

**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
OF
OHIO VALLEY REGION, INC.**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Ohio Valley Region, Inc. ("Corporation") was held on January 16, 2017 at 11:00 A.M. at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel in Columbus, Ohio.

- I. QUORUM.** The following Board Members were present:
Mr. Ron Wyzynski, Mr. Bob Price, Mr. Chris Bielby, Ms. Sandra Borer, Mr. Steve Donahue, Mr. Adam Evans, Mr. Glenn Freed, Mr. Brian Hemelgarn, Mr. Al Herbert, Mr. Tom Kohl, Mr. Terry Miller, Ms. Gretchen Niebling and Ms. Patty Salvatore.

Board Members absent: Mr. Paul Claridades, Ms. Michelle Hills and Mr. Bill Zehler.

Staff Members present: Mr. Don Burroughs, Mr. Dave Chapman (arrived at 3:00 pm), Ms. Diane Hood and Mr. Matt Mihelic

- II. CALL TO ORDER.** Commissioner Price called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. A Quorum of directors was present and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business.

- III. REVISE/APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES.** Commissioner Price informed the Board that he had hired Mr. Rick Brown to take the Board minutes, but that he was unable to attend today's meeting. Ms. Hood will be taking the minutes for today's meeting.

The minutes of the October 16, 2016 meeting were not approved. The Directors are going to review and provide any comments, questions or changes to Commissioner Price on or before Tuesday, January 24, 2017.

- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND/OR ADDITIONS.**

Commissioner Price reviewed the Agenda and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked the Directors if there were any additions to the Agenda. Director Freed requested the addition of the High Performance Report. Director Bielby would like the Board to consider allowing boys playing on girls teams at the older age divisions. Director Donahue made a Motion to approve the additions to the Agenda and Director Bielby seconded the Motion. All Directors were in favor of the additions. Motion carried.

V. **REPORTS.**

Audit Review & Financial. Mr. Wyzynski provided a comprehensive update on the ongoing audit being conducted by Mr. Ken Douglas with the firm of Clifton, Larson, Allen, in Akron, Ohio. Mr. Wyzynski and the Corporation's accountant Mr. Larry Smith have spent significant time with Mr. Douglas reviewing all aspects of the financial position of the Corporation and its day-to-day operations. Mr. Wyzynski stated that he anticipates the audit would be completed in time for Mr. Douglas to present his findings to the Board in June. Mr. Wyzynski presented the estimated cost associated with this audit to the Board. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Wyzynski discussed the pending Mizuno contract. He expressed his concerns with the non-specific grey areas contained in the contract. Mr. Wyzynski also stated that he would not close the door on KAEPA until these non-specific grey areas were detailed and the High Performance group is satisfied with the clothing issues. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Wyzynski provided the Board with written updates on the 2017/2018 events schedule, which included dates, set-up, take down, lodging, parking, move out, possible new March event for our Regional/American teams, Spike for Tykes event and the Boys Holiday Tournament. All dates have been secured for the 2018 season. Mr. Wyzynski's goal was to have the 2019 and 2020 calendar schedule at the June Board meeting. Discussion ensued.

Director Hemelgarn thanked Mr. Wyzynski and Commissioner Price on behalf of the Board for their time and efforts in negotiating these contracts, their dedication and commitment in keeping our region running. Director Freed expressed his appreciate for their hard work.

Mr. Wyzynski discussed the NCAA Women's National Championship, the OVR's sponsorship, zoo buy back, meet and greet, corporate challenge, the Under Armour All American match and his attendance at the events. He recognized Mr. Burroughs for all his hard work and the rave reviews Mr. Wyzynski received on his performance. The event was a success and the second largest attendance record in the Tournament's history. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner's Report. Commissioner Price discussed the Sports Import contract, the eight courts built for the OVR, and how the contract is for past, present and future dealings with Sports Import. He discussed the cost savings, the selling of the old units, purchasing new units which are safer, faster, cleaner and cost effective. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Price inquired as to the status of the Website upgrade and the Sports Import graphics. Director Herbert provided the challenges they were facing with regard to a "user friendly" website vs a "pretty" one. Director Herbert is working with Matt Snyder on a

template to replace the entire front screen, however, they are facing issues with the design of the website. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Price discussed an email he received from a coach with regard to event seeding issues when teams drop out and its effect on those remaining teams. Director Niebling added that the Junior Advisory Board has beaten this issue up. Discussion ensued on the issue (i.e. how to resolve, moving deadline back to pay fees and what, if anything, the Board could do).

