



## I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE...

by Katrina McCormick-Meyer  
Deputy Executive Director

Like so many of you, I recently found myself sitting in a large room listening to the myriad pearls of wisdom regularly shared at the annual NCAA/PAVO Clinic delivered by the always entertaining and captivating Anne Pufahl.

As a part of the weekend, I also sat in on the PAC-12 Conference meeting at which I listened to Chris Grant, the conference's *Associate Commissioner, Sports Management & Championships*. He was engaging, but what I took away from his few minutes on stage was the 7-11 Rule of First Impressions. This sage philosophy basically states that in the first seven seconds of contact, a person forms 11 impressions about you and your organization. That said, it is my intent to use your seven seconds wisely as I share a bit about what seems to be on the minds of so many members.

*Katy, you're going to be the next executive director for PAVO? The next Marcia Alterman? Hasn't she been our organization's executive director for some 20 years? Our only executive director? Hasn't she written rule books and shaped officials and their thinking for those many years? Wow, those will be some big shoes to fill.*

It's not a unique story. Iconic, reputable, hard-working, visionary leaders thrive and move on in just about every facet of human involvement - business, politics, religion, and sports. And when these folks transition out, someone else must step in. If done well, a chosen

successor will enhance the organization and meaningfully contribute to its growth and impact into the future.

I've been on the job now since September 1, 2014. For the past 11 months, I've been learning the business of PAVO. As you might imagine, extracting critical information from the mind of the only executive director PAVO has ever known is taking some time. Getting through a year of firsts with Alterman has significantly contributed to my enthusiasm for my future with PAVO, our membership, and the organization itself. Alterman has been patient and gracious in dealing with my endless inquiries, open and transparent when I've needed her to be. Everything we've done has been in anticipation of the expected transition.

So, how will I fill these big shoes? I don't. It's that simple. In fact, no one ever will. It is my plan to take it from here. Not alone, but with the support and contributions of many others. I look forward to carrying on the reputation of PAVO in ways that only I know how to do, by respecting the past with a viable vision for the future. Serving as the next executive director of PAVO, I will remain dedicated to the needs of membership and affiliated groups in an effort to ensure quality training and education.

*Post Script: I know that this all took more than 7 seconds. Wonder what your 11 impressions are?*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Great Communication

*by Julie Voeck*  
President

Communication before, during and after a match is important and has been a point of emphasis in NCAA/PAVO clinics this year.

It is communication during the game where referees in all sports sometimes struggle, especially when there are many demands placed on them and the stakes are high.

This year the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO) Summit featured a panel called "Let Me Tell You About My Call." The panel consisted of referees and administrators from a variety of sports who described a call that was made by a game official during a contest. The speakers described the decision they made in each clip and why the call was a good one or presented a teachable moment, or both.

In one clip presented by NBA and FIBA referee Lauren Holtkamp, she described a play in which she called an offensive foul and explained why the call was challenging, but correct. While the call was spot on, she also thought the situation presented a training opportunity for officials on how to communicate better. She explained that she could have done a better job in communicating with the players who questioned her call. In particular, she noted that she focused on reporting the information and "turned her back on the crime scene" rather than getting the situation under control before moving on to the next phase.

PAVO continues to emphasize the importance of officials using good communication techniques during a match. One of the situations discussed in the NCAA/PAVO clinic this year focused on ways to improve communication. The example presented in the clinic involved a coach who became irate over a decision by the officials that he did not agree with. In

the clip, the coach went from being warned for his behavior to being disqualified in less than a minute. While the officials correctly administered the necessary sanctions to the offending coach, this situation also serves as an educational opportunity for all officials to understand the importance of communication. It provides a real game situation to help us better understand how improved communication can help us know where to focus our attention when tempers start to rise and actions we can take to help keep an already heated situation from escalating further.

The clinic also contained a module on communication, specifically focusing on ways we can improve. The presentation stressed ways to deal with anxiety that we may experience while officiating, particularly in dealing with coaches or situations that are new to us.

I found several of the suggestions very helpful and have made improving communications as one of my goals for the upcoming season. One suggestion offered in the clinic that has made an impression on me is the advice to "be in the moment" or "the here and now." What this means to me is approaching coaches with an openness to listen to what their concern is before addressing it. I sometimes find myself in "automatic" mode whereby I have anticipated the coach's question and having a prepared response before we even have a conversation. By pre-determining a response, I may not really be listening to what the coach is asking about. By listening first, I expect to have some great communications this season.

Have a great season. See you on the volleyball courts.



**USA Volleyball**

*by Rene Marcellus*

*Southern California Volleyball Official's Association*

## WHEN EVERY MOMENT MATTERS AND EXCELLENCE IS EXPECTED

This summer I was blessed with the opportunity to call lines at the 2015 FIVB Women's World Grand Prix Finals in Omaha, Nebraska. I'm honored to have been a part of the event.

From the moment of arrival in Omaha our line judge cadre went through hours of training on and off the court. Videos, technical meetings, and practicals – all combined with meticulous instruction to prepare us for the most prestigious indoor volleyball event held on domestic soil since 1996.

