



New Fibers in the Web

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Registration

2003 heralded online registration in the OVR, with an impressive 72.5% of our registrations coming in electronically. Our 2004 system will be even easier to use, reflecting lessons

learned this year about how we can do things better. Professional officials' registration will split into a basic registration step, a separate questionnaire (that can then be updated anytime), and a clinic sign-up form. *EasyReg*, an Excel™-based facility built in response to juniors' club directors' requests, will be back, with additional data validation to prevent errors. Registration for individual juniors' and adults' teams will be streamlined and also validated more comprehensively. As with 2003, those registering online will receive individual and team registration numbers immediately, facilitating tournament entry and delivery of their rulebooks and membership cards. Our online registration goal for 2004 is 90%, but why stop there — let's go for 100%! If you need help getting started, we'll be happy to do so.

Tournament Entry

Registration for the *Ohio Valley Region Kaepa-USA 2003 Junior Volleyball Championships* was 100% online, with only a few teams enlisting the help of Wendy Alferts or myself. The online procedure, together with having complete registration data in the same information system, helped greatly with seeding that 712-team tournament and with producing college coaches' resources to benefit the region's graduating athletes. We also directly benefited directors of regular-season OVR tournaments, providing new "TD's info" pages conveniently summarizing rosters, players' numbers, and club directors' and coaches' contact. We anticipate extending the online tournament registration procedure to 2004 Bid tournaments, further capitalizing on our infrastructure to improve both efficiency and quality.

Tournament Results and Team Standings

With 1141 teams competing in well over 700 regular-season, Bid, Power Challenge, Qualifier, and other out-of-region juniors' tournaments, the challenge of accumulating results and calculating team standings has grown yearly. This season we implemented online reporting of tournament results by individual juniors' tournament directors, resulting in immediate feedback, publication of results, and updates to team standings. The improvement was profound, with results coming in faster and more comprehensively, leading to much better standings to seed each weekend's events. Having detailed results available allows identification of typos and discrepancies in team codes, further improving the accuracy of the team standings. Direct interaction with tournament directors also speeds resolution of any problems. Because we can now incorporate new results much more efficiently, we're considering including tournaments closer to the 2004 OVR Junior Championships when seeding that tournament. We also have plans to support analogous reporting capabilities for men's and women's tournaments.

Certifications

Our list of ASEP, CAP, and IMPACT certifications for juniors' club directors and coaches now contains 2,992 entries. That database is our primary resource for verifying certifications required to participate in OVR and USAV activities. Coaches and club directors, please review the list found at www.ovr.org/dir/certification.php and let us know if any entries are missing. Instructions for supplying missing data appear at the top of that page.

On the Horizon

Beyond the changes already mentioned, expect significant improvements in our online support for professional and junior officials. The *2004 Handbook* is already underway with a new, more accessible format, and the OVR site will also make certain information available through new web services to expedite verification and inter-region communication.