Commissioner Price presented the Board with a proposed OVR National Division Early Tryout Option Contract stating this was a major point of contention with our National clubs. Discussion ensued. The Board decided to change the name of the form to OVR National Division Early Signing Option and Director Niebling would create a “survey monkey” making it available to all clubs for their input. The Board tabled further discussion on the issue until the results of the survey monkey could be reviewed.

Commissioner Price provided an update on his communications with OHSAA regarding the OVR’s support and defined guidelines for boys’ volleyball. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Price is working with Attorney Mike Fultz on a review and update of the Corporation’s By-Laws. This is ongoing, and he hoped to have a proposed update to the Board for review thirty days before the June Board meeting.

Commissioner Price updated the Board on the discipline and transfer requests issues he and Director Herbert were receiving. This is a continuous problem and Commissioner Price has been advised by legal counsel, Mike Fultz, not to get involved in the contract negotiation business. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Price addressed a Certificate of Insurance issue he dealt with in Michigan involving a club, and informed the Board there were no policy violations, so he issued the Certificate of Insurance. Discussion ensued.

Girls’ Program Director. In the absence of Director Zehler, Commissioner Price presented his report. The OVR currently has 153 clubs with 1572 teams registered, which is 212 fewer teams, but its January and he anticipates more teams to register. He is aware of the number of courts we have for Junior Championships and he sees no problems. Discussion ensued.

Boys’ Program Director. Mr. Mihelic informed the Board we have 14 clubs and 74 teams participating this season ranging in age from 11U to 18U. The Boys Regional Championships currently have 53 teams participating with eight other teams going to Harrisburg, PA for a bid tournament. The OVR is holding its very first 12U Championships

this season with five teams competing for that Championship. He has secured Force Sports in Dayton for the 2018 Championships and believes the Championships can be completed in one weekend. Depending on the number of teams participating, Mr. Mihelic may open up the Championships to Indiana and Kentucky teams, after giving the OVR teams first preference. Director Herbert inquired about creating five team pools to allow more teams to participate in the Boys Winterfest. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Mihelic provided an update on the BIVL. They had 10 teams participating during the BIVL league. There were no tournaments. He is hopeful to host in our region so teams have time to practice, gain skills and learn the game. He is getting a lot of interest in the Akron/Canton area. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Mihelic informed the Board that Gary Hajek and Commissioner Price were meeting with OHSAA to talk about endorsement of Boys Volleyball as an OHSAA varsity sport. Mr. Hajek has prepared a 22 page presentation to present to OHSAA. Mr. Hajek wanted the Board to know that the OVR's partnership was instrumental in the growth. They have 91 schools and 37 on the radar for next year. Mr. Hajek wants to start following all OHSAA guidelines and policies so they meet everything on the three page checklist. Commissioner Price stated that if OHSAA adds boys' volleyball as a high school varsity sport it would be 2018 for the first year. Commissioner Price recommended they emphasize the low concussion rate in volleyball. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Mihelic said they were excited about the Spike for Tykes event they were running between the Men's NCAA National Championship (Friday night) in May.

Webmaster/Special Events Coordinator. Director Herbert informed the Board the Qualifier is ready to go. Director Miller is working on expanding courts for more space. Director Herbert was approached by adult wanting to play at Nationals in Minneapolis but did not want to pay the \$37 fee. Director Herbert asked if he could lower the \$37 OVR Membership to \$20 for an adult playing strictly at Nationals. Commissioner Price instructed Director Herbert to make it happen. Discussion ensued.

Director Herbert is still receiving entries for the Bid Tournament. He is dealing with 17A having five teams and taking all five teams in the bid, however courts are limited. Discussion ensued. Director Herbert said last year they were losing teams in the Winterfest so they allowed 14s to play this year and it now 14s is his largest division. Discussion ensued.

