

Referees,

All of us have been impacted with loss of income during this crisis, whether from our "day job," from officiating, or both. Many people are filing for unemployment assistance.

As an important reminder if you are considering any type of financial assistance: You are NOT AN OVR EMPLOYEE. Each referee is his/her own boss as an independent contractor. Listing the OVR as an employer for your volleyball officiating income may actually delay any possible financial assistance; they/we will not be able to verify your normal officiating income, i.e., you don't receive a paycheck as an hourly or salaried OVR employee.

Having said that, there may be some opportunities for independent contractors to obtain unemployment assistance. Each state is handling this differently, but you may want to consider doing some research to see if you are eligible. It doesn't hurt to ask! All they can say is "no."

Here are a few links, and I'm sure you will be able to find others by doing a little research online:

OH - <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ouio/CoronavirusAndUI.stm>
PA - <https://www.uc.pa.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>
WV - <https://uc.workforcewv.org> and <https://workforcewv.org/>

Hope you and your families & friends are well! Stay safe & healthy!

Brian Hemelgarn
OVR Referees' Chair