

# THE OFFICIAL WORD NEWSLETTER



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### A tale of visits to two cities

*By Joan Powell*

*President of PAVO Board of Directors*

My last two adventures are distinctly different, but worth sharing with all of you.

I was fortunate to travel to Beijing with the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) and many of the team leaders representing most of the sports participating in this summer's Olympics. The USOC is very committed to backing their member organizations with all the support they can muster. We met everyday with committee organizers; one day we were taken on a tour of the venues, which are still under construction. Beijing is hopping with workers.

I met someone who frequents China; they told me that 1,500 cars are introduced into Beijing traffic everyday. He recalled when there were only one or two lanes of traffic, the other three dedicated to bicycles. Now it is reversed.

I was foolish, but after the 12-hour flight from San Francisco and an afternoon arrival, I went for a run - outside! Needless to say, there were no other joggers. The air quality is not that of my home state, Colorado. I passed many workers on their way home - each with a hard hat and a shovel. I also ran by many embassies with a military presence.

On my return to the hotel, I decided to get up early on the remaining days of my visit and use the fitness center in the Beijing Hilton instead. I used the treadmill with my own TV, so I watched CNN each morning. Interestingly, every time news anchor Wolf Blitzer started talking about the situation in Tibet, the screen would go black. The picture returned when the news changed to politics in the United States or some other "appropriate" topic.

The Chinese people were outstanding and excited about hosting the Games. We ate some terrific food and met by some great people. Ali Wood, beach team leader, Hugh McCutcheon, our men's head coach and Rob Browning, the men's team leader were certainly great mentors. I had a break one afternoon while waiting for my scheduled personal meetings with the USOC, so I grabbed a cab and went to the Silk Market. Oh my, what an experience. I was just sad my time was so limited.

I could not leave Beijing without seeing Tiananmen Square. After our last evening social with a British contingency (preparing for the 2012 London Olympics), Ali, my roommate, and I went to the Square. It was unbelievable walking the streets in front of the Square and the "Forbidden City."

I am so looking forward to August to see the accomplishments of the host city.

I went from the "Forbidden City" to the "Live Music Capital of the World," Austin, Texas. Unfortunately, I was unable to enjoy this city's forte, but I enjoyed myself none the less.

Several months ago, Anne Pufahl invited me to join her at the National Intramural Recreation and Sports Association (NIRSA) conference to address collegiate intramural directors in charge of training volleyball officials.

Karen Gee and I were assigned to this gig about 10 years ago. As Anne said, "It brings you back to your

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*President's Message*  
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roots." The University of Texas hosted our six-hour day. We were in a great facility with round tables and comfortable chairs. Anne prepared the PowerPoint presentation, and the twenty or so participants were exposed to a great deal of information. But most importantly, the sharing between the participants was the most productive part of the clinic. After lunch we walked across the hallway into the beautiful recreation center gym for some practical lessons. Trainees participated on court as players or referees. Everyone enjoyed themselves.

When we were discussing sanctions, I told the group a story of my last experience, when Karen Gee and I were the NIRSA trainers 10 years ago. After explaining the use of yellow and red cards, a hand was raised in the audience. The young gal said that she did not think

that the use of cards was going to mean much to her particular league participants. It seems she worked in the correctional system - she was in charge of intramurals in a prison!!! She told us that cards were of no real consequence to her players. The usual "sanctions" of taking away food, recreation time or other privileges would mean more!

As I prepare to attend the highest level of our game, Anne was right, I am so fortunate to return to the grassroots. After all, I started refereeing CYO volleyball - nine on a side - on Tucson asphalt - officiating on a turned-over garbage can for five bucks. As the phrase goes, "You've come a long way, baby!"

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## GLENN'S UPDATE

*By Glenn Sapp  
VP Official's Division*

The Officials Division had our meeting in March. We covered many topics and accomplished a good deal in our three days together.

Two issues of major importance were 1) establishing how the Officials Division would elect the "Officials" delegate to the Board of Directors and 2) giving thoughts on how our "Division" should be reorganized under the new USAV structure.

As you read this, the Delegate election is taking place. It was decided for this first election that we will vote electronically using a similar system as that used for PAVO elections. There is a slight modification in that the Delegate elected must have greater than 50% majority meaning the field of Delegates will be pared down until there is a clear majority winner. This will require a number of ballots before the election is complete. After this election, the new "Assembly" may decide to change this method of election, and they will have the three year term of the Delegate to make that decision. The members of the Division who met in the spring wanted to include other Officials Organizations (such as Federation) but since it appears they do not have a means of reaching all of their members in an electronic fashion coupled with the time constraints of completing the election by the May Board meeting that this should be left to the future leaders of the "Officials Assembly". Yes, with this change, there will be new nomenclatures; heck, it's taken me four years to learn the current ones!

Another accomplishment was to establish our thoughts on how the new Officials Assembly should look. With this said, we do not control this issue, that will be up to the future leadership but we would have been remiss if we just let others

control the Divisions destiny without thoughtful input for the future. The Assembly will be USAV staff driven while "lay" (volunteer, just as now) leadership will have direct input. The organization, if accepted, will be a bit flatter with more emphasis on grass roots training and getting materials out to the Officials and the Regions to help them grow and develop. You are probably seeing some of that now with the proposed training session in Dallas in November and the proposed traveling "National Clinic" program that has been discussed in the past.

There were other topics of discussion such as renaming the Gold and Silver Whistle/Pen awards after prominent past figures in USAV history. This was rejected because generally those types of awards are service based over a period of time and the Official Division awards noted above are performance awards based upon a short time period of work.