Director Herbert also discussed the Club Travel Policy which was adopted by the RVAA (Motion 12). Clubs are able to drop a Chaperone, but they must have a Travel Policy in Place. Ms. Hood stated that the Board adopted the USAV's Travel Policy in the SafeSport

Handbook, and that Travel Policy is the default for our clubs should a club choose not to adopt their own Travel Policy. Short discussion ensued.

Referee Chairperson. Director Hemelgarn provided the Board with a written report, which included 410 registered officials, 52 non-renewals, 39 new official certifications, new national-level official certifications, the OVR Clinics, USAV National Clinic and other completed projects. He is currently working on assigning for the President's Cup, April and May events, USAV on-line training materials, and emails regarding USAV rule reminders and changes. Director Hemelgarn has sent an email to all junior players with instructions regarding the on-line training materials. Discussion ensued.

Director Borer referred to an email she received from a club director regarding businesses sponsoring a team/player, and their logo being placed on the jersey. Commissioner Price referred to a conversation at the RVA on this topic and the possible violation of NCAA policy. Discussion ensued and it was decided that Director Hemelgarn will work on verbage with regard to this issue and forward to the Board for review.

Director Hemelgarn brought up the issue of soft helmets and the NCAA's policy. He asked if the Board wanted to take a position/have a ruling on soft helmets . Commissioner Price referred to his conversation with Attorney Mike Fultz who stated that if we do allow soft helmets, are we assuming that it is going to prevent an injury/concussion from happening and then the question becomes are we liable? Discussion ensued.

Scorekeepers' Chairperson. Director Miller reported that all scoring clinics were completed. Director Miller reported there were no changes to the scoresheet and there was discussion about USAV using the collegiate scoresheet. Commissioner Price asked for the thoughts from the National Scorers with regard to the collegiate scoresheet vs the USAV scoresheet. Discussion ensued on the positives and negatives.

Director Miller informed the Board the he would not be available to attend the USAV Annual Meeting this May in Minneapolis and that Ms. Hood would be attending on his behalf.

Director of Coaching Education. Mr. Burroughs informed the Board they were still looking to add more clinics due to the number of coaches signing up late with no Impact, SafeSport or Concussion certifications. He is looking at a one day hybrid clinic down at Marshall which would allow us to serve a new geographic area, however, Mr. Burroughs would host the event. Discussion ensued.

Juniors' Tournament Director. Director Kohl provided a written report of the total Junior events sanctions to date (1100 vs 1131 in 2016). He provided a written breakdown of the

events and stated he is currently working on canceling, combining or changing tournament designations. Director Kohl discussed the issue of club directors holding/cashing checks on or before the 15th. Discussion ensued.

Director of High Performance. Director Freed informed the Board that the High Performance Championships would return to Fort Lauderdale, FL. He discussed the second year for the FIVB age definition plan, staffing, dropping the youth girls, youth camp, tryouts in Columbus and Cleveland for boys and girls tryouts at the Bid Tournament.

Director Freed discussed the loss of camp fees and asked the Board for an increase in support from last years \$7,500 per team to \$10,000 per team this year. There was a long discussion regarding the High Performance program and the Board's increased support.

Sand and Outdoor Program Director. Mr. Chapman stated they were working on the new ranking/points system for players in our region (out of region will not receive points), take about one year to complete, cleaning up the website and making it easier to read, and providing a more concise clear path on how to qualify (i.e. playing, more organized, how they play, club level, zonals and how they qualify for Nationals/HP and JPT). He is researching banners for the OVR beach events and will provide information to the Board at a later date. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Chapman updated the Board on his intention to submit a bid to host the 2017 Atlantic Beach HP Zonal Champs. Mr. Chapman has spoken with Flannagan's Dublin regarding hosting. He submitted a written tentative schedule to the Board.

Mr. Chapman asked the Board if there was space at the Winterfest to allow him to set up a tent and train anyone interested in the program. Discussion ensued.

Elections/JAB. Director Niebling stated that the election announcement went out this week and the forms were available on the OVR's website. Discussion ensued.