We were instructed to conduct ourselves in a quiet, concerted manner from the moment we stepped foot into the venue until we were back in our hotel room. Every move mattered and excellence was the expectation. I'm not sure if the FIVB control committee would have condoned our pre-match dance parties in the locker room, but they definitely made the experience memorable.

There were three matches a day for the five-day tournament. Each line judge would work one or two matches a day, either on the court or as the alternate. Leading up to a match we would meet in the international official's lounge with the doctor on staff for a random alcohol test using a breathalyzer. Note, if you're ever in that position, take a DEEP breath!

Walking out of the tunnel (to the fans disappointment that you aren't someone they'd care to take a picture with) you can feel the intensity of the atmosphere.

After the presentation of teams and national anthems, I would look around trying to take everything in. The coaches eyes were bloodshot from watching countless hours of film, the players were leaving it all on the court, the staff was paying attention to every detail.

The first beckon for serve brought to fruition all of our training; game time. With the video challenge system in place, there were 28 cameras capturing at 500 frames per second, much faster than the human eye can see. Somehow having replay available upon the coach's request to validate my call or prove otherwise comforted me.

From my perspective, the most common challenges made were for ball in-out, and touch on the block. Teeny tiny micro touches were acceptable misses in this venue. There was no guilt in not seeing a twitch of a finger at the block. The next most common use of the challenge system seemed to be for a strategic break in play without burning a time-out. It was interesting to observe the teams responses to the interruptions in an effort to maintain momentum.

The focus necessitated by this high level of play proved to be mentally exhausting. This was the highest level of competition in the world.

I slept through my flight home and landed craving more volleyball. I am so grateful to have witnessed and partaken in such an incredible event.





## GETTING IT RIGHT, A PRIMER ON NCAA TECHNIQUES

by Joan Powell  
National Coordinator of Volleyball Officials

Most likely, you attended one of the 2015 NCAA/PAVO clinics. In an effort to maintain a level of consistency throughout the country, the clinic highlighted some technique modifications and reminders. Below is a summary of those techniques for both line judges and referees.

### Line Judges

- While observing a server for a foot fault, stay in base position and turn eyes/head slightly to see the server's foot position. De-emphasis "squaring up" and staring at the end line.
- When a server approaches within 4 to 5 feet of the line judge, use the former secondary position on the imaginary extension of the end line. That will be the only position used by the line judges in this situation. In other words, line judges will not go behind a server, even if a server has an outside-in approach. Quickly return to base position and be prepared to make sideline calls immediately.
- For unsuccessful pancakes in the free zone, the line judges will no longer use a double signal. The "down" signal has been eliminated. Only the touch signal will be given.
- Between sets, line judges will return to the court at 45 seconds, rather than 30 seconds. As in the past, gather the game balls and go to pre-game position to wait for next set to begin.

### Referees

- The first referee mimics the signal for the number of timeouts taken only **at the end** of the timeout – **not** right after the timeout request.
- The second referee does not need to transition to the side at fault to offer a discreet help signal. For example, if the attacking team commits a four-hit fault and the second referee wants to communicate that to the first referee, remain on the blocker's side, in order to be visible to the first referee. Do not get stuck behind the pole providing informal signals to the first referee.
- NCAA techniques do not mandate that the second referee transition to the fault side, unless the second referee is initiating a call. Do not interfere with the tempo/pace of the first referee.
- Second referees need to step toward the post to get a good view of the ball potentially traveling near the antenna, such as when the play is occurring in the free zone on the bench side, or during a pursuit.. To get to this

position in a timely manner, second referees will need to anticipate when a ball may travel near the antenna or when a pursuing player approaches your area.

- Between sets, it is the responsibility of the second referee to get the lineups to each coach. The second referee does not maintain a position at the post, turning their back on their partner to face the score table between sets for the majority of the interval.
- The second referee indicates the number of the player who commits a net fault, but does NOT indicate the number of a player who commits a center line fault. If a coach questions who was at fault, simply turn and verbally give the coach the number.
  - o For player numbers that can be signaled with one hand, the second referee uses the hand on the side of the net fault. For numbers that require both hands, fill the right hand first.
  - o Both referees should center their net fault numbers, rather than showing them to the left or to the right of the net.
- The second referee using a discreet touch to end a rally is NOT an acceptable technique. On the infrequent occasion when, at the end of a play, there is a slight touch on the second referee's side of the net – maybe the outside blocker or a digger on your sideline makes slight contact – the second referee needs to step forward and give an overt touch signal to the first referee. Take ownership.
  - o The second referee should NOT over use the touch signal to end a rally. Maybe once or twice during a match!!
  - o During the pre-match briefing, it is appropriate for the first referee to ask the second referee for assistance DURING PLAY on touch/four hit decisions by displaying a discreet touch, if that is his/her preference.
- Some second referees are overusing the "ball down" signal, thinking that the first referee needs help on virtually every ball contacting the floor. In the rare situation when the first referee needs assistance on a pancake, the second referee should step toward the court, use an extended arm and open hand indicating that the ball did in fact contact the floor.

