

Juniors' Tournaments 2003

Tom Kohl, Juniors' Tournament Director

I am looking forward to another year of growth within the Juniors' programs and in the number of sanctioned tournaments.

Again, I would like to thank the tournament directors for their cooperation in conducting tournaments with proper pool and tournament formats. On the surface, this may not seem to be an issue, but in reality it is. Continuing to follow guidelines within our Juniors' organization helps to reduce the number of complaints related to tournament site safety conditions and tournament organization and ultimately creates a fair seeding process for the Bid tournaments and OVR Championships.



I have three concerns for the upcoming season:

1. *Ensure the quality of tournament facilities and play.*
2. *Consistency of tournament procedures, formats, and reporting.*
3. *Integrity of the Club Director –Tournament Director relationship.*

I have added additional language and re-worded certain areas of the 2003 Juniors' Procedures for Tournament Hosts and Junior Tournament Rules to discourage minor abuses that were reported last year. Many, if not all, of these infractions could have been avoided by tournament directors being familiar with the procedures stated in the *Procedures for Juniors' Tournament Hosts* and *Juniors' Tournament Rules*.

In addition, I felt that the club director – tournament director relationship was becoming strained. Tournament directors depositing tournament entry fees before clubs had even collected their monies and club directors canceling their entry in one tournament to go to another tournament that same weekend were common occurrences. In the past, there was a good faith exchange between tournament directors and club directors concerning the depositing of a team entry fee and verbal commitment to participate in a tournament. Tournament directors should wait until at least 4-weeks before their tournament to deposit a team's entry fee. This is sufficient time to determine if that team's entry fee is "good." At least let

the club know you are going to deposit their entry fee early.

Club directors should have the courtesy to honor their verbal commitments to tournament directors when asking to participate in specific tournaments. A club director needs to understand that a tournament director has turned away other interested teams to provide his or her entry into a tournament. To withdraw at a later date to enter another tournament "closer to home" can cause much ill will. not to mention causing the club to be fined the tournament entry fee.

In my opinion, the integrity of the club director – tournament director relationship is a foundation of the OVR's continued growth and success. We need to continue to demonstrate courtesy and respect in our conduct with each other.

The *Procedures for Juniors' Tournament Hosts* and *Juniors' Tournament Rules* are already available at the OVR website: please download and read them. It is important for all parties involved in an OVR-sanctioned tournament to be informed of tournament procedures and rules to ensure each participant's safety as well as consistency of play and reporting of results. Should you have any suggestions please email me at kohl@ovr.org with your suggestions.

I will begin accepting Applications for Sanctions beginning September 1, 2002. Please be aware that any entry fee in excess of the \$125 OVR-approved fee does require justification. Rental contracts and similar documents are required. Tentative online publication of tournaments is scheduled for December 15. This will avoid conflicts with OVR clinics being offered on December 1, 7, and 8. This will also permit more clubs to determine the number of teams they will register.

Again, thanks for your help this past season. I look forward to your cooperation in the 2003 season.

— Tom Kohl

OVR Juniors' Tournament Director