



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Video challenge and review will usher volleyball into a new era

*by Julie Voeck
President*

The NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules Committee in January passed a measure that will allow conferences to institute a video challenge and review system effective with the 2015 season. Conferences at any level will be allowed to use the experimental rule with approval from the NCAA.

So far the Big 12, Big Ten and the Pac-12 conferences have requested permission to use the rule, which is still being modified and must be approved by the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel. That committee was set to meet on Feb. 18.

The rule would allow a coach to challenge whether a ball landed in or out, if a ball made contact with a player, foot faults on a serve or whether a net violation was correctly called according to the rules.

An original proposal called for coaches to have two challenges per set. An amended proposal is looking at limiting challenges to three per set.

I'm sure many of us have thought about if or when video review – known as instant replay in other sports – would come to our game and how it might impact our work as officials. Some of you may embrace the idea of video review or may even be energized about this new aspect to our job. Others may have some serious concerns or trepidations about having our decisions reviewed.

As officials, we are trained to be decisive and get the call right. Does video review undermine the training and focus we have been taught? Will we be less confident in making the "tough call" or the call where we had a poor or blocked view of the play?

Since video challenge and review has been added to other sports, officials initially have had a mix of reactions and opinions. Ultimately, most officials embrace video review as a tool to help them get the call right – a primary goal of all good officials.

Our sport is about to go through a major transformation. The goal of video review is to use technology to help officials make correct decisions. It is not intended to be an instant, foolproof answer to correcting all officiating mistakes. It is, however, an example of how technology can help officials make sure that incorrect calls made on the court are corrected in a timely manner.

With video review, new mechanics and procedures that we will all need to master will come. While the mechanics will be new to all of us at first - like any new mechanic that comes with a significant rule change - we will have to learn how to implement the new procedures as video challenges will soon be part of our repertoire of officiating tools.

I am thrilled that video review is coming to our game. I hope I have a chance to work a match next season where the officiating crew has an opportunity to use video review. Just as volleyball continues to see increased television exposure and web-stream video coverage that allows viewers the opportunity to review our calls, the same technology will be available on-court to provide us a tool to help get calls right.

Let's welcome video review as yet another tool to improve officiating and make the game better for all of us.

See you on the volleyball courts.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT:

Alterman honored with NASO Gold Whistle Award

by Dale Goodwin

Marcia Alterman was in a restaurant in 1994 when she told Joan Powell that she'd like to start a professional association of volleyball officials, and was willing to serve as its executive director.

Alterman, who was a financial advisor at the time, knew the job wouldn't pay well, but her passion for officiating volleyball was enormous.

"Marcia has a genuine interest to better officials and officiating," said Powell, PAVO's longtime president and current NCAA national volleyball coordinator. "She's a tireless worker and believes in inclusion -- nothing goes out without a consensus of a brain trust of colleagues. She cultivates and earns respect from other professional organizations. She's a visionary. Marcia put volleyball officiating on the map."

Alterman, the longtime and only executive director of the Professional Association of Volleyball Officials, is the 2015 recipient of the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO) Gold Whistle Award, officiating's highest honor.

The award, which is given to a person or organization for contributions to officiating, will be presented on July 28 during the Celebrate Officiating Gala at the annual NASO Summit in St. Louis.

Alterman, 62, of Wichita, Kan., is the 28th recipient of the award and the third woman to receive it after Emily Alexander (2010, softball) and Marcy Weston (2008, basketball). She joins Gold Whistle recipients from Major League Baseball, the NFL, NHL and NBA, among other organizations.

"In some measure, Marcia is collegiate volleyball officiating," said NASO President Barry Mano. "She exemplifies what it means to be committed and caring to her sport and the officiating of that

sport. I count her in that select number of individuals who have made an outsized contribution to officiating at the national level, and beyond just any single sport."

Alterman won respect

Mike Pereira, former vice president for NFL officiating and current Fox Sports rules analysts, said Alterman possesses the "it factor," the quality of what makes a great official or administrator.

"The 'It' is very hard to define but you know it when you see it," Pereira said. "Marcia has 'it'. You know 'it' when you hear her speak. You know 'it' when you watch her teach. You know 'it' by the way she carries herself anytime you are in her presence. Marcia is a referee's referee. Whether on the court, in the classroom, or in her relationships with her officials and peers, she is always there for anyone who needs her."

