

OVR The Block

The Official Newsletter of the Ohio Valley Region of USA Volleyball

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OVR-Kaepa® USA 2004 Girls' Volleyball Championships Sets New Records

A record 862 teams competed in the *Ohio Valley Region-Kaepa® USA 2004 Girls' Volleyball Championships*, held in Columbus from May 1-15, 2004.

The tournament began on May 1, with 10-and-under and 12-and-under age groups competing at 7 Columbus-area schools. Throughout the following two weekends, 13s-18s competed on 40 courts, another first, in the Greater Columbus Convention Center, with a separate, vast hall for camping.

The excellent level of play and the palpable energy in the Convention Center were striking. Many courts witnessed hard-fought battles culminating season-long rivalries. On other courts, teams that hadn't won a tournament all season rose to the challenge and won their division. Lauren Craig (Borderline 14 Black), Chelsea Graman (Mizuno Cincy Classics 16 Red), and Kiera Bailey (Zero Gravity Jrs. 18 White) complemented their athleticism with artistry, beginning tournament days with inspirational solos of the *Star-Spangled Banner*. Commensurate with the increase from 32 to 40 courts, the tournament debuted Magnesium/Calcium and Iron/Cobalt divisions. All teams finishing in first through third place were presented with individual gold, silver, or bronze medals.

Complete results and medal photos for this remarkable event are printed on pages 32-61 of this issue, and are also available on the OVR website.



Sarah Draves (10) and Ashley Wallace (2) of Toledo Volleyball Club – TVC 18-1 put up a consistently strong block in 18 Open.

New Rules and Procedures for 2004-2005

As part of their constant effort to improve the quality of play and to expand playing opportunities in the Ohio Valley Region, the OVR directors and officers effected a number of changes for the 2004-2005 season. A few of the most important include:

- grade-level Club play within the OVR
- adults' teams must provide a certified official for pool play
- addition of two new officials' clinics, along with new clinic formats
- identical uniforms for adults' teams
- Women's Open players can now play down to A
- refinement of the Junior Officials' Development Program
- background screening
- use of FIVB rules, as presented by USAV

Some changes were made in direct response to members' requests and suggestions; others were made proactively to promote and sustain quality volleyball. In addition, consistent with USA volleyball, we will use FIVB rules, as presented by USAV. Background screening (www.ovr.org/register/background_screening.php) will be required for all individuals who will interact with juniors in sanctioned activities, including professional officials.

These new rules and policies, as well as others, are detailed throughout this issue of OVR The Block and on the OVR website. Please take some time to read the columns by Ron Wyzynski, Bob Price, Bill Zehler, Brian Hemelgarn, Tom Kohl, Nick Nystrom, Michelle Fox, and other contributors, and watch the OVR website for additional news.

Executive Director's Commentary

Ron Wyzynski, Executive Director & CEO

Dear members,

The OVR board of directors and staff recently completed our annual summer meeting, which consisted of 18 hours of volleyball decisions. This group heard reports and discussed the latest changes from USA volleyball, along with OVR member concerns



from last season. The changes that were made are a direct result of this information. As an example, two of these changes from the adults' competition side were: identical uniforms (USAV rule book change) and certified officials representing each team to do the round robin matches (requested by many teams).

The biggest issue for juniors will be that all adults in contact with juniors' teams as directors, administrators, coaches, or chaperones must now submit to a background screening check every two years, as required by

USA volleyball and many other national governing bodies. Officials in the OVR will also be included in this background screening process. The individual or club must pay for this screening evaluation and must submit a hardcopy permission and information form.

You'll see more of this nationwide for all kinds of activities directly connected to juniors. As a teacher and coach, I must submit to some of these requirements myself. Hopefully this will be a deterrent to those individuals who should not be working with juniors.

Another change in the juniors' category will be how age waivers are issued for club-level junior players and competition within the region. Since we have more than 11,000 female junior players, the number of requests for age waivers is very high. We hope that the new system, administered by Bill Zehler, will solve many problems and allows more juniors to play within their age and grade group.

The meetings also established dates for clinics and championships as well as venues for these activities to take place all around the OVR. Please use the website as a valuable resource to answer any questions that you might have for yourself, team or

club. When questions do occur, contact the office by e-mail or phone.

The board and officers are scheduled to meet again on October 3rd Westerville, Ohio. The OVR continues to grow every season. Your board of directors and officers at every meeting try to address that challenge by making the region better for you, whatever your area of interest. With more than 15,000 members there's always much to do!

As always, I wish everyone an enjoyable volleyball experience in the OVR.

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Commissioner's Corner

Bob Price, OVR Commissioner & President

THE 2005 SEASON is just around the corner. The Ohio Valley Region's board of directors and staff have been hard at work to provide all its members the highest quality volleyball experience.

