

Junior Officials' Development Program

Alan Herbert, Junior Officials' Development Director

Welcome to the start of another season of excellent volleyball in the Ohio Valley Region.

This is your second reminder that the certification of players who were certified as scorekeepers and/or second referees during the 2000 or 2001 seasons did expire on 10/31/02. 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 in 2002 will still be valid for 2003.

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.

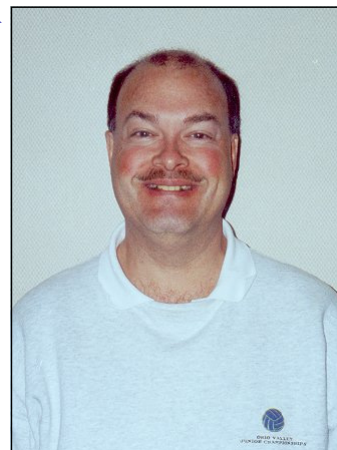
In addition to the certification of Junior Player officials, the OVR will be implementing a program involving junior officiating for the coming season. Players are currently certified when they attain a passing score of 80 on either a scorekeeper or second referee rating during a match. They then are 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 implementing a second level of certification. If the player continues to be observed and successfully rated at 85 or above twice more 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. The professional officials will be instructed on how to manage this additional program during their clinics in December.

Training materials are being developed for mini-clinics to be held before junior tournaments start each morning. The

materials for these mini-clinics will be made available on the region's web page before the start of the first juniors' tournaments. 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 9AM) between 8:20 and 8:35AM. 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 review these new programs. If you have any questions or comments, please send them to me at: jodd@ovr.org. Have a great 2002-2003 season.



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