We covered a number of other topics such as where the respective sub committees currently are in training and development. As always growth and stimulation of growth was a major topic and a committee has been formed to review possible reciprocity for Federation Officials with USAV and exploratory inquiry with PAVO as well. A committee was formed to review and make recommendations on minimum standards for "Good Standing" within the Regions and for USAV National level officials. Finally, and we won't go into detail at this time as there are a number of hoops to still get through, there were proposals on setting minimal standards for Juniors who are scorekeepers and second referees during the season.

More to come after the meetings in May.



## ELECTION 2008

**PAVO looks to elect new president and director at large**

*By Dale Goodwin  
PAVO Interim Board Member*

PAVO members will be asked to elect a president and a director at large to its 12-member Board of Directors when ballots are distributed in October. Nominations for both positions will be accepted until Aug. 15.

The president who is elected will serve a four-year term from 2009-2012. The first year will be served in the role of president-elect, the second and third years as president, and the fourth year as past president.

As president-elect and past president, the officer will chair the Nominating and Honor Award committees, among other duties as assigned by the president. As president, the elected candidate will direct the affairs of the board, preside at all meetings, set agendas and represent PAVO at other volleyball and officiating gatherings. The president must have previous board experience or have served in leadership positions on their local PAVO boards.

The director at large will be elected to serve a three-year term, from 2009-2011. The board delegate is required to attend annual board meetings usually held in February or March, foster positive relationships with local PAVO boards by addressing local board and member issues that arise, and undertake other assignments as directed by the president.

Both positions require a PAVO member who is in good standing.

Members may nominate themselves or anybody who they feel will serve the organization well. Those who nominate themselves should include a letter of application and a brief volleyball resume to [past.president@pavo.org](mailto:past.president@pavo.org) by Aug. 15.

Questions can be directed to Dale Goodwin at (509) 323-6133 or a [past.president@pavo.org](mailto:past.president@pavo.org).



## CONVENTION 2008

**Planning already underway for volleyball extravaganza in Omaha**

*By Dale Goodwin  
PAVO Interim Board Member*

It was just 16 months ago that volleyball officials from all over the country met in Omaha for the annual PAVO Convention. The annual officials' confab was so much fun that we're going to try it again.

The wheels already are turning at PAVO Central as organizers are putting together a program that will appeal to newer collegiate officials as well as long timers.

Conflict resolution will be a major topic of discussion during the 13th annual convention, set for Dec. 18-20, 2008.

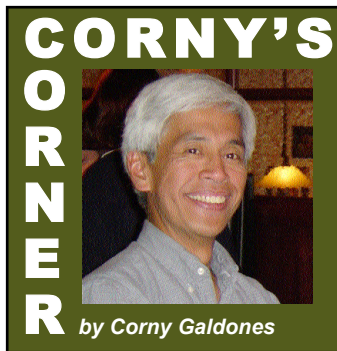
Coach-referee relations and communication among the game's participants are subjects that will be addressed in 2008. The essence of quality line judging, keys to recruiting officials, sports psychology, veteran officials bantering about keys to good mental preparation, and an organizational overview of PAVO - what we do, who does what, and how we can better help individual members - are among other topics being considered for break-out sessions.

PAVO is interested in hearing from members with ideas for the various sessions. Send your ideas to [past.president@pavo.org](mailto:past.president@pavo.org).

The Doubletree Hotel, just six blocks from the Qwest Center where the Final Four matches will be played, will serve as the host hotel.

Registration for the 2008 convention will be available online in approximately a month at [www.pavo.org](http://www.pavo.org).

Questions or suggestions? Please contact Dale Goodwin at [past.president@pavo.org](mailto:past.president@pavo.org).



## GOOD SECOND REFEREES ARE HARD TO COME BY

*By Corny Galdones*

Anyone can serve as a second referee and has. Many a hopeless R2 partner who hugged the pole and held onto to the whistle all match long have tortured us. Little did they know that more is demanded from a second referee than just calling net and centerline violations. One must be on top of a load of other duties to do the job right.

The moments between plays can be hectic for a second referee. There are benches to scan and control, requests for substitutions, time outs and line up checks to fulfill, floor and scoring issues to tend and areas to police, all without delay. If a coach nears the sideline to question or argue across court with the first referee about a call, jump right in as the R2 and intercept the coach. Explain, calm, charm and if all else fails, command, to sit the coach back down. Whatever you do, don't stand by quaking in your shoes and let the R1 suffer abuse. Get your behind out in front to take the heat and cool down the situation. Serving and protecting the R1 is not to be treated lightly as it often is. It's important, very important.

With much to do before the serve and little time to do it, sorting out the complex receive formations of today for overlaps can send an R2's head spinning. Unlike a fan, an official must be aware of how each position player plays. The setter, swing hitter, middle, opposite, libero and defensive specialist each has specific roles and assumes certain spots on the court depending on the offense or defense being run. Learning them simplifies detecting overlaps.

Overlaps come in two basic flavors. In the first type, a player's foot is past an adjacent player's foot

at service contact. Whistling this is okay provided it's gross. If it's minor, give the team a chance to fix it first by warning its coach without the opponents noticing. Being picky of the rules brings grief more than anything else. The key is to build rapport and trust by figuring out when it's best to apply the rules. In the second type, the players are out of rotation. Nail this one. It's big. Everything revolves around the setter. Look there for a possible overlap. Don't stop. Go over the rest of the receive formation too.

After checking for overlaps, there usually is a lull before the serve is made. Don't waste this time waiting. Put it to good use. Study each team to gather info that will help on back row violations when play starts and on overlaps when the teams side out. Is the setter "live" or in the back row? Who's opposite the setter in the rotation? Who's next to the setter? What's the order of the front row players? Where's the cute blond? Every inside tidbit helps.