Men's and Women's Programs

Participation in the Ohio Valley Region of USA volleyball programs will offer you the best competition at the local, regional, and national levels. Playing opportunities are provided for *all* skill levels, from the novice to the most accomplished. Events are held throughout the region beginning January through April 16, 2005; with the *Ohio Valley Regional Volleyball Championships* being held April 16-17 in the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The National Championships will be held in Denver, Colorado, beginning May 28, 2005. Your membership with the OVR permits you and your team to participate in any USA volleyball-sanctioned event in the United States.

The 2005 season will see a few changes for the adults. The following improvements are effective beginning November 1, 2004. First, teams must wear *identical* uniforms. Second, each team must provide a *certified* R1 official for its pool-play officiating assignments.

For additional guidance, please consult the *Men's and Women's Registration Packet* (www.ovr.org/mw/registration_packet/). If you have questions, Keith Burke, OVR Men's Tournament Director (burke@ovr.org, 614-818-9465) and/or Micki Fox, OVR Women's Tournament Director (fox@ovr.org, 330-666-8709) will be happy to assist.

Juniors' Programs

The Juniors' 2005 season will debut grade-level age definitions for *Club* teams. This new classification will allow grade-level teams to participate in Ohio Valley Region events *only!* Grade-level teams are not permitted to play outside of the OVR. Please refer to Bill Zehler and Tom Kohl for details.

Tryouts for the juniors' teams will begin soon. I cannot emphasize enough that parents must research and find the club that matches your philosophy and expectations. Parents must scrutinize the contracts they sign with the club – it is an agreement between you and the club *only!* Clubs seeking

player membership to the OVR are required to follow policies governing tryouts, and clubs violating those policies will be denied Ohio Valley Region player membership. Parents should be knowledgeable of the rules governing tryouts, available at www.ovr.org/juniors/tryouts/policies.php.

Players are not permitted to participate in *any* non-school volleyball program during the OHSAA (school) season. In other words, players are not permitted to try out until the school season is completed. For all 8th graders and younger, OVR tryouts cannot be held before October 29, 2005. Tryouts for any student 9th grade and above cannot be held prior to November 14, 2005. Parents, please be advised that clubs and teams not following OVR policy will be denied membership. Once tryouts have been completed, players may be offered a position or contract. Players *must* be given 10 days before they are required to accept an offered position on a team.

Background Screening

The OVR is requiring *all* club directors, coaches, chaperones, officials or any adult in a supervisory role with a juniors' program to pass a background screen. Parents should report any incidence if their son/daughter is participating in a program with an adult not on the approved list. Please report this information to Steve Donahue, the OVR compliance officer.

The OVR board of directors and staff extend an invitation to all volleyball enthusiast to take an active role in making the 2005 season the best ever.



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Juniors' Tournaments 2005

Tom Kohl, OVR Jrs' Tournament Director & Boys' Program Director



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE TEAMS that participated in the USAV National and Invitational tournaments.

I would like to personally thank all the tournament directors for your help this past season. A total of 105 tournament directors were responsible for 907 sanctioned regular-season juniors' tournaments. Incidents of incorrect pool play and/or tournament play are ongoing, but they're correctable. 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. Tournament bond checks have been either mailed or shredded.

Online request for an application for sanction was successfully implemented. Online recording of tournament results and timely return of the *Report of Event* were improved. Thanks to Nick Nystrom for his efforts.

Looking to the new season

I am looking forward to another year of growth within the Juniors' programs and number of sanctioned tournaments. I have five concerns for the coming season:

1. Ensure the quality of tournament facilities and play.
2. Improve timeliness of online reporting of tournament results.
3. Maintain *Power Challenge* and *Bid Qualifier* organization.
4. Expand support documents for boys' volleyball.
5. Promote greater use of the OVR website by club directors to update their teams' information.

Addressing item 4, the revised *Procedures and Rules for Juniors' Regular Season Tournaments* no (www.ovr.org/juniors/tournament_packet/) applies to both girls' and boys' tournaments. Many changes were made to this document to update current rules

and to clarify minor abuses that were reported last year. In addition, the formats for 10-team and 14-team pool play have been revised.

With the cooperation of many people, the *2005 Procedures and Rules for OVR Juniors' Club Directors* (www.ovr.org/juniors/registration_packet/) is now available. This document was a request from the *Club and Tournament Directors' Forum* in December 2003.

Sanctioning New Juniors' Tournaments

I began accepting *Applications for Sanctions* (www.ovr.org/juniors/sanction/) beginning September 1, 2004. Tournament directors must register online prior to applying for sanction. Online publication of girls' regular-season tournaments is scheduled for 8AM on Sunday, December 19. Note that a tournament director's registration fees must be paid, forms complete, and background screen clear before his or her events will be published.