Russ Rose, volleyball coach at national champion Penn State, echoed Pereira's thoughts.

"She is always concerned with the game and its players first and then tries to develop the necessary influence of the officials."

Alterman holds one of 15 seats on the national Officiating Development Alliance, a group of 15 members who represent many sports officiating groups in this country.

"Marcia earned a 'seat' at the table because of her experience, enthusiasm and ability to add to the body of knowledge when that group meets twice each year. She is a highly respected and valued member of the ODA," Mano said.

Alterman was also lauded for her devotion to the role that officials play in all sports.

“Marcia has built connection points to so many sports beyond volleyball — including stick and ball sports, rodeo, cycling and others. What an emissary she is for officiating,” Mano said.

Powell said that it is amazing to all see everything that Alterman has accomplished at the PAVO level, all while serving on boards of other organizations and committees and serving as officials coordinator for six Division I conferences.

As PAVO’s executive director, Alterman developed PAVO’s code of conduct, including guidelines for ethical behavior, along with opportunities for training, testing and certifying volleyball officials.

“Once the NCAA/ArbiterSports launched the

Volleyball Officiating Program it was apparent that the NCAA could not re-invent the wheel and that PAVO had to become a partner in their efforts,” Powell said.

PAVO now has more than 2,000 officials as members, and partners with every other volleyball entity in this country.

“I had no idea what PAVO would look like when Marcia approached me about her vision to create a professional association for volleyball officials, but I knew there was a need, and I wanted to be a part of that dream,” Powell said.

Alterman played volleyball at Wichita State and officiated NCAA, NAIA and USA Volleyball for 40 years.



LETTER OF THANKS TO PAVO

by Elliot Blake

Editor's Note: At several PAVO Conventions, a fundraiser has been held to benefit an appropriate local organization or charity – our way of connecting with the local community. In Oklahoma City, it was an easy decision to make the PAVO Convention fundraising efforts go to the USA Volleyball Sitting Teams, who call nearby Edmond, Oklahoma home. A raffle-type of fundraiser was held over the three day event, and the letter below indicates success!

February, 2015

Dear PAVO Family,

First, it was great to see so many of you in our hometown of Oklahoma City for the convention. I hope everyone was able to explore the Bricktown area and enjoy their time throughout the weekend.

I write this letter today though to offer our BIGGEST THANKS to you on behalf of USA Volleyball's Sitting Teams. Through your gracious generosity, our raffle that was held during the convention raised over \$1400 for our development program which provides opportunities for new athletes with physical disabilities to learn and train in sitting volleyball for future national team consideration. To put your impact in perspective, this support is an increase of almost 25% to the development program's budget for non-military athletes.

Our first development training camp of the year was held January 29-February 1, and with your support, we were able to assist four athletes with their flight costs to attend. The development program will next take part in a community tournament in Omaha and will also be in attendance at the Opens Championships for the Sitting Division. Our Women's National Team will be at the Colorado Crossroads Junior National Qualifier, February 27-March 1, for a series of exhibition matches with Russia. Please come by and say hello, and hear the stories of our athletes determined to win gold in Rio.

Again, thank you for your support of the Sitting Teams, and hope to see soon around the courts soon.

Sincerely,

Elliot Blake
Sitting Volleyball Coordinator, USA Volleyball
State Referee, Oklahoma Board of Officials
Junior National Referee and National Scorer, USA Volleyball



**USA Volleyball Sitting A2 Team Training Camp,
January 29-February 1, 2015**

Back row left to right: Air Force TSgt (Ret.) Patrick Young, Zachary Upp, Zachary Odom, Chris Hoodye, Navy PO2 (Ret.) Daniel Jacobs, and Army Sgt (Ret.) Robbie Gaupp.
Front row left to right: Navy AN Brett Parks (Ret.), Alyssa Cleland, Navy PO1 (Ret.) John Kremer, Marine PFC (Ret.) Sarah Rudder, Navy CPO (Ret.) Javier Rodriguez Santiago



USA Volleyball

NOW'S THE TIME TO COMPLETE YOUR NATIONAL USAV REQUIREMENTS

by Dave Spencer

Associate Chair, Indoor Officials Commission, Referees

Here we are in another new year! Where does the time go? And with that New Year, comes another volleyball season.