Throughout a rally, be quick as an R2 to move and park on the blockers' side before the attackers' second contact. Don't stare at the net and centerline until a potential violation arises there. Instead, view the action. Know exactly what's going on to be able to address queries from coaches and players when play ends. Watch for ball handling screened away from the R1, attacks or blocks by a back row player, plays over the top of the net and pancakes. To catch faults in these situations, the first referee needs an extra pair of eyes. They're yours, the R2.

Being a second referee isn't easy as most folks think. Only the good ones pass the test.





## PAVO BOARD MEETING IN KANSAS CITY

### I Almost Got Blown Away!

By Peggy Schaefer  
Board Delegate

The PAVO Board of Directors met for its annual work meeting February 29-March 2 in Kansas City. Since the board members come from all over the country, Kansas City seemed like a great central location that was easy for all to travel to. But the wind that weekend was strong, at times gusting to 60 - 80 mph! Coming from mild North Carolina, I was surprised by this wind storm, and also surprised with the wind storm of work that was planned for the weekend!

The meeting started with the directors' reports that chronicled all the activities conducted by each board member, President Joan Powell and Executive Director, Marcia Alterman. I was so impressed with everyone's commitment to servicing our association and all our members. From e-mails and phone calls from Miki Kennedy to organizing and running a spring camp with Julie Voeck, all the members sincerely looked for ways to help our membership grow and for our officials to become better referees.

On the second day, after assessing what was accomplished, we began to discuss our goals for the next year. I hope our members are as excited as I am to learn that we will be upgrading our web services, and we will begin offering official training courses in an on-line format!

The Board of Directors discussed development of different course topics and entry-level certifications that members can all take while sitting in the comfort of their desk chairs. Using technology to help us all communicate better and receive national news and rule interpretation letters is an achievement and a benefit we will all see next year.

We also talked about the new rule changes and how we will prepare officials for them. All of us share the same concern, and that is for all officials to be consistent and judicious in applying the rules. Workshop topics for our popular OTP clinics were discussed as well.

As many of you know, our PAVO Convention will be held December 18-20, 2008 and we'll be back in Omaha. The Board of Directors read your comments from the Sacramento convention to begin planning for the '08 event. I think you'll be **blown** away when you see what we've got planned!

Speaking of being **blown** away...did I mention how windy it was in Kansas City?



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## JUNIOR NATIONAL RATING TEAM OBSERVATIONS

### USAV Junior National Rating Team (reprinted from Oct 2006)

As evaluations of Junior National candidates occurred during the past few rating years, the raters are noticing some common areas where improvement is highly recommended for future candidates. Not only new Junior Nationals, but all referees may want to do some self-evaluation in these areas. This is especially true when training and evaluating others.

Many referees probably still don't get enough practice working as or with a second referee. There generally isn't enough communication between the first and second referees during a match. First referees need to take advantage of the opportunity of having a trained and competent partner and allow them to make their calls, look for help when appropriate, and include them in their scan at the end of the rally before showing a signal. This is what is being referred to as "centering" at the OTP clinics this summer.

Both first and second referees need to use the proper USAV signal sequence when the second referee is whistling a fault, i.e. the second referee steps to the side of the net where the fault occurs, indicates the fault and the player committing the fault, then waits for the first referee to make the loss of rally signal. The first referee gathers this information and then awards the serve to the proper team without repeating the fault signal. The second referee then mimics the first referee's loss of rally signal.

It is obvious that the Regions are doing a much better job of training the R2 transition mechanics. Remember to move with a purpose to get into position by the time the setter plays the ball. Then, watch the play develop through the net or around the pole. Where is the set going? Is the Libero in the front zone? Is the attacker front-row or back-row? The second referee should be able to help with illegal attacks and illegal blocks. As the ball comes to the net, change your focus to the blockers and your primary responsibilities to the net and centerline violations, touches, and balls hitting or crossing the net outside of your antennae.

Time management is always an issue. Time wasted between matches adds up and adversely affects the

poor referees working the last match(es) on that court. These referees could be eating an earlier dinner or enjoying more bedtime if even half an hour had been saved by referees on earlier matches. When a match is completed and the teams for the next match have taken the floor, the coin toss should be administered and the warm-up time should be started immediately. There should still be enough time to deal with scoresheets or personal needs, locate the game ball if it's missing, and brief the rest of the officiating team if you plan all these things beforehand. As long as one referee stays on the court to administer the warm-up, the other can be away for a very short time, and they can take turns. The key is to have a plan.

A rather new point of emphasis deals with interruptions of play and the "ready" signal. If the scorekeeper is still working through a recording issue, the other team is requesting a sub, the line judge or a player is tying a shoe, the game ball is not in the server's possession, or the second referee is not in position for the next serve with whistle in mouth, the match is not ready to proceed and the second referee should not be returning the court to the first referee with a "ready" signal. The second referee needs to do a full scan of the court before giving it back to the first referee. "Ready" means the match is ready to resume, not "I'm ready when you think everyone else is". Yes, there may be a slightly longer delay while making sure the scorekeeper records all of the substitutions in the first multi-substitution situation but in our haste to resume the match, we can get ourselves into bigger problems and longer delays because we are not taking the time to make sure the court is truly ready to be turned back to the first official and for the match to resume.

Over the years, the level of new Junior National candidates has dramatically improved. As the level of play and players elevates, our level of officiating must keep up. For those who are preparing to officiate at a national level, please keep these tips in mind as you prepare for your next level. For those wily veterans out there, pass on these tidbits to those that you mentor - and use them yourselves.