Please be advised that any entry fee in excess of the OVR-approved fee requires justification. Rental contracts, tentative financial report, and related documents must be supplied to document the higher expense.

OVR-Molten® 2005 National Bid Qualifier

Due to scheduling constraints at the Greater Columbus Convention Center (GCCC), the *Ohio Valley Region-Molten® 2005 National Bid Qualifier* (www.ovr.org/juniors/bid/) will be held over two weekends at the GCCC and at Synergy Sports and Fitness in Toledo. At the GCCC, we'll host 17s and 18s on April 9-10, 12s on April 16, and 13s on April 17. 14s will compete at Synergy on April 16-17.

New ideas

Ideas for the 2004-2005 season include the formation of a series of mini *Power Challenge* tournaments, concluding with the *Power Challenge Championships* in March. Also, there is a desire by the membership to re-evaluate the seeding process. A committee has been formed, and ideas have been exchanged and are being evaluated.

Should you have any suggestions, please e-mail me at kohl@ovr.org. Again, thanks for your help. I look forward to your cooperation in the 2004-2005 season.

The Juniors' Page

Bill Zehler, OVR Juniors' Program Director

THE 2004 SEASON CONCLUDED WITH GREAT SUCCESS. Our Junior Championship tournament was the most successful and largest event we have sponsored. We had four members of our region – Nicole Fawcett (Team Atlantis VBC – 17 Elite), Christa Harmotto (Renaissance VBC – Black 18), Bryn Kehoe (Team Z – 18-1), and Ami Stevens (Matchpoint – 18 Red) – on the USA Junior National team that won the NORCECA Championships in Canada. We also had a member of the USA Girls' Youth National Team – Stephanie Browne (TVC 16-1) – on the team that qualified for the Youth World Championships. That team was coached by OVR member and club director Rich Zeciski (Team Z). We also had two Youth teams and one HPC team in the *High Performance Volley Classic* in Austin, Texas.

New Policies for 2004-2005

Two major policy changes have come from the USA volleyball Regional Operating Division meeting in Atlanta and the Youth/Junior Olympic Volleyball Division meetings in Colorado Springs this summer. The first is background screening for anyone associated with juniors' volleyball in any capacity (www.ovr.org/register/background_screening.php). The second item is a policy change that was approved by our region's board of directors in August: grade-level teams for all Club divisions!

We have always offered waivers for athletes in elementary and middle school age groups. Our policy for these Club level age groups was in conflict with the policy of USA volleyball. When these athletes went on to high school teams, there was no option for them to play with their classmates. Now there is! We are going to continue to permit athletes in grades 9-12 play at their grade level in the Club division within our region.

There are still restrictions to this policy. Grade-level teams must register as Club teams, and they may not play out-of-region at their grade level: they must play at the level of the oldest athlete on their roster. Other regions may not honor our waivers. As Club teams, grade-level teams are also ineligible for the OVR Bid tournament. Our published policy is on the OVR website (www.ovr.org/juniors/divisions.php). For now, you can plan your teams based on grade if you wish, and there is no application for a waiver!

Tryouts and Contracts

The tryout season is now upon us. Athletes and their parents are making every effort to make the club that is the best fit. Clubs are trying to attract the best athletes to form the best teams possible. We hope this is a positive experience for everyone involved. Families are cautioned to do their homework when looking for a club. We ask club directors to use common sense when trying to attract athletes to their organizations.

The first day clubs may host tryouts for athletes in grades 9-12 is the day *after* the State Volleyball Championships. Tryouts for athletes in the 8th grade or younger may be held no earlier than the last weekend in October (provided the middle school season is over). State high school athletic associations mandate that athletes from member schools may not tryout for off-season teams while their high/middle school teams are still involved in competition. Failure to adhere to these dates may jeopardize the eligibility of the athletes we are trying to serve. Please make sure your season is over before attending a tryout.

Clubs may offer contracts to athletes at the end of their tryout sessions. The parents of an athlete *may* sign a contract as soon as it is offered if they wish. Clubs may not require an immediate commitment. The parents of an athlete invited to join a club *must* be given a period of no fewer than 7 days from the tryouts to agree to sign a contract with the club.

All club directors and coaches conducting tryouts must be registered members of USA volleyball, with a completed background check. All tryouts sanctioned by our region will have secondary insurance coverage, provided everyone representing a club is a registered member of USA volleyball. Failure to obtain insurance for unsanctioned events will result in all responsibility for injury being placed on the club. The OVR accepts *no* responsibility for claims against directors or coaches that are not registered members of this region.



continued on page 6 →

From the Referees' Chair

Brian Hemelgarn, OVR Regional Referees' Chair

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE another season is only a couple of months away! With the new season comes many exciting changes, and we should all be looking forward to the opportunities that await us!

