

All,

THANK YOU for a great indoor season! What an awesome team of referees we have! Your work and commitment to the sport are truly appreciated. Although our work is done indoors, our Beach cadre is just getting into full swing. Good luck to all of them, and don't forget your sunblock!

Now some miscellaneous notes and updates as we head into the summer...

1 - Our Board of Directors meeting last weekend was very productive. Meeting minutes will be available online once the final version has been approved. You can find it here if you want to catch up on the topics we discussed and voted on: <https://www.ovr.org/executive/index.php#bmm>

One item of particular interest for you is the Board's approval of a pay increase for referees! Starting this coming season, fees for a best 2/3 match will go up \$2.50 per match. So the rates will be \$30, \$32.50 and \$35 for the respective certification levels. Thank our Board members when you see them! They recognize the importance of our work in ensuring the quality of our events.

2 - The USAV Open National Championships (ONC) concluded a couple weeks ago in Columbus. Very successful event!! Participants and referees got to see the city and venue that the OVR has been enjoying for many years. I bet it won't be another 19 years before the ONC returns to Columbus (last time we hosted was 2000)! Also, the referee cadre experimented with a couple new techniques, which we've also experimented with in the OVR: primarily, the 2nd referee does NOT repeat the 1st referee's signal sequence at the end of a rally (same as FIVB). Ask some of our National refs what they thought about it.

3 - The USAV Girls Junior National Championships will be in Indianapolis in a few weeks, and the Boys JNC will be in Dallas. Some of our Regional referees, in addition to Junior National and National referees, will be participating in Indy. We also have two Junior National referee candidates who will be going through the certification process there. Join me in wishing good luck to Jeff Kline and Scott O'Donnell!

4 - Speaking of higher level certifications, two weeks after receiving his National referee certification in Dallas, David Barnes also attained a Beach National certification on the sand in California! Not many folks can say they received their indoor and Beach National certifications in such a short time frame. Kudos, David!

5 - The USAV High Performance Championships will be taking place in mid-July in Ft. Lauderdale. At least three referees will be representing the OVR at that event: Josh Hall, Jared Malott and Scott Thompson. The HP Championships is being used for advanced high-level referee training, and these three will surely represent us well. When they return, be sure to pick their brains about the things they learned.

6 - We're finishing up edits with the new version of the USAV rulebook as we speak. (Probably won't be calling it the "DCR" any longer.) Lots of good stuff in there, so be sure to read it from cover to cover when you get your copy. ;)

7 - Nathan Mahaven and I both have some international assignments this summer/early fall. We'll do our best to share those experiences with you so that we can all learn from them. Should be interesting stuff. Have you seen the new "end court judges" at the VNL (Volleyball Nations League) matches on TV?! Check out NBC Sports, where the USA matches are being aired. In fact, the USA is hosting the VNL Finals this summer! This is THE premier volleyball event in the world, aside from the Olympic Games. VNL: <http://www.volleyball.world/en/vnl>

8 - Remember, we have our NCAA/PAVO National Clinic in Cleveland on August 11. I'll send more details in a separate note in a few weeks.

I'll be in touch again during the summer months with any relevant news items. Until then, be safe, have fun, and enjoy your break!

Best,

Brian Hemelgarn
OVR Referees' Chair