## USA-INTERNATIONAL SCOREKEEPER COMMISSION

Janet Blue, AVP  
USA-International Scorekeeper Commission

### Upcoming Events

#### **World League**

World League matches will be contested in June and July at three sights in the U.S. The following certified scorekeepers have been assigned as the primary scorekeepers: **Cathy Hoy** (Lone Star) to Hoffman Estates, Illinois, where the men will play Bulgaria; **Amber Fulk** (Carolina) to Green Bay, Wisconsin, where the men will play Finland; and **Emi Vishoot** (Ohio Valley) to Bloomington, Illinois, where the men will play Spain.

Assistant scorekeepers, **Roger Ozima** and **Randy Leaver** (Great Lakes) have been assigned to the Hoffman Estates matches. The remainder of the assistant scorekeepers has as yet to be determined.

#### **High Performance Tournament**

This year's High Performance Tournament will be held in Tucson, Arizona, from July 22 through 27. As in the past, three qualified USA-International scorekeepers have been assigned to work the premier/training court where they will receive training involving FIVB protocol and procedures. They are **Thang Nguyen** (Lone Star), **Jimmy McKinzey** (Ohio Valley) and **Nicki Fisaga** (Gateway). **Donna Wigton** (Rocky Mountain) will serve as the Scorekeeper Supervisor for this court.

For the first time in the nine year history of this event we are being afforded the opportunity to assign scorekeepers to work all courts. This will provide invaluable experience for both our certified and qualified scorekeepers in use of the FIVB scoresheet. I am pleased to announce that four of our certified scorekeepers will participate. **Sue Mailhot** (Great Plains) will serve as the Head Scorekeeper. The following individuals will attend at their own expense with only room and a daily match fee provided. Certified scorekeepers working matches will be **Terry Lawton** (Southern California), **Kim Williams** (Puget Sound) and **Becky Brockney** (Rocky Mountain). The qualified scorekeepers working the event will be **Rob Brecheisen** (Gulf Coast), **Sonny Fernandez** (Lone Star), **Nancy Funk** and **Mary Uhlmann** (Pioneer), **Margo Juergens** (Oklahoma), **Dan Kitchel** (Lakeshore), **Debra LeValley** and **Renee Paser-Paull** (Garden Empire), **Roger Ozima** (Great Lakes), and **Jenny Vogt** (Puget Sound).

A few of the above individuals have previously worked on the premier court. Along with our already certified scorekeepers they should be excellent role models for the newcomers. Other than the Open Tournament this is the best opportunity

our commission has ever been given to assign so many individuals from so many different regions. If all goes well, the commission looks forward to doing this in the future and giving many more of our certified and qualified scorekeepers the unique opportunity of working this event.

#### **Boys' Youth NORCECA Championship**

This prestigious event will be held in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, from July 31 through August 10. I expect to assign four certified scorekeepers to this event. To date one assignment has been made. That person is **Debbie Reed** (Chesapeake).

#### **IRTC Clinic - Atlanta**

**The mandatory clinic for those wishing to receive Open assignments will be held on Friday, May 23 from 1 to 2:30 p.m.** All certified and qualified USA-International scorekeepers are asked to attend. Anyone wishing to become a candidate for qualification should also attend.

Reminder: When attending the National tournament, all certified and qualified USA-International scorekeepers, in order to maintain their ranking, are required (unless assigned to an Open match) to do one practice scoresheet on an Open match and return it to me for review. Many of you continue to ignore this crucial requirement; though, you do continue to come to the clinic each year. Without these practice matches, I do not consider you as qualified and you cannot expect to receive Open assignments.

Prior to arriving in Atlanta, I will be making first-day assignments based on those certified and qualified scorekeepers who have been confirmed as attending the first session of the National Tournament. If you will be doing this but do not plan to attend the clinic, please send me an e-mail (JBB4vbirtc@aol.com) so I do not assign you.

#### **USA-International Scorekeeper Manual**

I am in the process of updating the reformatting our manual and it will be posted on the USAV web-site sometime prior to Nationals. I will have an e-mail sent to all National scorekeepers after this is done so that you may access, download, print and bring with you to the clinic.

Included will be a section on the Quick Substitutions method. This method will be covered at the clinic as it will be used for World League and the High Performance tournament as well as the Open Tournament if the proper equipment can be secured prior to that event.

I look forward to seeing you Atlanta.





## PAVO-OTP CLINIC SCHEDULE - 2008

PAVO will host 29 clinics this summer spanning five weekends. The planned sites and hosts are listed below. For details regarding locations and start times please contact your host directly.

All clinic registration will again be done online. The 2008 clinic fees will remain the same:

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>PRE-REGISTERED, PRE-PAID ONLINE</b>	<b>WALK-IN (Payable at the door)</b>
Current PAVO Member	\$15 + local charges	\$25 + local charges
Non-PAVO member, non-collegiate referee	\$20 + local charges	\$30 + local charges
Non-PAVO member, women's collegiate referee	\$75 + local charges	\$85 + local charges