First, however, we need to give kudos to the following folks who reached the next level in their officiating careers: Scott Burnett,

Bill Kissell, John Love, and Shera Moxley all received their Junior National referee ratings this summer. Likewise, Chuck Fleet and Tom Joseph completed the rating process for their National referee ratings at the boys' JOVC in July. Kristine Mullen and I both received our National scorekeeper certifications at the US open in Atlanta. Most importantly, we're glowing with pride for Patty Salvatore, who became the first woman to officiate the Olympic games (indoor competition)!

As many of us already know,

Patty worked the women's Gold medal match. The OVR is doing some great things when it comes to officiating! Be sure to congratulate all of these folks the next time you see them.

Now, on to some of the changes we can look forward to for this season...

Our online registration system is up and running in no time, and with some modifications by our webmaster, Nick Nystrom, everyone should find it easy to navigate. Speaking of registration, our OVR

dues will again remain \$50 this season. Remember, our USAV membership expires on October 31, 2004, so we *all* need to register as soon as possible.

Having the largest region in the country means that the board of directors is constantly looking for ways to improve the service and quality that we're providing our members. At our August board retreat, we decided to add two other clinic sites! We're trying to reduce travel time for folks, so the addition of the Kent clinic will accommodate both Cleveland and Pittsburgh, and a clinic in the Dayton area will help those in the southwest area of the OVR. We're also revamping the clinic structure to better utilize our time! I think everyone will like these changes!

As many already know, USAV has adopted FIVB (Fédération Internationale de Volleyball) rules, with a few modifications, for the coming season. Many rules are the same, but there are some noticeable differences, so attendance at a pre-season clinic will be crucial for the success of our officials and of our events. These changes are going to be great for us as referees, as well as for players of all levels. It will take some work to retrain ourselves, but in the long run, this will be great for USA volleyball!

Finally, the OVR website will again be a primary means of communication for all of us this season. Details about online registration, testing, clinics and new officials' information will be available in a timely fashion. Please stay up to date by checking the website a few times each week, and we'll all be well-prepared for the upcoming season!

I'm looking forward to working with everyone again, and as always, if there is something I can do to better serve as Referee Chair, please let me know. On behalf of the OVR board of directors, thanks for



The Juniors' Page (continued from page 5)

Education and Training

Several educational programs will be offered to club directors and coaches. All club directors or a representative must complete the ASEP Sports Club Director course. This course will be offered in the region on December 4, 2004. There will be several

sites available to attend the IMPACT course. The USA volleyball CAP I and CAP II coaching courses will also be offered. Check the OVR website at www.ovr.org for sites and dates.

Have a *great* season!

A Change for Women's Open

Michelle Fox, OVR Women's Tournament Director

NEW THIS YEAR FOR WOMEN'S TEAMS... The same rules regarding playing down a division are the same for women's Open players as for all other levels of play. A player registered on an Open team may play with an A team within their club. For all levels of play, one player may play down a division, two players may play on a team within their division, and two players may move up and play any level. A team may have up to two players total from another team or teams in its club playing in any one tournament.



Regionals will be held on April 16-17, 2005 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Divisions for each day will be posted on the Men's and Women's Tournament Schedule when approximate numbers of teams are known. — Ed.



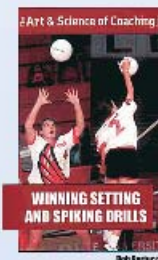
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The Columbus,
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**For up-to-the minute booking information,
see the Hotels section of the OVR website:**

www.ovr.org/hotels/

- ✓ Junior Championships**
- ✓ National Bid Qualifier**
- ✓ Regionals**
- ✓ Boys' Championships**
- ✓ Power Challenge**
- ✓ Regular tournaments**
- ✓ Courses and Clinics**
- ✓ Meetings**

The following 12 properties are conveniently located for a multitude of tournaments, clinics, courses, and meetings in and near Columbus. Links to those within approximately 30 minutes of OVR events appear throughout tournament and other schedules on the Ohio Valley Region's website, www.ovr.org. The links below provide additional information on each of the Columbus Marriott Market Hotel properties, including directions, distances, and maps to nearby event sites.

