

OVR The Block

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OVR Plans Breakthroughs for 2006

The Ohio Valley Region will introduce many exciting improvements for the 2005-2006 season, offering opportunities for everyone. The OVR board of directors and officers solicited members' input, secured great venues at excellent prices, and creatively developed plans to make our 2006 season even better than last year's.

For the first time ever, 17s and 18s will not be required to play on Friday night at the *Ohio Valley Region Kaepa® USA Girls' Volleyball Championships*. This will be possible thanks to Ron Wyzynski, whose years of negotiating with the Greater Columbus Convention Center enable us to use the facility at rates we can afford, together with the army of staff, officials, and laborers who work the event and assemble/disassemble the 60 courts.

The *Ohio Valley Region Boys' Regional Championships* will also get an incredible boost. For 2006, the *Boys' Championships* will become a 2-day tournament, showcasing volleyball at the *Arnold Classic Sports Festival* at the Veterans' Memorial in Columbus.

Men's and women's tournament quality

will increase through professional officiating not only for playoffs, but now also for pool play. This removes the requirement for players to become certified as officials, relieves teams of the responsibility to provide a first referee, and will improve officiating in the critical pool phase of adults' competition.

Brian Hemelgarn redesigned our professional officials' clinics, developing separate curricula and times for new officials, returning P1 and P2 officials, and returning Regional through National officials. These new formats will allow clinicians to focus officials' particular needs and expertise.

The OVR website will also offer new ways to help tournament directors and officials find each other efficiently, to ensure that registrations are completed promptly, to improve reporting of men's and women's tournament results and standings, and much more.

Please take some time to read the columns by OVR staff and officers, and look through the various results for your favorite teams. Above all, enjoy the best season yet in the Ohio Valley Region!

Election Results: OVR Board of Directors

8 strong candidates vied for 5 open board seats in the 2005 OVR election. OVR adult members cast 300 ballots at the April and May championships events and by mail in this hotly contested election.

Bill Zehler (234 votes), Terry Miller (207 votes), Art Faura (175 votes), Glenn Purdy (152 votes), and Kirby King (152 votes) placed 1st-5th, winning board seats. Keith Burke

(111 votes), Jeff Putz (70 votes), and Paul Claridades (63 votes) placed 6th-8th, missing seats for the current term.

The 3-year term for Bill, Terry, Art, Glenn, and Kirby begins on June 1, 2005, and extends through May 31, 2008. Elaine Viney, OVR Elections Chair, coordinated the election and counted ballots.



Bill Zehler



Terry Miller



Art Faura



Kirby King



Glenn Purdy