26-Jul	Bay St Louis, MS	Doug Couvillon	dac121460@bellsouth.net
26-Jul	Los Angeles, CA	Verna Klubnikin	roofsport@aol.com
26-Jul	Indianapolis, IN	Bill Thornburgh	wthornbu@yahoo.com
27-Jul	Minneapolis, MN	Jim Singer	fjsinger@msn.com
27-Jul	Murfreesboro, TN	Elaine Mitchell	earl_warpool@bellsouth.net
02-Aug	Chicago, IL	Jennifer Mahler	jmahler@bigten.org
02-Aug	Hartford, CT	Jung Park	nwvcl@comcast.net
02-Aug	Fort Worth, TX	Carlos Rodriguez	losref@aol.com
03-Aug	Denver, CO	Alan Suzuki	asuzuki@wac.org
03-Aug	New Brunswick, NJ	Norb Psuty	psuty@marine.rutgers.edu
03-Aug	Louisville, KY	Nancy Funk	nfunk@insightbb.com
03-Aug	Chapel Hill, NC	Tad Watson	twatson@nc.rr.com
09-Aug	San Francisco, CA	Norma Carr	carrvb@msn.com
09-Aug	Bismark, ND	Dorothy Lick	dorothy@ndba.com
09-Aug	Tampa, FL	Eric Vlahov	evlahov@ut.edu
10-Aug	East Lansing, MI	Ann Hutchins	annhutchins@hotmail.com
10-Aug	Harrisburgh, PA	Trevor Zahniser	trevorz@paonline.com
10-Aug	Birmingham, AL	Pat Martin	riveroaks@msn.com
16-Aug	Parkersburg, WV	Karen King	kingsb@verizon.net
16-Aug	Omaha, NE	Bill Stanley	hopsinc@cox.net
16-Aug	Baltimore, MD	Arlene Geppi	ageppi@aol.com
17-Aug	Phoenix, AZ	Jim Feickert	jwfeickert@aol.com
17-Aug	Wichita, KS	Linda Frazier	linfraz@swbell.net
23-Aug	Boston, MA	Steve Webster	steve@srwebster.com
23-Aug	Austin, TX	Carlos Rodriguez	losref@aol.com
23-Aug	Tacoma, WA	Marc Blau	blaumarc@qwest.net
24-Aug	Albany, NY	Mara Wager	mara_97@hotmail.com
24-Aug	Spokane, WA	Dale Goodwin	goodwin@gu.gonzaga.edu
24-Aug	Lorain, OH	Diane Plas	jplas@prodigy.net



## 2007-08 USAV RULES INTERPRETATION BULLETIN #2

1. After Team A's first or second team contact, the ball travels toward the middle of the net. A player from Team B places his hands near the net (on his side of the net) in the path of the ball. The ball contacts the net, which causes the net to contact the stationary hand(s) of the Team B player. This action deflects the ball and affects the natural rebound of the ball from the net.

**Ruling:** *Since the player on Team B moved to place their hands in the path of the ball, the net touch in this action meets the USAV/FIVB interpretation of "interferes with play" in Rule 11.3.1, and should be called a net fault by the Team B player.*

2. Is a player permitted to have one uniform number as a "regular" player and then have a different number when she is the designated Libero provided neither number is a duplicate of a teammate's number?

**Ruling:** *Each player must have a single unique number recorded on the team's roster. If a player will be participating as a "regular" player and as the Libero during the same match, the player's uniform number must be the same on each jersey.*

3. Based upon USAV 8.4.2f, if the ball hits an official (referee or line judge), should the rally be replayed, or is the ball ruled "out?"

**Ruling:** *When the ball simply hits an official, it is ruled as "out." If a player makes contact, or there is anticipation of contact, with an official in the playing area, and the contact or anticipation of contact prevents the player from making a play on the ball, the rally may be replayed at the first referee's discretion.*

4. The head coach is standing near the warm-up area at the end of the team bench in the vicinity of the end

line extension. From this location, the coach requests a substitution. Should the referees accept this request from the coach?

**Ruling:** *If the referees see this request, it should be accepted. The coach should be reminded that there is less chance that the referees will miss the request if the coach is closer to the substitution zone.*

5. A player is wearing a hard plaster cast on her hand/wrist/forearm. The cast is padded with shock-absorbing foam. Is it legal for the player to participate while wearing this cast?

**Ruling:** *While USAV 4.5.1 may seem to offer this option, by interpretation, a hard plaster or fiberglass cast may not be worn on the hand/wrist/forearm, no matter how it is padded.*

6. Team A has used all twelve of its team substitutions. During a dead ball, the second referee recognizes that a substitute is running toward the substitution zone to enter the set. Should the second referee allow the substitute to enter the substitution zone, or should the second referee attempt to prevent the player from entering the sub zone to avoid an improper request or delay situation?

**Ruling:** *Good referees understand their role in the flow of the match. Their job is to prevent teams from enacting procedural errors whenever possible instead of trying to "catch" a team making a mistake. Good referees facilitate play, providing the players a safe, fair environment. In this spirit, preventing the player from entering the substitution zone, without interrupting the flow of the match, is a correct action by the referee. Again, the flow of the match should not be affected, and even if the player misses the referee's preventive effort, the result might only be an Improper Request.*



## DON'T FORGET!

Your PAVO dues are payable by June 1, and late fees go in effect on July 1!



## PAVO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEET

### Tough Topics Tackled by PAVO Board of Directors

By Marcia Alterman  
PAVO Executive Director

The PAVO Board of Directors met in Kansas City during the first weekend in March, and tackled many pertinent and timely issues. Each PAVO director provided a report on their area of responsibility, and the various programs were carefully reviewed.

The pervasive themes throughout the weekend seemed to center on technology and best use of funds. As each topic was discussed, it seemed that there was always an answer that could be provided by improved technology - then all the directors had to do was figure out some way to fund it!

A new and improved look to the PAVO website, with increased services for members and enhanced usability is one very visible change that will soon take effect. The new site is being developed now, and will provide increased use of video training, a better search feature for third-parties who seek officials, and a cleaner look overall. The directors will also be reviewing companies that provide online training software, to consider web-based training as a part of most, if not all, PAVO certification levels.

In the future, the website may be developed to allow for online payment of member dues and accommodate camp and convention registrations, as well. If possible, a "one-stop shopping" venue might allow members to pay their dues, register for their clinic, and purchase both their rule book and Guidebook in one sitting. The viability of those changes will be reviewed and tested carefully before implementation.