The Columbus, A Renaissance Hotel

50 North 3rd Street · Columbus, OH 43215
www.ovr.org/hotels/TheColumbus.php

Courtyard Columbus Dublin

5175 Post Road · Dublin, OH 43017
www.ovr.org/hotels/CourtyardColumbusDublin.php

Residence Inn Columbus Dublin

435 Metro Place South · Dublin, OH 43017
www.ovr.org/hotels/ResidenceInnColumbusDublin.php

Courtyard Columbus Worthington

7411 Vantage Road · Columbus, OH 43235
www.ovr.org/hotels/CourtyardColumbusWorthington.php

Residence Inn Columbus Worthington

7300 Huntington Park Drive · Columbus, OH 43235
www.ovr.org/hotels/ResidenceInnColumbusWorthington.php

TownePlace Suites Columbus Worthington

7272 Huntington Park Drive · Columbus, OH 43235
www.ovr.org/hotels/TownePlaceSuitesColumbusWorthington.php

SpringHill Suites Columbus Airport Gahanna

665 Taylor Road · Gahanna, OH 43230
www.ovr.org/hotels/SpringHillSuitesGahanna.php

TownePlace Suites Columbus Airport Gahanna

695 Taylor Road · Columbus, OH 43230
www.ovr.org/hotels/TownePlaceSuitesGahanna.php

Courtyard Columbus Airport

2901 Airport Drive · Columbus, OH 43219
www.ovr.org/hotels/CourtyardColumbusAirport.php

Courtyard Columbus Downtown

35 West Spring Street · Columbus, OH 43215
www.ovr.org/hotels/CourtyardColumbusDowntown.php

Fairfield Inn & Suites Columbus OSU

3031 Olentangy River Road · Columbus, OH 43202
www.ovr.org/hotels/FairfieldInnSuitesColumbusOSU.php

Residence Inn Columbus North at the Continent

6191 Zumstein Drive · Columbus, OH 43229
www.ovr.org/hotels/ResidenceInnColumbusNorth.php

Registration and Other Preparation for 2005

Nick Nystrom

PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2004-2005 SEASON began immediately following conclusion of the *OVR-Kaepa® USA Girls' Championships* in May. Much was done over the summer, and more will be accomplished over the months leading into our new season.

Registration

On September 1 we opened registration for juniors' club staff, and on September 8, we opened registration for renewing professional officials as well. Registration for individual "others", who are primarily site managers who would like to host OVR-sanctioned tournaments, opened soon after.

I accelerated our schedule – last year officials' and club staff registrations opened on October 1 and November 1, respectively – to allow additional time for club staff to register prior to holding tryouts and practices, and to allow officials several more weeks prior to the October 31 renewal deadline. Also, background screening extends the time required to complete registrations. As always, OVR-USAV memberships run from November 1 (or from the date on which a member's registration is completed) through October 31.

Full registration for clubs and teams will open on November 1, corresponding to the official start of the 2004-2005 season and to when the first clubs and teams will be ready to register.

When registering, please note that it is critical to *complete your registration promptly*. Providing your information through our online registration process is only the first step: you must then follow up by mailing your registration fee, background screening fee (for those working with juniors, including officials), and completed and signed forms to Steve Donahue. Registrations are not complete until Steve Donahue receives and records your fees, forms, and "Clear" background screen. Background screening adds new urgency to completing registrations. As a helpful reminder, registration numbers will only be displayed for individuals whose registrations are complete. If your registration does not show up as complete, you can find out what's missing at www.ovr.org/dir/member.php. With over 15,000 members, it is essential that everyone do their part. We've made things as easy as possible, and everyone – especially Steve – will appreciate your cooperation.

Accounts and Authentication (Signing In)

I enhanced the OVR authentication component, the software behind "signing in", to offer significantly more functionality and to tighten our security model. Consistent with our philosophy that the OVR website is a service provided for the benefit of our members, accounts (usernames and passwords) are now limited to members. Accounts are created automatically for all adult members on registration (transferring last season's if possible).

The "Forgot your username or password?" utility has also been improved, allowing password resets based on username, actual name, registration number, or e-mail address, enabling immediate recovery without having to wait for a round of e-mail.

Registration and authentication are now required to apply for sanction of juniors' tournaments and tryouts, as well as prior to other online procedures. Doing so protects members' interests, reduces their data entry, and yields immense rewards by generating correct and inter-related information.

Publications

Perhaps you've noticed that the current issue of OVR The Block is a bit larger than usual. Combining issues 21:3 and 21:4 was not by design, but rather, it occurred as a consequence of accommodating contributors' schedules. In this case, publishing related information together outweighed splitting it to meet our planned publication dates. However, publishing content more quickly would benefit all, so deadlines must be enforced more closely.

In Closing

Of course the real motivation behind this mountain of infrastructure is to play volleyball. If we do it right, our players will find what they need and not be encumbered by the rest. So find or form a team, make quick work of the administrative necessities, and then *enjoy some of the best of volleyball the country has to offer*. See you on the court.



