

Junior Officials' Development Program

Alan Herbert, Junior Officials' Development Director

Congratulations to all Ohio Valley Region teams that participated at national level tournaments this past summer. Hopefully each of you had a tremendous personal and learning experience.

This is your first reminder that the certification of players who were certified as scorekeepers and/or second referees during the 2000 or 2001 seasons will expire on 10/31/02 (this October). {Those players attending scorekeeping clinics during the 2000 season were given an extra year of eligibility because we were late in getting their certification cards to them.} Certifications are valid for two years and so these players will need to be re-certified during the coming season that begins 11/01/02 and ends 10/31/03. Players who were certified this season will still be valid for next season.

Each year I offer to coordinate officiating clinics for your clubs. You can contact me and I will locate a professional official in your area to present scorekeeping and second refereeing materials to the players in your club. This year I will be a bit more pro-active and will try to assign professional officials to contact your clubs directly. Please remember that your club is responsible for paying the clinician \$75. But, these clinics are invaluable for the improvement of the officiating support crews at the tournaments. Also, if you plan or hope to attend large inter-regional or national tournaments, they typically require that you have certified junior officials on your team.

The OVR is evaluating three new programs involving junior officiating for the coming season and would like feedback on these proposals:

1. Players are certified when they attain a passing score of 80 on either a scorekeeper or second referee rating. They then are given a card to prove their certification. (The current process can be found at www.ovr.org/juniors/jodp/). In order to encourage them to continue to improve their skills, I am proposing a second level of certification. If the player continues to be observed and rated by Regional or higher ranked professional officials, they may obtain an 'OVR Junior Official' patch. This patch could be worn on their uniform from then on when they keep score or work as a second referee.

This patch would again be valid for two years.

2. The Ohio Valley Region continues to have a fantastic number of juniors' tournaments. We are often stretched to the limit to find officials. USA Volleyball does have a 'Junior Olympic Referee' classification. This is intended for 17 and 18 year old juniors who may be interested in becoming professional officials. The OVR is considering holding training clinics and rating sessions at specific sites early in the season to train and certify these juniors. Once certified, the Junior Olympic Referee would be allowed to officiate as the first official at 12's and 13's tournaments. This would enable other professional officials to work the older age groups.

3. Training materials are being developed for mini-clinics to be held before junior tournaments start each morning. This is something that we tried at the Region sponsored juniors tournaments at Kent State University this season. Each mini-clinic is expected to last about 15 minutes and would be presented (assuming the tournament starts at 9 am) between 8:20 and 8:35 am. There would be mini-clinics designed for scorekeeping, second refereeing and line judging. The professional officials hired to work the tournament would be asked to present the materials. Obviously, the mini-clinic will not be as in depth as a full clinic that would be presented at your club. The mini-clinic is intended to be a refresher course for the players just before they have to perform these functions during the tournament. I really believe that these mini-clinics enabled the tournaments at KSU to run more smoothly. I would like to give my personal thanks to the officials that presented the mini-clinics this year.

Please take some time to consider these proposals. Send me your views at jodd@ovr.org.

Good luck with your high school seasons, and I hope to see you in the spring.