Technology will also play a role in enhancing the camp experience for those who participate in that program. For camps that offer video reviews, PAVO has invested in new hardware and software

that allow short clips to be captured "on the fly", making the post-match review process much more efficient. That equipment and process is being tweaked at the 2008 camps.

The concept of computerized scorekeeping will be researched. The FIVB is using a prototype of this (as a backup to the paper scoresheet). While the general use of computerized scorekeeping may be in the future, it is certainly a topic to be considered.

The tentative budget for 2009 was approved, with several noted changes and additions. More detailed information on the financial status of PAVO and the budget will be provided by Karen Gee', Finance Director. But highlights of the budget items include:

- There will be a slight increase in the OTP Clinic registration fees next year (2009). This increase affects the amount that PAVO charges for each OTP clinic (hosts may charge additional amounts to cover facility costs and supplies). The fee for PAVO members who pre-register online will increase to \$25, and the fee for non-member, non-collegiate referees will increase to \$30. For the 2008 clinics, the pre-registration fees remain the same (\$15 for PAVO members, \$20 for non-member, non-collegiate referees, and \$75 for non-member, collegiate referees; an additional \$10 will be charged for on site payments [walk-ins].)
- As the group considered the best use of funds-on-hand, a grant program was established for local boards who take on special training, recruiting, or retention programs.
- Some Director positions will be budgeted for a stipend, to be paid annually.

*Continued on page 13*



## USA-INTERNATIONAL REFEREE COMMISSION

By Tom Blue  
AVP, USA-International Referee Commission

Big news on the international front includes proposals for Rule changes from the FIVB Rules of the Game Commission (ROGC) to the FIVB World Congress this June. A Quick Substitution method similar to the one used in the USA will be proposed as will a new net fault rule (11.3.1) that states "Contact with the net is not a fault, unless it interferes with play." The phrase "...unless it is made during the action of playing the ball..." is removed from the Rule. Basically, this means the whistle will be blown only if the top of the net is touched at the moment of an attack or block; the setter uses the net for support while setting; a player deflects a ball through the net, not allowing it to rebound naturally; or a player touches the net and hinders an opponent's legitimate attempt to play the ball.

Also being proposed is the addition of Rule 22.2.3.3 which empowers both First and Second referees to whistle attack faults by back row or Libero players.

Another proposal by the ROGC is to test a change in the center line penetration rule which would permit touching of the opponent's court by any part of the body above the foot if the action does not interfere with play. Touching the opponent's court with the foot/feet would continue to require that some part of the foot/feet is on or directly above the center line.

The USA International Referee roster remains steady with fifteen active International Referees as we find a balance between fulfilling our obligations to supply referees to international matches and finding enough work to keep them busy and their skills sharp.

The third annual International Referee Seminar will be held in Atlanta this May in conjunction with the USA Volleyball annual meetings and the USA

Championships. Our International Referees will take part in the National Referee Clinic to be given in Atlanta, and they will be participating in the Championship event. USA-National Referees who are qualified to work the Open Division at the USA Championships should have received their notification of eligibility and should be making plans to attend the Open Clinic in Atlanta on Friday afternoon.

FIVB has announced the roster of International Referees who will participate in the Olympic Games in Beijing, and **Patty Salvatore** will be among them. This will be her second Olympic Games as a referee for Volleyball. Patty and **Joel Reinford** will also be working this year as referees for FIVB's World League, the premiere annual event for the sixteen strongest Men's teams on the planet. Joel will also officiate at the Men's Olympic Qualification event in Portugal this May. The USA's Men's team continues to be one of the strongest in World League competition and will be hosting weekend events in Hoffman Estates, IL, on June 20-21; Green Bay, WI, on June 27-28; and Bloomington, IL, on July 11-12. **Pati Rolf** and **Brian Hemelgarn** will be serving as reserve referees for the USA hosted matches. Many USA-National and Junior National Referees and certified and qualified International Scorekeepers will be helping USA Volleyball at these weekends, serving as line judges and primary/assistant scorekeepers, respectively.

NORCECA events occupy the bulk of the international schedule this summer. **Steve Thorpe** will accompany the Men's team to the Men's Pan-American Cup in Winnipeg, and **Kevin Wendelboe** will go with the Women's team to the Women's Pan-American Cup in Tijuana/Mexicali. NORCECA will conduct its Junior and Youth

*Continued on page 13*



*International Referee Commission*  
continued from page 12

Continental Championships this summer. **Paul Albright** will accompany the USA Men's Junior team to El Salvador, **Mary Blalock** will go with the Women's Junior team to Saltillo, Mexico, **Christian Genitrini** will be at the Boy's Youth Championship to be hosted by USA Volleyball in Fort Lauderdale, and **Hansen Leong** will travel to Puerto Rico with the USA Girl's Youth squad. USA-National and Junior National Referees and certified USA-International Scorekeepers will be part of the Officiating team at the NORCECA Boy's Youth event in Fort Lauderdale.

The World Military Sports Organization (CISM) will conduct the World Military Volleyball Championships in Germany this summer. **Julie Voeck** and **Hansen Leong** have been invited to accompany the USA Armed Forces all-star team to this event.

The ninth edition of the USA High Performance event will be held in Tucson, Arizona, this July. The Regions have recommended a list of USA-National and Junior National Referees to officiate at this event and thirty will be selected to attend and receive mentoring from National Referees **Kathy Ferraraccio** and **Gloria Cox** as well as International Referees **Steve Robb** and **Ken Taylor**. **Neill Luebke** will be serving as the Referee Supervisor for the event and will be giving intensive training to four USA-National Referees invited to officiate on the premiere court. They are **Nathan Mahaven** of Ohio Valley Region; **Travis Karlin** of North Country; **Bill Stanley** of Great Plains and **Bill Thornburgh** of Hoosier.