August 13-15 Board Meeting Summary

The OVR board of directors, officers, and staff convened on August 12-15, 2004 at Mohican State Park, near Loudonville, Ohio. Following a planning session on the evening of August 12, board meetings were held all day on August 13-14 and on the morning of August 15. The OVR awards dinner was held on the evening of Saturday, August 14.

Present: Ron Wyzynski, Bob Price, Don Burroughs, Bob Dickenson, Troy Dixon, Steve Donahue, Art Faura, Tom Kohl, Brian Hemelgarn, Al Herbert, Jimmy McKinzey, Terry Miller, Nick Nystrom, Glenn Purdy, Barb Strome, Elaine Viney, Emi Vishoot, Bill Zehler

Not present: Keith Burke, Michelle Fox, Patty Salvatore.

Guest: Don Wood (Coach, Dayton Juniors, to discuss juniors' seeding)

1. Appointed positions

- Emi Vishoot resigned as Boys' Volleyball Program Liaison, effective November 1, 2004.
- Tom Kohl was appointed to the new office of Boys' Program Director.
- The position of Juniors' Program Director (Bill Zehler) was changed to Girls' Program Director.
- Brian Hemelgarn was reappointed as Regional Referees' Chairperson.
- Michelle Fox was reappointed as Women's Tournament Director.

2. Elections

- OVR registration numbers should be included with names and signatures on candidate's petitions. Incumbents need not repeat petitions (point of note; unchanged).
- The voting booth, to be staffed 8 hours per day, will be available at

Adult Regionals and all sites of Girls' Championships. A mail-in ballot will be available online.

- Voting booth staff will be paid and provided with T-shirt and food.
- Campaign literature cannot use OVR or USAV logos. No campaign literature material may be placed near the booth other than the profiles.
- Elaine Viney will continue as Elections Chair.
- Flyers and/or ballots will be distributed in team packets.

3. Financial Reports

- Ron Wyzynski will provide final 2003-2004 budget at the January meeting, following conclusion of the OVR fiscal year (which ends on October 31).

4. Penalties and Fines

- Bob Price will form a *Sportsmanship and Ethics Committee* to address additional consequences of, for example, ejections.
- Fines in place now for not officiating (\$100) will continue.
- Tom Kohl suggested a fine for Open teams enter Club tournaments.
- The Region will enforce policies that are already in place.

5. Men's and Women's Program

- The OVR may lose use of Kent State. Other sites are being considered.
- All adults' tournament results will be posted by the following Wednesday.
- Men's and women's seeding systems need not be identical.
- The officiating team must provide a USAV-certified first referee, beginning with the 2004-2005 season.

- All OVR teams, including adults, will be required to wear identical uniforms as noted in rulebook regarding logos, sleeve length, etc. Teams showing up with illegal uniforms can play, but will forfeit those matches (receiving no seeding points).
- For Women's competition only, players registered to Open level teams may play down to A.
- Regionals: April 16-17, 2005: GCCC
- At Regionals, it must be stressed that teams have no "home court".
- Men's and Women's teams that participate in Nationals and that submit a newsletter article will be compensated \$200.

6. Juniors' Program

6.1. Background Screening

- Background checks are required for all individuals working with juniors, including officials. Individuals may not work with juniors and their registrations are not complete until their background screens come back "Clear".
- Steve Donahue will administer the background screening program, forwarding forms to SSC1 and recording results in the OVR database.
- The background screening fee is \$20.

6.2. Regular-season competition

- Because there are no 11s' tournaments, the girls' 11s' division will no longer be offered at registration.
- The OVR is permitting clubs with athletes that are in a grade of school, but do not conform to the USA volleyball age definition for that grade, to form *grade level teams* in

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August 13-15 Board Meeting Summary

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the Club division. This designation will replace waivers and will include athletes and teams in all grades. It will no longer be necessary to apply for a waiver, nor will there be any other extra paperwork. The rosters of Open teams, 13-and-Under, and 12-and-Under teams competing in national qualifying events may not include grade level athletes for any reason. Grade level will be required at registration for all juniors.

- Bill Zehler recommended expanding 10-and-Under to allow for coed play. Teams can also be all boys or all girls. Until April 1, coaches would be allowed to pop a ball over for serves that fail.
- Seeding points will be determined by a new, nonlinear function of teams' results, together with weights that are dependent on tournament strength. Tom, Troy, Art, and Nick met to establish initial weights for various prominent tournaments. Nick will develop and implement new algorithms for evaluation.
- Open teams may no longer play up to the next older Club level. For example, a 16 Open team will be allowed to enter a 16 Open, 17 Open, 18 Club, or 18 Open tournament, but it will not be allowed to enter a 17 Club tournament. Teams that illegally play up (e.g. 16 Open to 17 Club) will be flagged, with consequences for both the team and the tournament director.
- Tryouts for 10s-14s begin the last weekend (not the last Sunday) of October, provided the scholastic season is over.