So how is your season going so far? Are you handling the solid color jerseys? Are you working with your scorers to make sure you don't permit or immediately catch illegal players on the court to avoid having to remove points? Have you had to administer a Libero re-designation using the new interpretation?

By now all National-level referees should have completed the National-level preseason curriculum and attended a National-level Referee Clinic, either in person or online. The National-level referee exam must be taken on the USAV Academy website.

You are also probably working hard giving clinics and conducting training and evaluations. Perhaps you have even officiated in your region. Maybe you've already traveled to a Boys' Bid Tournament, the Colorado Crossroads Girls' JNQ, or another large event in your area. It seems like the season has just started and now the final boy's bid tournaments and the majority of the girl's qualifiers are just around the corner.

Remember that as you work through the new rules and procedures, you should always take advantage of the training materials on the USAV Official Training & Education website, or VRT (<https://www.VolleyballRefTraining.com>). And take a look at the USAV Indoor Case Book, which has been updated since last year.

Also on VRT, you can find the Junior National and National referee candidate applications and National Championship Event registrations. Look for more information in other articles in this newsletter.

On another note, remember that each year USAV may send a maximum of three qualified USAV National referees as candidates for a PAVO National referee certification. If you are interested in being considered

as a candidate for this fall's PAVO ratings sites, please submit a letter of application that includes your USAV and collegiate officiating experiences, and at least two letters of reference by March 15. If accepted, you will need to submit a PAVO National candidate application form and the \$150 fee by April 15. Please send your application and reference letters or any questions to me at usavrefchair@neb.rr.com. Please be aware that USAV is not required to submit three names, so it is not guaranteed that your application will be accepted.

On a sad note, the corps of referees recently suffered a loss. Chris Lanfear from the New England Region passed away Feb. 4. He will be missed by his family, friends, and those of us who knew him. Please keep his family and many friends in your prayers and thoughts.

Also, several of our colleagues have retired or resigned their National-level referee certification since last season: John Baker (HO), Greg Barber (CH), Tom Given (IM), Dale Goodwin (EV), Ken Johnson (IM), Jeff Kushaney (LS), Terry E. Miller (HO), Joan Powell (RM), Jim Sagenich (OV/FL), Karen Sloan (GP), Jeff Sylvester (GL), Chris Tobey (LS), Phil Wagenblast (GE), and Orville "Sport" Weddel (SU). They served the USAV National Indoor Officials Commission and their regions for many years. Thank them and wish them well next time you see them.

And finally, the USAV Officials' Commission and its component groups will be meeting in Denver the first week of March. We will be discussing many topics and making decisions for next season and the future. We appreciate those of you at the later clinics that provided feedback on your USAV officiating experience. Please contact your elected representatives Pati Rolf, Donnie Goodwin, or Devonie McClarty; or Michael McPoyle, me or any of the other Commission members if you have any suggestions.

That's all for now. See you on the court!



PAVO TRAINING CAMPS – OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

by Suzanne Dodd
Camp Director

PAVO Training Camps have serviced over 750 referees in the 10+ years since inception. Offered to all PAVO members and non-members interested in improving skills and enhancing their officiating IQ, these camps are a proven method for advancing officiating careers. Regarding his 2014 PAVO Training Camp experience, here is a comment from a newly certified PAVO National Official:

"My experience at Villanova University last year for the PAVO Official's Training Camp was amazing. The camp staff were extremely supportive in helping me hone my skills, helped me prepare, and gave me the tools necessary to achieve my PAVO National certification. I honestly can say I would not have been successful in reaching my goal without having the PAVO camp experience."

Wade DuBois, Western Massachusetts Board of Volleyball Officials

The array of 2015 camps provides varying levels of competition in geographically diverse areas. These tournaments offer campers opportunities to work with officials from around the country in a competitive, but low-pressure atmosphere that is conducive to learning and fun. In addition, experienced evaluators will be on hand to offer helpful feedback; summary comments are forwarded to conference coordinators and other specified assignors. Some camps provide both video and audio feedback of the on-court experience.