In the 2015 season, attempt to master these NCAA techniques. Good luck and have a great year.





**USA Volleyball**

## NET RULE CHANGING FOR THE 2015-16 USAV SEASON

**Registration begins Sept. 1**

*by Dave Spencer*

*Associate Chair, Indoor National Officials, Referees*

A new but familiar net rule – similar to the one used by the NCAA – will be in place and the Libero will be allowed to be the team and game captain. Those are among the rule changes that take effect for 2015-16 USAV season, which kicks off in a few weeks.

A new interpretation on the solid-colored jersey, along with a few other minor changes also will take effect and will be included in with VRT materials, which will be ready at the start of the USAV season on Sept. 1.

While the scholastic season will occupy most officials' time and attention for the next few months, USAV registration for next season will begin on Sept. 1. Officials must pay their National Officials Commission dues in Webpoint (<https://webpoint.usavolleyball.org/>) by Nov. 1. This is in addition to paying region fees and registration.

The National-level pre-season curriculum will be available shortly. All national-level officials are required to complete this curriculum by Jan. 4. The National Referee clinic and exam will be available by mid-October. The deadline for completing both is March 1.

National-level referees must attend or view the national clinic, but are not required to attend it in-person this season, although some regions will still host a clinic. A clinic also will be offered at the PAVO convention in December in Omaha.

"Although viewing the clinic on-line may be convenient, the live clinics offer interaction with the

clinician and other referees that adds additional information and clarity," said Dave Spencer, associate chair, USAV Indoor National Officials, Referees. "If there is one convenient for you, I suggest you strongly consider attending this valuable teaching tool in person."

This spring and summer's USAV and FIVB events afforded many officials an opportunity to officiate and receive feedback and training during re-evaluation and rating sessions. The officials' commission thanks everybody who officiated or staffed one of the many events and congratulates everybody who earned a new certification or was successfully re-evaluated at their current level.

Going forward, the commission is looking at modifying the certification process and levels. The discussion involves many related parts. No significant changes are expected this season, but talks are continuing in this area.

As always, the commission wants to hear your comments, suggestions, and constructive criticism.

Contact me, your elected representative Pati Rolf, Officials Assembly Chair Devonie McLarty, or any other commission member with your thoughts. You can find email addresses on Volleyball RefTraining.com at <https://volleyballreftraining.com/aboutusav.php>.

See you on the court.



## BE IN THE CENTER OF IT ALL!!

by PAVO Convention Committee

The PAVO Officials Convention has developed into a “can’t miss” event! This year’s convention is in a true volleyball hot spot – Omaha! Attending the convention is a great way to end your season; you owe it to yourself to join us!

### Why should you attend?

- The Convention parallels the NCAA Division I Championships. You can watch the best women’s collegiate volleyball in the land as well as outstanding officials. Fun AND educational!
- Network with the top professionals in our field, and get to know some great new officiating friends.
- Enjoy a great line-up of educational sessions – a guaranteed path to better officiating.
- Reward yourself with a really fun way to end your season!

**Attractions and Entertainment:** Just a few blocks from the hotel and playing site is the Old Market District, where a variety of historical buildings from the 19th century line cobblestone streets. It’s a wonderful place to wander around, and some of Omaha’s best and most interesting bars and restaurants are in this area. Galleries and shops abound, with diverse offerings ranging from eclectic to contemporary.



**Convention Plans:** The PAVO Convention committee is hard at work confirming a variety of topics and speakers for this year’s event. Plans include presentations by NCAA National Coordinator, Joan Powell, as well as the NCAA Secretary-Rules Editor, Anne Pufahl. The ever-popular Semi-final Analysis will review the work of the officials at Thursday night’s

matches, and a “Coaches’ Panel” will provide insight from the “other side”. A number of other pertinent and dynamic presentations are planned.

**Convention Registration:** Registration information and session details will be on the PAVO web site at [www.PAVO.org](http://www.PAVO.org) by about September 1. Cost is \$175 for PAVO members and \$200 for non-members – a minor charge for this outstanding professional development opportunity. There is also a “mini-registration” (\$100) for those that can only attend sessions on Friday night and Saturday. NCAA match tickets are sold separately.

**NCAA Championship Tickets:** The NCAA Championship matches will be held at the CenturyLink Center on Thursday, December 17 and Saturday, December 19. Match tickets in the PAVO block will be available for sale to convention registrants as a package (two semi-final matches on Thursday and final match on Saturday, lower bowl seating). Each convention registrant is limited to two tickets. The ticket price is \$92 per set.

**Accommodations:** PAVO will again partner with the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) to provide the housing for the convention. Most PAVO convention sessions and events will be at the DoubleTree Hotel in downtown Omaha (convention rate \$109/night). The Doubletree is approximately six blocks from the CenturyLink Center and the convention center. Reservations can be made at [http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/O/OMAH-DT-AVC-20151215/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/O/OMAH-DT-AVC-20151215/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG).