6.3. Power Challenge

- Dates and times were resolved soon after the meeting:
 - 18s: March 5-6, Maumee
 - 15s: March 12-13, Oxford
 - 16s: March 12-13, Toledo
 - 17s: March 12-13, Maumee
 - 13s: March 19-20, Toledo
 - 14s: March 19-20, Mason
- Entry fee: \$320.
- Guaranteed 7 matches.
- The top 20-25 teams from each division are encouraged to participate.

6.4. Power Tournaments

- 1-day OVR tournaments, hosted by others and with higher point values.
- Contact Tom Kohl to schedule dates, divisions, and sites.

6.5. OVR Girls' Championships

- Over 890 teams played in our 2004 event. Over 20 dropped, of which 5-6 were able to obtain refunds.
- Intervention was required to seed teams correctly that had won bids to nationals. Such intervention caused no harm: teams that were moved up did not win Gold, nor did teams that were moved down win Bronze.
- At the club level, taking the top 32 teams to Gold/Silver/Bronze/Copper worked very well.
- 2005 Championships:
 - May 7: satellite sites
 - May 14-15, May 20-22: GCCC
- The Junior Championships will again use 40 courts in halls D/E/F.
- Only required personnel can be present at the Championship desk to relieve congestion.
- Match assignments should include round numbers but not times.
- Barb Ströme will perform JODP functions at the Championships.

- The Awards Committee will manage presentation of team awards.

6.6. Bid Tournament

- Dates and times were resolved shortly after the meeting:
 - 15s-18s: April 9-10, GCCC
 - 14s: April 16-17, Toledo
 - 12s: April 16, GCCC
 - 13s: April 17, GCCC
- The top team from Power Tournaments or Power Challenge may qualify for the Bid tournament.
- There may be a play-in on Saturday morning in the event of ties.

6.7. National Tournaments

- We will no longer have to ask whether teams will go to the Invitational, which is now first-come first-serve. The Invitational is now open to anyone, including Club teams. Both the 2005 Invitational and the 2005 Boys' JOVC will be in Louisville, Kentucky.
- Girls' JOVC: 13s will go to National and American divisions.

6.8. High Performance

- At the HP tournament, the OVR HP team finished 6th/15, the Youth team finished 6th/24, and the Y2 team finished 12th/24. The HP tournament level was very high, with participation by Southern California, Arizona, Hawaii, and others.
- The HP tournament entry fee, currently \$800, will increase.
- 170 girls attended tryouts for 36 spot for our 2004 tryouts. For 2005, tryouts will be distributed geographically, filtering to a final tryout at the Bid tournament with collegiate coaches assisting. Earlier tryouts can be held on evenings during the week, expanding players' opportunities to participate.

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- USAV will require that HP coaches have CAP II certification.
- There is not a coaching program in place to train coaches for high performance. Coaches' participation in the January clinic in Colorado Springs would be very helpful.
- A boys' HP program is needed.
- Don Burroughs will develop HP selection criteria to be distributed through the website.

6.9. Coaching Education: IMPACT

- Over 500 coaches passed IMPACT training in approximately 30 clinics, including club-hosted clinics.
- Wick Colchagoff, Lynn Morris, and Bart Gensburg assisted Don.
- The region saved \$16 per manual by printing and binding them locally.
- IMPACT clinic site rent is paid from IMPACT fees.
- Don Burroughs is now a certified IMPACT trainer.

6.9. Coaching Education: CAP

- Over 90 people showed up for the 2004 OVR CAP clinics in January at The Ohio State University.
- John Neville and Diana Cole were added for the 2004 clinics, and other excellent instructors would like to come for 2005.
- The new CAP III curriculum is not yet available.

6.10. Boys' Fall League

- Emi Vishoot is organizing the Boys' Fall League.
- The League Championships will be held on October 31.
- The September-October registration fee will be \$20 for players and \$25 for adults.

7. Officiating

- Brian will develop guidelines for head referees' responsibilities.

7.1. Officials' Compensation

- Referee fees are now \$150 (raised from \$135) per day for up to 6 matches at a regular-season juniors' event. Each additional match is \$25/match beyond 6 matches.
- The OVR will reimburse officials who work at any National event (Adult, Girls' JOVC, Boys' JOVC) in the amount of \$100, per event/site.
- The OVR will reimburse officials who pay application fees for national level (Junior National, National, National scorekeeper) certification in the amount of ½ of the fee after successful completion of certification.

