

Junior Officials' Development Program

Barb Strome, Junior Officials' Development Director

Hi,

My name is Barb Strome and I'm the new Junior Officials' Development Director for the OVR. I have big shoes to fill (Al Herbert's) literally, but also figuratively. Since I am relatively new to the region, having moved here last August, I am still learning much about the largest region in the country. I can use all the help I can get! Feel free to e-mail me with all ideas and suggestions for the upcoming season as well as anything that occurs throughout.

I have a few new ideas that I'm hoping will be useful in the training process of our junior scorekeepers and second referees. I would like feedback from coaches, club directors, and officials with regard to the first of those new ideas: training and rating days set up throughout the region for the benefit of all teams and clubs. I'm thinking maybe in Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus, Toledo, Akron, Charleston, Pittsburgh areas. The teams would gather for a "playday" early in the season, and at the same time the junior officials would have a clinic, followed by on-court training and practice. The idea would be for each club team to certify at least one or two scorekeepers and second referees that day. Then as the season

progresses, additional players could receive their cards at future tournaments. Each player would pay \$1 to cover the cost of renting the gym facility. The OVR would cover the cost of the adult clinicians/referees who would be on-court all day, teaching and rating the players. The coaches/players would do the officiating for the scrimmages in their normal work team assignment. I have experience with this type of "playday" in my former region, and when Jimmy McKenzie did this in Cincinnati last year it was very successful.

As in the past, if a club would prefer an individual clinic, that is still available. You would simply need to contact me with some dates and times, and I would schedule a clinician in your area to fit your needs.

I'm hoping this idea sounds good to you. A clinic early on in the season, certified players early on, and scrimmaging early on. If anyone would like to host a "playday" in their area, please contact me and we'll discuss logistics of size, numbers, dates, etc. My address is strome@ovr.org.

Thanks for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Barb Strome

New on ovr.org...

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forums categorized by area of interest. We've already had a number of excellent questions, fielded by OVR staff including Keith and myself, as well as posts by Brian and Tom. The forums are a good way to initiate discussions that may have widespread interest, complementing our other ways of communicating and potentially involving more members in the discussions.

Calendar

To help everyone with planning, I implemented a new online calendar (www.ovr.org/calendar/) that cross-cuts diverse region activities. One can display events by category (e.g. juniors, officials, etc.). Additional features will be implemented soon.

OVR Handbook

The *OVR Handbook 2004* will be available soon, published in a new format convenient for both browsing and printing.

Links to College and University Volleyball Programs

Addressing members' requests, I greatly expanded the list of college programs (www.ovr.org/links/colleges.php) to include all NCAA and NAIA programs and a few NJCAA schools

OVR Photography

Responding to the need for proper recognition of our athletes' accomplishments as well as to provide a service our members want, I agreed to direct photography for the OVR. Additional announcements will be posted for tournaments at which I or a representative will be present.



New on ovr.org...

Nick Nystrom, Webmaster & Publications Editor

ovr.org relocation

Last month I relocated the OVR website to a new host, gaining stronger infrastructure and better performance while reducing cost. The trial period and migration went exceptionally

well. Recent instability, however, may necessitate another move the new host's administrators are unable resolve the problems quickly and completely.

Registration

Online registration will reopen on October 1 at www.ovr.org/register/. Juniors' and Adults' registration packets are available at www.ovr.org/juniors/registration_packet/ and www.ovr.org/mw/registration_packet/, respectively. Hardcop-

ies will be mailed on request: contact Micki Fox (fox@ovr.org, 330-666-8709). For more information on registration, see my article in the August issue of *OVR The Block*.

Junior Officials' Certifications

I redesigned online reporting of junior officials' certifications to work with online registration data. Club directors and coaches will be able to update their players' certifications quickly and easily, with the certifications displayed in context with rosters and on tournament directors' information pages. Junior officials' information is keyed to their names and dates of birth, so please supply their registration data accurately.

New Forums

Following up on requests from players, coaches, and club directors, www.ovr.org/forum/ now provides online discussion

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