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*Board of Directors meeting*  
continued from page 11

- Additional PAVO scholarships will be funded in 2009 for camp registrants and NRT candidates. Criteria for the scholarships will be developed and publicized.

A committee was established to consider a change to the line judge certification program, possibly providing two certification levels based on experience and/or performance.

A change will be suggested regarding the PAVO/USAV Interface Committee process. Currently, that group meets only once per year, traditionally at the USAV Adult Championships. The PAVO representatives will suggest at this year's meeting that the representatives for each organization should be identified at the first of each year, serve for a term of one year, and address issues throughout the year via email, conference call, etc. An open "reporting" meeting

will be held at both the USAV Adult Championships and the PAVO Convention. On a related topic, this year's Interface meeting will have a uniform review on the agenda, as the group has been asked numerous times to consider allowing a "dry-fit" style of shirt.

On Sunday, the Directors were separated into various work groups, and tackled issues like:

- Convention planning
- Review Board Handbook and Operating Code
- Recruiting and retention efforts
- Referee certification criteria review

A plethora of topics were reviewed, and a long "to-do" list was established as the Directors continue to work hard to make PAVO a true service organization for members and the volleyball community.



## NATIONAL RATING TEAM NEWS

### Twenty-three candidates will seek their National rating in 2008

By Mike Carter  
PAVO National Rating Team Director

Twenty-three candidates will go for their PAVO National badges during the 2008 collegiate season, with ratings taking place at five sites.

The first ratings will take place Aug. 29 and 30 at the University of Texas-El Paso and Sam Houston State University, followed by the University of Missouri-Kansas City on Sept. 5-6, the University of South Florida (Sept. 19-20) and concluding at the University of South Carolina-Upstate on the weekend of Nov. 21-22.

Of the 23 candidates chosen for 2008, three are reciprocal candidates from USA Volleyball. Even with the addition of the South Carolina site, which has the capacity to host six candidates, eight of the 31 referees who applied were not selected this year. That is slightly lower than the yearly average of 10 to 12 denials.

An article in the June edition of the *Official Word* will provide training tips and suggestions to help candidates prepare for their endeavor, and provide tips for officials applying for 2009.

"Future candidates should include only collegiate and USA Volleyball experience on their resumes and applications for 2009," said Mike Carter, director of the National Rating Team. "A strong high school resume does not indicate being qualified for PAVO National Referee, nor do line judge assignments at the Division I or Division II level."

PAVO extends a thank-you to all National referees who wrote recommendations for this year's candidates and affiliated boards for preparing their candidates.

Thanks to each of you for making our program a success.

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## THE NCAA RULES PROCESS

### - How are changes made?

*By Marcia Alterman  
NCAA Rules Interpreter*

This year's rule changes range from relatively inconsequential to a couple with significant impact. I'm often asked about the rule change process, and how changes are decided on. It's an interesting process, and one that none of the rules committee members take lightly.

The voting members of the NCAA rules committee are volleyball coaches or administrators representing all three NCAA Divisions. The NCAA has guidelines about a minimum percentage of members who must be in an administrative role at their schools. Sometimes, a member is both a coach and an administrator, and that helps achieve that minimum requirement. NCAA regulations do not allow differentiation of the rules by division in any sport.

At the annual committee meeting, there are several people present besides the voting members. Invitations to attend are sent to a USAV representative (either the chair of the Rules Testing Commission or the Rules Interpreter), National Federation of High School Associations (NFHS) representative, and an NCAA actively-working official. The NCAA Rules Interpreter (me) and an NCAA staff liaison facilitate the meeting.

Suggestions for changes come from a variety of sources. Any coach at an NCAA member institution can complete a "Rules Change Proposal" form; the form must be signed by two coaches from other NCAA institutions to be considered. The committee also reviews reports on injuries provided by the NCAA via the injury surveillance system that trainers use to submit data. The differences between USAV/FIVB and the NCAA rules are always reviewed, given the current philosophy of only being different when the NCAA committee feels there is a good reason to be different. There is a Volleyball Championship Committee for each of the three divisions, and those committees can propose rule changes based on their concerns and observations at the NCAA Championships. And, as Rules Interpreter, I can suggest changes to be considered based on officiating issues that have been

highlighted by protests (or "near-protests"), the conference coordinator's group, or my own observations.

Often, suggested changes result in a survey question. A survey is distributed via the Internet each fall, and responses are gathered from coaches, administrators, and officials. Those results are considered carefully at the ensuing annual rules meeting. Sometimes, the responses from one group are weighed more heavily than others - for example, when the discussion regarding the 25-point game took place this year, the responses from the officials on that particular survey question were not regarded as heavily, as that is not an officiating issue per se.

The rules committee meets in person for about two days each year. But numerous conference calls and e-mails keep the group in communication throughout the year as well. The chair of the committee and the Rules Interpreter attend the Divisional meetings at the AVCA convention each year to gather input, and a committee representative meets with the Division I coordinators at the Championships as well.

The actual language of the rule changes is being developed right now, for the 2008 rule book that will be published in mid-June. A list of the most significant changes is below. More complete information on all of the changes and their implementation will be included in the next Official Word, and will be covered thoroughly in the 2008 OTP clinics.

A great deal of information gathering, lively discussion, data review, broad-based consideration, and passion for the sport go into the rule changes that are ultimately enacted by the rules committee. The majority of significant changes in the past decade are all driven by the philosophy that longer rallies and simplification makes the game more interesting for the average fan, and greater exposure will result in the growth of the sport. With that in mind, the 2008 changes will be interesting to watch.