7.2. Officials' Clinics

- Two additional clinics will be offered to make numbers at each more manageable.
- Clinic dates and sites were finalized soon after the board meeting:
 - Nov. 28, 2004: Toledo
 - Dec. 4, 2004: Westerville (new officials only)
 - Dec. 5, 2004: Westerville
 - Dec. 11, 2004: Charleston
 - Dec. 12, 2004: Dayton/Cincinnati
 - Jan. 8, 2005: Kent/Youngstown
- To allow individuals to attend multiple clinics, officials' clinics will be separated from club directors' and tournament directors' clinics.

7.3. Junior Officials' Development Program

- Each team must have at least one certified second referee and one certified scorekeeper, including at least 2 players per team. After April 1, coaches must officiate for teams lacking certified junior officials.

- Barb Strome will approve clinicians to hold junior officials' clinics. Those who would like to be clinicians must notify Barb by Sept. 15.
- Certifying officials and dates will be recorded for junior referees' and scorekeepers' certifications.
- Officials will send certification paperwork to Barb for entry in the OVR database.
- Clinicians will enter attendance information.
- Monthly reminders will be sent to club directors for teams lacking junior officials' certifications, along with additional reminders on the Wednesday prior to tournaments.

7.5. Junior Professional Officials

- 26 junior professional officials were certified. All passed and can work 10s' and 12s' tournaments.

8. Awards

- 2004 Glenn Purdy Meritorious Service Award: Emi Vishoot
- 2004 OVR Commissioner's Award: Bill Zehler
- 2004 OVR Award of Excellence for Coaching: Kathy Kleinhuizen (NKYVC) and Marv McCollum (Lineshot, posthumous)
- 2004 OVR Award of Excellence for Tournament Direction: Tammy Swearingen
- Bob Dickenson will chair the 2005 Awards Committee.
- Bob will select members for the 2005 Awards Committee.

9. Future Board Meetings

- October 3, 2004, 10AM: Westerville
- January 17, 2005, 9AM: Kent
- August 12-14, 2005, 8PM: Columbus

OVR Awards 2004

Emi Vishoot Selected for 2004 Glenn Purdy Meritorious Service Award

In recognition of Emi Vishoot's contributions to the Ohio Valley Region as a National Referee and Scorekeeper, Officials' Rater, service on the OVR Board of Directors, and with administration of OVR tournaments, Emi was awarded the 2004 Glenn Purdy Meritorious Service Award.

Glenn Purdy presented the award, which consists of framed National officials' patches, a gold whistle, and an engraved plaque, to Emi at the OVR awards dinner on August 14, 2004 at Mohican State Park.



Glenn Purdy (left) and Bob Price (right) presenting the 2004 Glenn Purdy Meritorious Service Award to Emi Vishoot.

Bill Zehler Honored with the 2004 OVR Commissioner's Award

Bill Zehler, in recognition for his extensive contributions to Ohio Valley Region volleyball, was presented the 2004 OVR Commissioner's Award by Bob Price, OVR Commissioner and President, at the OVR awards dinner on August 14.

Bill currently serves as OVR Girls' Program Director, tournament director of the Ohio Valley Region-Kaepa® USA Girls' Volleyball Championships (the country's largest regional championship event), and National Referee. Bill is on the OVR board of directors, is founder and director of the Borderline Juniors volleyball club, and every year hosts approximately 10 tournaments, each featuring many sites and divisions. Bill has also served as OVR Men's Tournament Director and tournament director of the OVR Boys' Championships.



OVR Commissioner/President Bob Price (left) and Ron Wyzynski, OVR Executive Director/CEO (right) present the 2004 OVR Commissioner's Award to Bill Zehler and the 2004 OVR Award of Excellence for Outstanding Volunteer to Sandy Rowland.

Patty Salvatore Named for Special 2004 OVR Commissioner's Award

In recognition of Patty's being chosen to officiate at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens (see page 25), and following her earlier role officiating in the 1996 Olympics, Bob Price created a special award to acknowledge Patty's success. Presentation text and photos will follow in a future issue.

Sandy Rowland Selected for the 2004 OVR Award of Excellence for Outstanding Volunteer

In recognition of the tremendous help Sandy Rowland has given the Ohio Valley Region, the OVR Awards Committee selected Sandy for the 2004 OVR Award of Excellence for Outstanding Volunteer. For many seasons, Sandy has provided invaluable assistance with OVR Championships tournaments, elections, meetings, and operations.

Kathy Kleinhuisen, Marv McCollum, and Tammy Swearingen Selected for 2004 OVR Awards of Excellence

Kathy Kleinhuisen (NKYVC) and Marv McCollum (Lineshot) were selected for the 2004 OVR Coaches' Award of Excellence. Tammy Swearingen was selected for the 2004 OVR Tournament Director's Award of Excellence. Presentation text and photos will appear in a future issue.