

Tournament directors,

As many of you are filling your tournaments and assigning referees, I want to send a reminder about hiring practices for non-OVR referees.

Most importantly, the OVR/USAV requires SafeSport training for all referees. The OVR referees are tracked in our system (and in USAV WebPoint) so that we know they have completed it.

Also, in the state of Ohio, sports officials are required to complete an online concussion management course, which is also tracked in the OVR database.

Non-OVR referees must also have these requirements fulfilled in order to officiate here. In that endeavor, YOU MUST NOTIFY ME of any non-OVR referees who request to work your tournaments. This serves a couple of important purposes:

1 - I verify that they are currently registered members of USA Volleyball in their "home" region and that they have a cleared USAV background screen.

2 - I verify that they are in good standing within their region and have completed their region's requirements to officiate this season.

3 - I ensure they have attended an OVR referee clinic or have completed appropriate OVR clinic material so that they are familiar with OVR procedures and policies.

4 - For those working in Pennsylvania, they may need an additional Pennsylvania background screen.

As you can see, we must be diligent with who we are hiring. Sometimes referees seek tournaments outside their region because they are not in good standing within their region or have not met their region's or USAV's requirements.

**IMPORTANT:** If you currently have any non-OVR referees assigned to your tournaments, please notify me immediately so that they can be confirmed. Also, non-OVR referees are not in our database, and therefore, they cannot be assigned through the OVR website. You won't find their names in the drop-down list.

Keep in mind that our preference is that you hire OVR referees if they are available. When their aren't enough OVR referees to cover your tournaments, we can seek non-OVR referees to fill those spots.

If you have any questions in this regard, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you, and have a great season! If you have any officiating questions, let me know.

Brian Hemelgarn  
OVR Referees' Chair