*Continued on page 16*

## 2008 Volleyball Major Rules Changes

The following rules-change proposals have been approved by the NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules Committee and the Playing Rules Oversight Panel. The rule and page references are from the 2007 Women's Volleyball Rules Book.

### Major Rules Changes

**Playing Area.** (Rule 1.1, page 14)-All playable areas must be visible to team members and officials.

**Non-Player Interference.** (Rule 4.2.4, page 26)-In addition to the current language pertaining to media, spectators, or officials, interference by speed wipers or ball crew personnel will result in a replay.

**Coach Position During Play.** (Rule 5.2.4.1, page 28)-During play, coaches will be required to stay at least 1.75 meters from the court, and completely out of the substitution zone. An imaginary line perpendicular to the outside edge of the extended attack line indicates this distance.

**Terminology.** (Rule 8.2, page 45 and throughout)-The term "game" will be changed to "set".

**Points Required to Win a Set.** (Rule 8.2.1, page 45)-The number of points required to win sets one through four is now 25.

**Substitutions** (Rule 11.2.2, page 57)-The maximum number of substitutions for each team is 12 per set.

### **Ball Handling Directive**

Based on extensive discussion at the 2008 annual meeting, the NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules Committee has developed a new directive regarding ball handling judgment, primarily on second team contacts that are not returned to the opponent's playing area. This is not a rule change, but a new approach to ball handling judgments that is intended to increase intensity and focus for the players and coaches, and improve fan understanding and involvement.

### **Current Culture of Women's Collegiate Volleyball**

- o Recent rule changes emphasize continuation of play and fewer stoppages (for example, rules for the libero, rally score, and net fault continuation)

- o Collegiate women players demonstrate more athleticism than ever before, and that athleticism should be highlighted.
- o Players have better skills due to increased quantity of play through the year, training that starts at an early age, and better coaching.
- o There is a demand for consistency in ball handling judgment by all match participants.
- o Volleyball is enjoying an increased fan base and experiencing significant growth.

The committee recognized that ball handling judgment was, at times, inconsistent both within a match and from contest to contest. Not only were those inconsistencies frustrating for players and coaches, whistles for subtle infractions discernable only by the referees are confusing to fans. With increased television exposure, it is important to attempt to develop ball handling guidelines that are understandable by typical sports fans, not just the volleyball community. The basic tenet is that the excitement of the sport of volleyball can be increased with fewer whistles for minor ball handling infractions and increased leniency on particularly athletic plays that may not result in a perfectly executed set by traditional standards, but provides a continuation of play.

### **Directives**

The points below have been emphasized in ball handling judgment discussions for several years, and are still vitally important when considering faults:

- o Referees should only call faults that are actually **seen**.
- o Only the contact point should be considered in judging legality.
- o Outside influences such as player technique, spin, crowd reaction, or coaches' expectations should not be regarded.

The following points are new emphases by the rules committee, and should decrease the number of whistles that stop play:

- o Only the most obvious violations should be called.
- o Referees should be less severe when judging an athletic play by a player in less than ideal



## MEMBER PROFILE

## TAD WATSON

American Soldier, Techie, Official - All While Under the Radar

By Peggy Schaefer



Tad Watson, a prolific PAVO National volleyball official and member of the North Carolina Volleyball Officials' Board, has spent his entire professional career keeping a low, but effective, profile. Tad was one of the first African-Americans admitted to the University of Virginia in 1967. This happened at a pivotal time in U.S. history as major colleges and universities tore down racial and ethnic barriers. Tad was an athlete while in high school, playing football and baseball. It was his baseball experiences that guided him into the officiating world as he started his officiating career as a baseball umpire.

In 1973, Tad joined the U.S. Army, attended Officer Candidate School and then served and lead in several capacities before his retirement in 1993. Tad spent his career as a Special Operations Force officer and participated in both the Panama and Persian Gulf operations, again staying under the radar, serving his country.

When he left his military life, Tad pursued his love of computers by obtaining certifications with Microsoft, Novell and Cisco, and working as a network administrator. He operated his own computer business for a few years and then began teaching at Fayetteville Technical Community College as a Networking Cisco Academy Instructor. He has been successfully guiding

(and pushing) young people to learn more about computer systems that will help them achieve well paying jobs in the future.

About fourteen years ago, Tad began officiating high school volleyball and he gradually committed all of his energy to this sport, officiating year round in the USAV arena and collegiate world. He received his Jr. National rating in 2000 and then continued on to achieve his PAVO National rating in 2005. Tad says that what he loves best about officiating volleyball is watching how the girls improve their skills from year to year, especially from when they first start in the juniors program up through their college experience. He also enjoys the friendships and camaraderie with the officials he has met over the years traveling with this wonderful sport.

Tad currently serves as the Secretary/Treasurer of the NCVOB and works tirelessly on behalf of the men and women in our group. He has created a very user-friendly web site for all members and an effective way for each member to post information and communicate. Tad also serves as a rater for the association and mentors new officials. His officiating precision and rules knowledge makes his impact noticeable, even though, by nature, he prefers to stay "under the radar."

*Rules Process**continued from page 16*

position. In other words, be lenient when a player makes their best effort that results in unorthodox technique. However, don't confuse clumsiness or lack of skill with athleticism. A player who has the opportunity to set the ball from good position will be expected to execute without a double contact.

- o Referees should avoid being overly mechanical or technical in their judgments, and work within the current culture of the sport and the spirit of the competition.

**Principles**

There are two basic tenets associated with this directive that the committee feels will improve the overall image of our game by the public without damaging the integrity of the sport:

- o Less severe ball handling judgment will result in more consistency within a match and from event to event.
- o Coaches will continue to teach good technique and play the best players, because the best result is derived from well-executed skills.

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