their JNC entry fee. These funds may better help boys and girls club development.

MOTION – Hemelgarn: the OVR discontinue the JNC rebate program for the 2023 season.
Helfer seconded. 9 yes. 1 no 4 abstained

Next in-person meeting: October 23 10 am Columbus
Subsequent meeting: Monday Jan 16 10 am

Helfer nominated Tom Kohl remain as Tournament Coordinator. Higginbotham seconded. 13
yes 0 no 1 abstained

Kohl nominated Brian Hemelgarn for Junior Official Development Coordinator. Helfer
seconded. 13 yes 0 no 1 abstained

Helfer nominated Matt Mihelic for Boys Program Coordinator. Shafer second. 14 yes

Shafer moved to adjourn. Helfer seconded. 14 yes 4:30.PM

7/25/2022 – Todd Higginbotham moved to approve the minutes. Linnea Wolf seconded.
Motion approved by a majority.