There was a discussion about how to get more club directors to participate/allow them to get involved. Only 20 attended the last meeting and we have 170 registered. Director Niebling stated she has offered the meetings different ways to encourage participation, but she usually sees the same people with the same questions/issues. Director Freed recommended the Board pursue skype as an option. Discussion ensued. This issue was tabled to make a decision at the Board meeting in June.

Beach Season. Director Bielby updated the Board on the winter beach season. He stated they held four tournaments, had nine officials participate and they have a mentor program where inexperienced officials are teamed up with experienced officials. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Chapman updated the Board on Flannagans' breaking ground on a new sand facility, Mr. Steve Slandzicki opening an indoor sand facility in Northwood, a new facility in the Cleveland area (Northeast Ohio), and the beach area on the OVR website. He talked about the possibility of adding more sand sites in Powell, Dublin, Rule 3 in Pickerington, and Eastside's two courts. Director Bielby is working with Eastside to get that facility up and running. Director Bielby said they are pursuing the possibility of sanctioning week night beach tournaments as well. Discussion ensued.

Director Borer talked about beach sanctions and facilities that host indoor/outdoor events and having bond issues. Director Borer is working on that and stated there are more issues with the mini tournaments. Discussion ensued.

Compliance/Certifications Officer. Director Donahue provided the Board with a Report of Verifications Officer which included a discussion about insurance requests, background screens, compliance and awards. There are two outstanding background screens and those individuals have been notified multiple times. Director Donahue recommended Commissioner Price consider nominating someone for the OVR Commissioner's Award, Directors Hemelgarn and Miller consider nominating someone for the Glen Purdy Meritorious Service Award, and the Board of Directors consider nominations for the OVR Award of Excellence, the Robert L. Lindsay Meritorious Service Award and National Awards. Discussion ensued.

Director Donahue informed the Board of the Awards deadline (April 15) and asked the Board to consider nominations. He asked for Directors Miller, Hemelgarn and Price to consider nominating someone for the Glen Purdy Award. Director Donahue provided the Board with a list of recipients who received last years' awards. Discussion ensued.

SafeSport Coordinator. Ms. Hood provided an update on the total of SafeSport Certifications to date (over 4,000) and on those officials/coaches who lack the SafeSport Certification. Ms. Hood updated the Board on the new data base created by the USAV and should have the data base up and running by the end of January. Commissioner Price updated the Board on the recommendation of USAV to begin a due process for a life suspension on a convicted coach. Discussion ensued.

Sports Information Director. At the request of Director Hemelgarn, Director Borer presented an update on what she has been doing which included emails to club directors, working with David with AVCA, worked with Jason Jones and Linda Logan on the NCAA Tournament/Under Armour All American Match, senior spotlights, team of the week, direct contact with club directors, 10 Commandments for Parents, contest, handle promotional

items (sending out volleyballs, shirts, spandex, socks to on-line winners), worked with Kerri Walsh and clinics. Discussion ensued.

VI. APPROVAL OF ACTIONS.

Director Niebling made a Motion:

Motion to support \$10,000 per High Performance Team for a maximum of four (4) teams for 2017. Motion was seconded by Mr. Freed.

All those in favor - 9

All those opposed - 2

Abstaining - 0

Motion carried. (Director Evans left the meeting before the vote.)

VII. NEW BUSINESS.

The High Performance addition to the Agenda was covered under Section V Reports, Director of High Performance.

Director Bielby would like the Board to consider allowing boys to play with girls teams for the older age divisions (i.e. 12 playing 13; 13 playing 14; 15 playing 16). He referenced the long drives boys make and the lack of teams. After a long discussion, the Board would like a reminder to add this to the June agenda to remove 13 boys teams from playing in 14 girls divisions.

Commissioner Price asked that all Director/Staff reports be distributed to the Board/Staff no later than one week prior to the next Board Meeting.

VIII. NEXT MEETING. The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on June 2, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. and continue on June 3, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Columbus Airport Marriott Hotel in Columbus, Ohio.

There being no further business, the meeting was duly adjourned. Motion by Director Miller and seconded by Director Herbert. All Directors in favor.

These Minutes are certified by Diane M. Hood.

_____, Secretary