**NOTE:** CANCELLATION OF A RESERVATION AFTER THE RESERVATION IS CONFIRMED WILL RESULT IN THE CHARGE OF ONE NIGHT ROOM & TAX BEING APPLIED TO THE CREDIT CARD HOLDING THE RESERVATION.

Stay tuned, and start planning now to be a part of this premier event!

## 2015 PAVO Officials' Convention – December 16 - 19 REGISTRATION-OMAHA

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

PAVO Board Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Can we release the above information to other convention attendees &/or sponsors?      YES      NO

	PAVO Members Before 11/15/15	PAVO Members After 11/15/15	Non-PAVO Members Before 11/15/15	Non-PAVO Members After 11/15/15	Amount You Are Paying
<b>Convention Registration *</b>	\$175	\$225	\$200	\$225	
<b>Includes all PAVO sessions and AVCA Marketplace admittance (dates &amp; times TBD)</b>					
<b>"Mini" Convention Registration *</b>	\$100	\$125	\$100	\$125	
<b>Includes PAVO Social &amp; Semi-final Analysis on Friday evening, and all Saturday sessions</b>					
<b>Extras and Options:</b>					--
<b>NCAA Championship Match Tickets **</b>	Tickets are not included with convention registration. Matches are on Thursday, Dec. 17 and Saturday, Dec. 19. All tickets sold in sets for both days, and are all in the <b>lower bowl</b> of the Centurylink Arena. Limited quantity available – <b>maximum 2 per registrant</b> . Non-registrants may not place ticket orders. <b>\$92 x _____ (No. of tickets)</b>				
<b>AVCA/Jostens Coaches Honors Luncheon</b>	Thursday, Dec 17-noon-2:00pm. <i>May overlap some PAVO Convention sessions.</i> <b>\$ 45 x _____ (No. of tickets)</b>				
<b>AVCA All-America/ Players-of-the-Year Banquet</b>	Friday, Dec 18-10:45am-12:45pm. <i>May overlap some PAVO Convention sessions.</i> <b>\$ 45 x _____ (No. of tickets)</b>				
<b>Guest attendance</b>	Friday 12/18. PAVO Social and Semi-final Analysis (Guest ticket only required for NON-convention registrants, maximum of TWO per registrant) <b>\$ 40 x _____ (No. of guest tickets)</b>				
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>					
<b>Make checks payable to PAVO; submit to P.O. Box 780, Oxford, KS 67119, or complete credit card information below and mail or fax to 620/455-3800</b>					
Visa    MasterCard    Discover (circle one) Credit Card Number _____					
Expiration Date: _____ Security digits (3) on back of card _____					
Signature _____					

\* Requests for convention registration refunds received before December 1 will be charged a \$25 service fee. Requests for convention registration refunds received after December 1 will be charged a \$40 service fee.

\*\* NOTE: NCAA match tickets are **not** refundable under any circumstances.

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**USA Volleyball.**

*by Donna Wigton  
Director, International Indoor Scorers*

## SCORERS SHINE AT BIG SUMMER EVENTS

USAV scorers received lots of opportunities to put pen to paper and use the E-score program while working high-level tournaments held over the summer.

At the NORCECA Men's Champions Cup held in conjunction with the USA Volleyball Open National Championships, scorers were challenged with new features recently introduced to E-score, including the "start rally" button and coaches tablets. Video challenges also were introduced for World League scorers Terry Lawton (SC) and Jane Dong (SC) at matches in Los Angeles and Long Beach.

The same held true for scorers Debbie Reed (CH) and Carlos Rodriguez (LS) in Chicago. At the Women's Grand Prix in Omaha, Dong, Reed and Becky Brockney (RM) were able to use the new features.

Certified scorer Sue Mailhot along with Bill Stanley, both of Great Plains, served as coordinator for court assistants and qualified scorers Rachael Stringer and Eloise Hiemke who served as line judge and court assistant, respectively.

Lawton and her wonderful crew of Southern California scorers - Jane Dong, Rosie Sintop, Maureen Barbosa, Diana Johnson, Lyman Johnson, Joe Aguilar and Cathy Fischer - worked the Men's and the Women's USA Volleyball Cups. Scorers Irene Kobayashi and Lei Kauihou worked matches played in Hawaii.

Lawton also was head scorer for the Special Olympics held in Los Angeles. She worked with Maureen

Barbosa, Milka Steiner, Diana Johnson, Alyssa Tate, Donna Hess, and Kathy Blaise. A special thanks to retired international referee and honorary qualified scorer Sue Lemaire, who kept score and helped in many capacities, including paddle making and retrieving balls!

The High Performance Championships in Des Moines, IA was a great success. In addition to the staff and training court scorers (announced in the June O.W. issue), a thanks to the following qualified scorers who worked on the regular courts: Roy Benasaraf (KE), Peri Copeland-Keefner (SU), Tyrone Fuertes (NE), Lyman Johnson (SC), Dan Kitchel (LK), Jimmy McKinzey (OV), Mike McNeil (IE), Jerry Moews (GL), Roger Ozima GL), Renee' Paser-Paull (WE), Melissa Pouyer (GW), Cathy Rivera (EV), Marcie Schaap (IM), Tina Stanley (GP), Milka Steiner (AZ), Lynne Updegraff (IA) and our newest national scorer qualified on the international sheet, Janna Ter Molen (NT).

