



OVR Referees' Chair Changes Hands

Brian Hemelgarn

At our May meeting, our OVR board appointed me to succeed Rick Laskey as the Regional Referees' Chair. I am truly honored! Rick leaves a big pair of white shoes to fill, and I fully plan to continue in the direction he has led our officiating ranks for more than a decade. Rick departs at a time of unprecedented growth in the OVR, and it will take the help of all of you to insure our future successes! I look forward to the challenge and invite you to contact me with any concerns, kudos or comments as they relate to our officiating ranks! And when you have the chance, drop Rick a note or give him a quick phone call to offer your thanks, appreciation and best wishes. He deserves it!

Speaking of unprecedented growth, we added 85 new Provisional referees to our ranks during the rating process this year, and there were 21 upgrades to Regional. That puts us comfortably over 300 certified officials!

I'll take a moment to recognize our Junior National candidates who successfully passed their ratings at a Qualifier this spring: Tom Bailey, Terry Bush, Chuck Fleet, Anthony Hines and Tom Joseph. They will all be traveling to the Girls' JOVC in Salt Lake City at the end of the June to complete the certification process. We should also wish luck to Dan Litteral and Jimmy McKinzey who will be representing the OVR during their evaluations at the Boys' JOVC in Louisville to become USAV National referee candidates at NIRSA next year in Columbus.

Finally, thanks to all of you for working hard this past season to insure the quality of our OVR tournaments. We saw many successes in the OVR, and that is truly a credit to our officials and staff!

See you on the court!

*I look forward
to the
challenge...*

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