How to Select a Camp

There are three types of referee camps available: Referee Training Camps, Collegiate Referee Camps, and Advanced Referee Camps. All camps include opportunities to work and train as both a first referee and a second referee. Some camps, as noted, will include line judge training as well. All camps include a pre-tournament meeting the night before the tournament. Departures should not be planned before 8pm the day of the tournament.

Referee Training Camp

This level of camp is intended to provide educational and on-court experience for referees looking to build their foundation of officiating skills. Registration is on a

first paid-first accepted basis. The fee is \$150 for PAVO members and non-members.

Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, March 28. This tournament includes a number of high-level women's collegiate club teams, including last year's national champion. Campers are responsible for their own travel expenses and lodging. Lunch is provided. This camp will not provide video feedback.

Happy Volley, State College, PA, May 23-25. This camp takes place at a large juniors' tournament and is especially popular due to the opportunity to officiate for pay the day after the camp. Half of the campers will participate in training sessions on Saturday and officiate for pay on Sunday. Then, on Sunday, the other half of the campers will participate in training sessions while Saturdays camp participants can officiate for pay. Dormitory style lodging is provided. Lunch is provided. Video feedback is not included in this camp. Register early because this camp fills up fast!

Collegiate Referee Camp

These camps are intended to strengthen the knowledge and skills of a referee already officiating at any division of women's collegiate competition. Registration fee is \$240 for PAVO members; \$265 for non-members.

Villanova University, Villanova, PA, March 28. This Division I tournament will include strong competition from a variety of area teams. Videotaped feedback will be included. Discounted hotel rooms are available. Lunch is provided.

Kansas State (host) at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City, MO, April 11. Strong competition from the Big XII, the WAC, and other Division I conferences. At the time of publication, it was still undetermined whether or not videotaped feedback would be included at this camp. Updates will be available on the PAVO website. Discounted hotel rooms will be available. Lunch is provided.

Michigan State, East Lansing, MI, April 25. This tournament is expected to include teams from the Big

10, MAC, A-10, and other conferences. Discounted hotel rooms are available. Lunch is provided. (This camp will also serve as a Line Judge Training Camp. Registration fee for line judges is \$150.)

University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, May 9. Details for this camp were just coming in to the PAVO Camp Director at the time of publication. Please visit the PAVO website for greater details regarding this camp. Campers are responsible for their own travel expenses and lodging. Lunch is provided. This camp will provide video feedback.

Advanced Referee Camp

Advanced camps are highly competitive camps intended for the referee interested in breaking into top tier conferences. These camps also provide excellent preparation for officials pursuing a PAVO National rating. Video feedback with voiceover commentary is included. Applications must be submitted for full consideration by PAVO in order to ensure that officials have the prerequisite experience. Submit the application, two letters of recommendation, and an officiating resume by March 10. Registration fee is \$285 for PAVO members; \$310 for non-members, due by March 15. Full details of the application process and the application form can be found at <https://www.pavo.org/Home/OfficialsTraining/TrainingCamps.aspx>. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance no later than March 12.

Houston FAST Collegiate Invitational, Houston, TX, April 11. Hosted by Houston Juniors, this large collegiate showcase will provide exciting competition from teams representing the Big XII, C-USA, SEC, SWAC, and other conferences. Discounted rooms are available at nearby hotels. Video feedback is included. Lunch will be provided.

Indy Collegiate Invitational, Indianapolis, IN, April 18. Capital City Juniors hosts a large showcase of collegiate teams representing the Big 10, ACC, Big XII, Big East, and other conferences. No lunch will be provided. Video feedback is included. (This camp will also serve as a Line Judge Training Camp. Registration fee for line judges is \$150.)

Line Judge Training Camp

PAVO's Line Judge Training Camps coincide with Referee Training Camps. This pairing provides opportunities for line judges to gain exposure and improve their skills while working with a full crew in a competitive atmosphere. Camps will include full debrief with seasoned evaluators and opportunities to work with the most current NCAA rules and

interpretations. These camps are designed for line judges interested in increasing their foundational skills, gaining a National Line Judge certification, and/or earning post-season assignments. The camp fee is \$150. Lodging and other expenses are the responsibility of the applicant.