A shout out to the certified scorers working the regular courts and serving as mentors: Emi Vishoot (OV) and Travis Karlin (NO). Finally, I send a huge THANK YOU to Lynne Updegraff, Brett Myres and the whole Iowa region for their wonderful hospitality, including sponsoring free tickets to an Iowa Cubs baseball game complete with supper and transportation for all the officials.

Stay tuned for news about the last NORCECA tournament of the summer in the October '15 Official Word.



## NCAA RULE UPDATES AND EMPHASIS

by Anne Pufahl  
NCAA Secretary-Rules Editor

By now many of you have already attended an NCAA/PAVO clinic. For those of you who have already attended a clinic, this will serve as a refresher. For those who did not attend a clinic, this is only a portion of what was presented; you should plan to attend a clinic next year for sure!

### Court Surface and Lighting

Several safety concerns were brought up during the 2014 season. The rules committee wanted to remind officials that player safety is the top priority when assessing the playing area. During the late summer or early fall, humidity can cause the floor to be slick. The referees should work with event management to create a safe environment for the athletes or look at alternative options such as moving the match to another facility or delaying the start of the match.

Officials are also responsible for ensuring there is adequate lighting in the playing area. There are no set lighting standards that a facility is required to meet. However, if the referees feel that the lighting is not adequate they should work with event management to correct the situation. That could include opening shades or bringing in additional lighting.

Remember Rule 1.4.2: The playing area, in all cases, must be under the control of the first referee before and during a match. The first referee is responsible for deciding whether a playing area is suitable for play.

### Introductions

More and more institutions are “jazzing” up their player introductions and building in more pageantry for the fans. There is no language in the rules that regulates the player introduction process. The rules book does offer a couple of different player introduction procedures in the event management section. However, these are just recommendations. There currently is no current time limit for the introductions. Each conference can establish policies regarding length of time for videos, introductions and hype.

### Volleyballs

The rules committee reviewed the various styles and patterns of game balls on the market. It determined that sublimated patterns on game balls are not permitted, nor are the “dimpled” volleyball used in international competitions.

### Non-Compliant Uniforms

With the solid-colored jersey rule entering its third season, every institution should be fully aware of the rules involved. If officials notice a team wearing jerseys that do not comply with the solid-colored uniform requirement, ask the coach to correct the problem immediately. Ask the libero (or her teammates) to change into a solid-colored jersey. If the team does not have a solid-colored jersey option, they may not play with a libero.

If the entire team has illegal uniforms (such as a design through the number or numbers that do not contrast with jersey color) ask the team to change into legal jerseys. If the team does not have compliant jerseys, play the match and report the team to your assignor and the NCAA Secretary-Rules Editor

### Experimental Rule-Challenge Review System (CRS)

The rules committee approved the use of an experimental rule by two conferences this season, the Big 12 and Big 10. The CRS is a video review system that permits the head coach to challenge specific referee decisions. Each institution within those conferences can opt to implement the CRS or not. The CRS can only be used at Big 12 or Big 10 conference matches, and non-conference matches between teams from the two experimenting conferences at one of their sites.

There are four challengeable decisions that a coach can request to review:

- o Whether a ball landed in or out
- o If the ball contacted or did not contact a player
- o If a net fault occurred
- o Foot fault by the server.

The referees using the CRS will be required to provide detailed information after each match. The NCAA rules committee will review the data gathered during the season, and craft the final version of the CRS. If you would like to learn more about the CRS experimental rule please go to the NCAA website at ([www.ncaa.org/playingrules](http://www.ncaa.org/playingrules)).

Hope this helps you prepare for the 2015 season! Look for the first rule interpretation newsletter coming out soon.



**USA Volleyball.**

*by Tim Harlow  
WPV International referee*

## USAV INTERNATIONAL OFFICIALS TURN IN STELLAR PERFORMANCES AT PARA PAN AM GAMES

Three international officials - Thang Nguyen (LS), Christina Fiebich (NO) and Tim Harlow (NO) – represented USA Volleyball at the Parapan Am Games, the Olympic Paralympic qualifying tournament held in August in Toronto.

It was a high honor for the three officials, said Joe Campbell, president of the Pan American Zone for sitting volleyball.

“It’s very special as this event is run by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and it is a qualifier for the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games,” Campbell said. “Every match has a lot riding on it as the teams are striving to obtain that bid for Rio. Because every match has so much riding on it, the referees selected to work the event is done meticulously. The USAV officials had a stellar performance during this tournament.”

For 10 days, the trio of USA officials lived in the athletes’ village and worked matches featuring men’s teams from USA, Canada, Mexico, Colombia, Brazil and Costa Rica and women’s teams from USA, Canada, Cuba and Brazil. Along the way, they gained valuable international experience and a chance to work with some of the top officials in sitting volleyball. Officials from Germany, Slovenia Brazil, Canada and Great Britain were part of the 12 referees selected to whistle.

