

Sorry you didn't get this earlier! My laptop crashed shortly after we hosted our OVR referee virtual meeting a few weeks ago - which was quite an ordeal considering the amount of data, emails, etc., that I regularly use.

So, here are the key points from those virtual meetings:

1 - We had general discussions about high school volleyball, but matches had not begun at that time, so there were few specifics to offer. At this point, the junior high/high school seasons are underway, and I've been staying in touch with folks about their experiences. We'll share some of those in the coming weeks after we have more matches in the books.

2 - We also discussed the upcoming fall & spring collegiate seasons. We now know that NCAA Championships have been moved to the spring (April 23-25 according to yesterday's announcement. There will be an 11-week season starting January 22 and ending April 3. That will be followed by a modified post-season Championship tournament series.

I, and others, stressed the importance of PAVO membership renewal, clinic attendance (online), rules exams, etc. We simply MUST be ready to officiate when we are called into action.

3 - The use of facemasks and e-whistles (electronic), as well as other safety procedures and match protocols, was discussed. High school volleyball in OH, WV, and PA has already begun. We will draw on their experiences, as well as protocols published by collegiate conferences and the NCAA. Those will be combined with USAV protocols and state/local mandates to establish our safe officiating guidelines for the upcoming season.

4 - RECRUITING! With the collegiate & USAV juniors seasons overlapping this spring (and also with high school VB in some states that have moved it to the Spring), there is going to be a HUGE need for volleyball referees here and around the country. We have already begun a recruiting campaign through social media, but all OVR referees are encouraged to "bring a friend" into the officiating ranks. Preliminary info is on the OVR website:

<https://www.ovr.org/officiating/prospective.php>

5 - OVR Juniors update. Club directors are doing their best to keep their heads above water during this (financial) crisis. Facility owners and tournament hosts are in the same boat. As I've mentioned a couple of times, we MAY experience a temporary reduction in officiating fees as everyone gets their bearings. Any reduction in match fees has yet to be determined, but for a variety of reasons, it behooves us, as referees, to contribute to the successful resumption of play. (More on this topic in the coming weeks.)

We will host future virtual meetings for our referee cadre, so stay tuned.

Thank you,

Brian