Indy Collegiate Invitational, Indianapolis, IN, April 18. Capital City Juniors hosts a large showcase of collegiate teams representing the Big 10, ACC, Big XII, Big East, and other conferences.

Michigan State, East Lansing, MI, April 25. This tournament is expected to include teams from the Big 10, MAC, A-10, and other conferences. Discounted hotel rooms are available.

Registration

On-line registration is available on the PAVO website. From the homepage www.pavo.org, click on the E-Store tab then select "Referee Training Camps" from the menu choices on the left of the page. Select a camp and have a credit card ready for payment!

Campers may also register by contacting the PAVO Central Office at: 888/791-2074 or email at pavo@pavo.org.

Scholarships

There are a limited number of camp scholarships available to any member in good standing. Full details of the scholarship application process and the scholarship application form can be found on the PAVO website at <https://www.pavo.org/Home/OfficialsTraining/CampScholarships.aspx>. The following must be submitted by March 15 to PAVO Camp Director, Suzanne Dodd, at: camp.director@pavo.org:

- Completed scholarship application (available at <https://www.pavo.org/Home/OfficialsTraining/CampScholarships.aspx>);
- Letter (E-mail) of Interest including officiating goals and why you would be a good scholarship recipient; and
- Letter (E-mail) of recommendation. Include one recommendation from your PAVO Board Chair, a PAVO National Official, or a Conference Coordinator of Officials. *Only one recommendation is needed.*

Any additional PAVO Camps questions can be forwarded to the PAVO Camp Director, Suzanne Dodd at camp.director@pavo.org.

2015 Camp Schedule

Date	Host	Location	Level	Camp Type
March 28	Marquette Univ.	Milwaukee, WI	Women's Club	Referee Training Camp
March 28	Villanova Univ.	Villanova, PA(outside Philly)	Women's Div. I	Collegiate Referee Camp
April 11	Houston Juniors	Houston, TX	Women's Div. I	Advanced Referee Camp
April 11	Kansas State	UMKC (Kansas City, MO)	Women's Div. I	Collegiate Referee Camp
April 18	Capital City Juniors	Indianapolis, IN	Women's Div. I	Advanced Referee Camp Line Judge Training Camp
April 25	Michigan State	E. Lansing, MI	Women's Div. I	Collegiate Referee Camp
May 9	U. of San Francisco	San Francisco, CA	Women's Div. I	Collegiate Referee Camp
May 23-25	Happy Volley	State College, PA	Juniors	Referee Training Camp



CHAMPIONSHIP ASSIGNMENTS 2014

by Marcia Alterman
Executive Director

Congratulations to all officials who were selected to work 2014 postseason events! It is indeed an honor and a privilege to be involved in any conference tournament or any stage of the championship tournaments – NCAA, NAIA, and Junior/Community College.

The officials below were selected for participation by the various governing bodies at the events noted. Please remember that the NCAA does not assign line judges for Division II or Division III, or the table staff, including the scorer and assistant scorer, for any of the divisions.

NAIA Championship Referees

Ann Hutchins*
Andrew Baehr
Suzanne Dodd
Christina Fiebich
Mic Huffman
Chad Klunck
Jim Momsen
Laura Nelson
Shauna Rhinesmith
Ryan Tighe

*Head Referee

NJCAA Championship Referees

DIVISION I

Glo Bailey*
Stephen Arichea
Ryan MacDowell
Keith Murlless
Daphne Nelson
Dave Spencer

DIVISION II

Syd Church*
Gigi Brenay
Earl Capps
Mike Chapman
Jim Feickert
Landry Homsher
Jeff Julander
Katy Meyer
Peter Meyer
Larry Neidich
Ron Pellham
Brad Rinehart

DIVISION III

Jim Momsen*
Dave Hamil
Antonio King
John Nelson
Jolene Swaim
Steve Walz

* Coordinator/Head Official

NCAA DIVISION III Championship Referees

All of the individuals listed below were selected to referee at a Division III regional site. Those marked with an asterisk were selected to referee the Division III Championships in Newport News, VA – Robert Kyle, head referee.