“I think it is very important that USA officials are represented at all competitions, not just the Parapan American Games,” Campbell said. “We have some of the finest referees in the world and it is important that the athletes in our sport have outstanding referees working their matches.”

Sitting volleyball officials undergo the rigorous training similar to those who obtain their FIVB certification. Matches can be as or more difficult to call than regular indoor matches due to the speed of play and concentration needed to perform all tasks, including spotting players who lift off the floor. In sitting volleyball, players must keep their buttocks on the floor when serving, attacking and blocking. Many of the top players do a great job in disguising their lifting, making it hard to spot while also watching for ball handling faults. As a referee, you are expected to see the lifting as well as net contact and interference under the net, a skill that is sometimes unappreciated, Campbell said.

“It is much harder to work a high level WPV (World Para Volley) match due to the speed of the game and the concentration needed to perform all necessary tasks,” Campbell said. “USAV referees that have mastered the sport to become a National referee for able-bodied volleyball find that they too must make adjustments in order to become a successful WPV official. I feel that a referee cannot truly appreciate or understand what it takes to work a WPV match until they take the court and work a sitting match.”



## LINE JUDGE CORNER: A CHECKLIST FOR SEASON PREP

by Suzanne Lowry  
National Line Judge

Back to school for students means back to work for volleyball line judges. It can be difficult to begin thinking about heading back in the gym after (hopefully) enjoying some rest and relaxation during the summer. By now it's late August and that means line judges should be in the midst of preparing for the upcoming collegiate volleyball season. Fortunately we have a lot of activities that can help us drive our preparation to get ready to work!

1. **Use the NCAA/PAVO Clinic season as a catalyst to begin your preparations.** This step should be completed by late August. Earlier in the summer you most likely received a reminder to register with your local PAVO affiliated board and NCAA. Use these reminders to begin your season preparation. You will need to register with your local PAVO affiliated board, register on the NCAA Central Hub, attend a line judge training clinic, and complete your exam before the season begins!
  2. **Watch the new LJ Training Video.** It can't hurt to watch it more than once, if possible. I always benefit from watching the training video prior to attending a clinic. I find it helpful to let the new information and techniques settle in my mind for a few days. I then am able to ask better questions at the clinic because the information isn't brand new.
  3. **Find and review your notes from last year.** Did you keep a journal of feedback during last season? (If you don't, I highly recommended that you start!) Find last year's journal and review your notes from last year. Did you attend a rating site or camp? Review those notes now to prepare yourself on the areas you will need additional focus on this season. What are your goals for the upcoming season? What are your goals for the next two or three seasons? How can this season help you reach your goals in the next few years? Asking these questions NOW can help you map out your plan to reach these goals.
  4. **Look at the BIG PICTURE of your upcoming schedule.** Pre-season is the best time to BEGIN the outline of your journal for the upcoming season.
- One easy way to start your journal is by asking yourself a few questions.
- a. What are the specific areas of improvement that I would like to focus on this season? Be prepared to talk about these areas of focus during your pre-match discussion with your crew. You will receive more actionable feedback from the referees you work with if you can give them specific items to look for while you are working.
  - b. What are the matches that will push my abilities? How do I need to prepare for these matches?
  - c. Who are the other members of the crew at each of my matches?
    - i. Will I be the more senior line judge and maybe viewed as a mentor? How can I help my partner improve?
    - ii. Will I be working with someone that I would like to learn from? What questions will I have for that person?
5. **Review and practice the new techniques prior to your first match.** Line Judges are required to make immediate signals when communicating their calls. You don't have time on-court to think about the correct technique. Practice at home in front of the mirror so that you will be ready when you are on the corner in a live match.
    - a. If possible, try to work a pre-season scrimmage or even inter-squad play during practice. Dust off the cobwebs before working your first match.
  6. **Lastly, don't forget to check your gear prior to your first assignment.**
    - a. Can you "get low" in last year's uniform pants? Do you need a new pair for this season? It can sometimes take several weeks to receive new pants and complete any necessary tailoring; don't wait until it is too late!
    - b. Is your uniform shirt long enough? Will it stay tucked in when emphatically signaling OUT?
    - c. How are your shoes? Are the soles of the shoes still in good shape, not too slick? Are the shoes clean and white?

- d. Where is your patch? Do you still have a magnet? What about your certification year pin? If you are missing your certification patch or year pin, check with your PAVO board chair.
- e. Are your flags in good condition? Are they clean or dingy? How are the grips on the handle? Will they be slick in the warm temperatures the first few weeks of the season? Is the fabric still secured to the handle?

Wow – that’s a lot to accomplish before your first match! Hopefully many of these tasks are already complete. If not, time to get busy; your first match will be here before you know it!

Good luck this season and see you on the corner!





**USA Volleyball.**

*by Jennifer Williams*

*Director, Nat'l Indoor Scorer Certification & Evaluation*

## 12 BECOME NATIONAL SCORERS

Twelve candidates earned their national scorer certification during the Boy's Junior National Championships in July in Columbus, Ohio.

The successful candidates were: Fran Bentley (FL), Ryan Feickert (AZ), Kevin Finneran (FL), Candyce Hemmer (GP), Stephanie Hinkle (PS), Marlene Lyon (NT), Steve Parham (SO), Alyssa Tate (AZ), Jet Villavicencio (AZ), Jeannie Wallenburg (HA), Brian Webb (CR) and Betsy Wides (PR).

The Columbus rating team included Becky Brockney (RM), Carlos Rodriguez (LS), and Jane Dong (SC).

A number of current national scorers passed their re-evaluations at the USA Volleyball Opens

Championships in May in Detroit. The rating team in Detroit included Rose Atkinson (KE) and Rosie Sintop (SC).

"Congratulations to all for a job well done, and to the raters for their hard work and providing feedback to help scorers to continue to improve," said Jennifer Williams, director of National Indoor Scorer Certification and Evaluation.

Williams also delivered praise to the regions that continue to train and work to improve scoring in across the country. The Indoor Officials Commission is continuously trying to improve the process to assist you in your endeavors.



**USA Volleyball**

## USAV WELCOMES NEW JUNIOR NATIONAL AND NATIONAL REFEREES

*by Michelle Prater*

*Director, National Indoor Referee Evaluation and Certification*

Congratulations to the National and Junior National referees who earned their patches at this year's rating sessions at the Girls' Junior National Championships in New Orleans.

"Your journey has just begun. We encourage you to continue working hard to improve your officiating skills and to reach other officiating goals. Remember you did not do this on your own. Make sure to thank the people that helped you along the way and to continue to give back to your region," said Michelle Prater, director of National Indoor Referee Evaluation and Certification and Michael O'Connor, assistant director of National Indoor Referee Evaluation and Certification.

A new Shadow the Rater program debuted in 2015. The program allows national referees who are interested in being part of the USA Volleyball National Rating Team to learn how ratings are conducted. The program also is intended to help national referees gain knowledge to take back to their region and assist the next generation of national referees. This year's participants were Steve Franco (SU), Chad Klunck (NT), Sonny Fernandez (LS) and Brett Myres (IA).

Raters were busy at the girls' championships in New Orleans evaluating 24 National referee candidates and 56 Junior National candidates. The National Rating Team included: Michael O'Connor (CR), Steve Kenyon (SO), Marcia Alterman (HA), Eric Hoffman (CH), Ross Erickson (NO), Wade Brence (CR), Jung Park (NE), and Mara Wager (IE).

Junior National Rating Team: Michelle Prater (SO), Thomas Hoy (LS), Carla Bunner (CH), Devonie McLarty (GL), Jeff McKinney (WE), Mark Prater (SO), Todd Karolczak (IA), Ryan Tighe (GP), Darin Clark (FL), Clark Radcliffe (GP), Bob Kyle (OD), Stacey Weitzel (CH), Pati Rolf (BG), Angelle Simms (BY), Julie Voeck (BG), Donnie Goodwin (PR), Glenn Reid (KE), Marcia Costley (CE) and Liz McHugh (HO).

Additionally Alan Sowa (KE) and Tom Joseph (OV) conducted 36 re-evaluations at the Boys' Junior National Championships in Columbus, Ohio while Donnie Goodwin, Clark Radcliffe, Eric Hoffman and members of the USAV National Rating Team members completed 56 re-evaluations at the Girls' Junior National Championships in New Orleans.

**NEW USAV INDOOR NATIONAL-LEVEL REFEREES**  
Congratulations and welcome to the new Indoor National-level referees who were recently certified at the Girls' Junior National Championships!

### **New Junior National Referees:**

Phylis Anyango (DE); Joe Asis (CR); Claude Baudin (SC); John Bear (FL); Sherrene Benedict (FL); Jordan Bennett (LS); Aisha Boyd (CR); Evans Bradley (IA); Janice Byrd (SO); Johnny Champion (SO); Donetta Conn (NT); Stephanie Davidson (CE); Shawn Davis (SO); Rob DeViere (FL); Amber Ellis (RM); Marek Fracz (GL); Philip Franco (LS); Dana Fuller (PR); Trisha Giacomazzi (SU); Gary Gray (AZ); David Henry (DE); Christopher Hermosillo (RM); Denise Jett (HA); Krystian Krzyzak (GL); Tammy Lee (NT); Jim Lawson, Jr. (SO); Kevin Long (NC); John Marlborough (BY); Butch McMinn (NE); Gilbert Morky (LS); Marc Moore (CH); John Nguyen (SC); Marcel Noffal (SC); Bill Pignanello (NC); Ben Rosenthal (IE); Cameron Schmidt (SC); Shawna Sheehan (EV); Joel Simmons (SO); Allen Siorek (FL); Joy Stauffer (PM); Jonathan Tamayo (LS); Jet Villavicencio (AZ); Alex Wassem (GP); Craig Wiedel (GP); Shelly Woelfel (NO).

### **New National Referees:**

Donalda Abadie (BY); Charles Bennett (LS); Elliot Blake (OK); Sally Bulquerin (SC); Russell Combs (SC); Wade Dubois (NE); Joe Erickson (OV); Joseph Gustafson (GL); Todd Hall (NT); Diane Hood (OV); Jorge Limeres (NE); Robert Livingston (RM); Michael Medo (NT); Lisa Roberts (LS); Augusto Rodriguez (LS); Chad Sievers (HO); Tim Skinner (IE); Jeff Zinchuk (NE).



## THERE ARE MANY REASONS WHY THE NEXT GENERATION IS PICKING UP OFFICIATING

*by Chuck Fleet  
Board Delegate*

Ben Goodwin and Jeannie Wallenburg got their start in officiating by watching their fathers work. Jordan Leake wanted to earn extra money for college. Jakob Prater wanted to buy a PlayStation.

A love of volleyball helped, too.

While their motivations differ, the next generation of officials who are now cutting their teeth are finding that calling matches can bring benefits that veteran officials have known for a long time, a chance to travel, build character, create memories and build long-lasting relationships.

For Goodwin, Spokane, Wash., that started when he was 10. He had tagged along with his father, Dale, many times and picked up a flag at a spring tournament that his father was working. He took to it right away.

Since that first day on the lines, the father-son duo has worked together countless times. Ben, 21, has worked NCAA national tournaments and last year as a line judge at the NCAA Final Four championships in Oklahoma City.

"I have worked NCAA and NAIA national tournaments but nothing compares to the joy I feel working with Ben, both when he's a line judge and the past two years as a Division I referee," Dale said. "It's also been fun to watch Ben develop camaraderie with other veteran officials. Who's the better official? Ben easily. I've never reffed the Final Four."

For Wallenburg, of Springfield, Mo., officiating has allowed her to spend time with her father, Roger.

"Spending time together away from home has allowed a very special relationship to grow," she said. "Traveling together and even rooming together on occasions gives us plenty of opportunities to get to know each other better and see each other from a different perspective."

Leake, of Harrisonburg, Va., has earned extra money while working USAV and Division III matches with her father, Daniel. But another benefit has been having a mentor she can trust at her side.

At first, "it was a way to save some money, but then I realized I can do this and get better at it," Jordan said. "I have been lucky in that I have several people that I value their opinions and I try to use what they have given me."

At the suggestion of his mother, Michelle, Prater took up officiating at age 14 to earn money for a new PlayStation. He now calls USAV matches at the 15 and under level and has developed skills that will pay off later in life.

"He has an amazing presence on the stand, very good signals at 14 years old," his mother said. Her proudest moment, she said, was when "the coach was complaining about his call. He explained what he saw and did not back down."

Sometimes new officials start with encouragement of friends or roommates. That was the case for Torand Cheltenham who started whistling in 2008. He has called high school, USAV juniors, college club, NCAA sand, women's and men's indoor matches and line judged on the international and beach circuits.

"I was looking for a college job that would work with my practice schedule and my roommate at the time said why don't you become a ref," he said.

Regardless of how they got their start, they all said they fell in love with the game and had some great mentors that encouraged them to stay in it for the long haul. "The Next Generation" is going to make us all proud as they continue up the ladder of success.



## PREMIER CAMP PAYS DIVIDENDS FOR JN REFEREE CANDIDATES

by Bill Thornburgh  
Director, Indoor Camps

Going through the rating process to attain a Junior National patch can be a nerve-wracking experience, but getting a taste of the experience can do wonders for calming anxiety and allow campers to pick up tips before going through the real thing.

This year 28 referees attended a Premier Camp during the opening days of the Girls Junior National Championships in New Orleans allowing them to get

practice officiating, line judging and scoring ahead of their pressure-packed ratings.

The three-day camp allowed participants to work matches with eight members of the USAV rating and training teams, which provided the opportunity to experience the national scene where stakes are high, coaches are more intense, and every match is important before going under the microscope.

### Campers

Trisha Giacomazzi  
Marek Fracz  
John Marlborough  
Tom West  
Deb Garcia  
Andy Echeguren  
Robin Roberts  
Ben Rosenthal  
Joy Stauffer  
Claude Baudin  
Frank Marcos  
Gary Gray  
Sherrene Benedict  
Vance Pitman

### Region

SC  
GL  
BY  
PS  
SU  
GE  
NT  
IE  
PM  
SC  
BG  
AZ  
FL  
DE

Bobby White LS  
Gilbert Mokry LS  
Jordan Bennett LS  
Philip Franco LS  
John Bear FL  
Aisha Boyd CR  
Allen Siorek FL  
Kevin Peden EV  
Denise Jett HA  
Janine Patton FL  
Peg Winters NO  
Dana Fuller PR  
Joey Asis CR  
Jonathan Tamayo LS

### Training Team Staff

Thomas Hoy  
Glenn Reid  
Jung Park  
Devonie McLarty  
Donnie Goodwin  
Carla Bunner  
Ross Erickson  
Marcia Costley

### Region

LS  
KE  
NE  
GL  
PR  
CH  
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