Denis Bergstedt
 Carole Burke
 Dave Carson
 Russell Combs
 Robyn Courchane
 Kevin Duggan
 Chuck Fleet
 Gretchen Galloway
 Lydia Godshall
 Sergio Gonzalez*
 Josh Hall
 Tim Harlow
 Chris Haworth
 Donna Hess
 Duane Holben
 Derwin Jordan
 Steve Kenyon*
 Daniel Leake
 Holly Luenemann
 Mary Malpede
 Andy Martin
 James McDonald
 Scott Mertens
 Laura Nelson
 Shauna Rhinesmith*
 Tim Stewart
 Emi Vishoot
 Stacey Weitzel*
 Augie Werner
 Vicky Wilcox
 BJ Willard
 Ian Young

NCAA DIVISION II Championship Referees

All of the individuals listed below were selected to referee at a Division II regional site. Those marked with an asterisk were selected to referee the Division II Championships in Louisville, KY – BJ Willard, head referee.

Pi'l Aiu*
 Aisha Boyd
 Carole Burke
 Rebecca Carstenson*
 Donna Carter
 Tom Cote
 James Esteves
 Fono Fisaga
 Fish Gupton
 Gary Hajek
 Mike Hamilton
 Sharon Harris-Higgins
 Ernie Ho
 Heather Houser
 Conrad Johnston
 Nikki Kathol*
 Daryl Korinek
 Robert Kyle
 Jorge Limeres
 Terry Martin
 Elisabeth McHugh
 Hanna Milord*
 Bonnie O'Connor
 James Phillips
 Claire Rauscher
 Chris Saunders
 Lori Stahara
 Janna Ter Molen
 Steve Thomas
 Nathan Wagner
 Lisa Walter
 Tad Watson

NCAA DIVISION I Championship Referees

All of the individuals listed below were assigned as referees at a first/second round site. Those with one asterisk were selected to referee at a regional site as well; those with two asterisks were also selected to referee the Division I Championship semifinals and final in Oklahoma City.

Paul Albright	Apple Kridakorn
Dan Apol*	Jim Kuziela
Eric Asami*	Ryan MacDowell
Brig Beatie	Nathan Mahaven
Mary Blalock**	Patsy Malta*
Wade Brence*	Paula Martin**
Brian Brink	CJ McAbee-Reher
Carla Bunner	Devonie McLarty**
Donna Carter	Keith Murlless
Tony Chan	Thang Nguyen
Syd Church	Michael O'Connor
Darin Clark	Robert Okamura
Kevin Cull	Jason Olson
Stephanie Cruz	Steve Owen*
Mary Faragher	Jung Park**
Chuck Fleet	Ron Pelham*
Bill Forrester	Mark Prater
Sergio Gonzalez	Michelle Prater*
Dale Goodwin	Marty Prochko
Don Goodwin	Margie Ray
Mike Hamilton	Steve Robb
Brian Hemelgarn*	Wanda Roberts
Donna Hess	Rod Rodriguez
Gary Houghton	Kathy Rogers
Dan Houser	Stephen Shepherd
Maile Jewkes*	Bill Stanley*
Leisa Jordan	Steve Thomas
Todd Karolczak	Bill Thornburgh
Kaili Kimura	Malafu Tiatia
John Kinyon	Julie Voeck*
Verna Klubnikin*	Mara Wager
Daryl Korinek	Kevin Wendelboe

All of the individuals listed below were assigned as line judges at a first/second round site. Those with one asterisk were selected to referee at a regional site as well; those with two asterisks were also selected to referee the Division I Championship semifinals and final in Oklahoma City.

Jordan Ahern	Suzanne Lowry**
Joe Asis	Alex Lundy
Mike Behrens*	Candida Mallo
Thomas Berg	Neil Marron
Robyn Buck	Andy Martin*
Anthony Buller	Luis Martinez**
Henry Chen*	Neal Meredith*
Wade Colson	Joe Miles
Jim Cooley	Ted Moser
Dave Cooper	Shera Moxley
Ken Corum	Chad Oberholtzer*
Ken Dawkins	Robert Owen
Adam Drewry	Jeff Peters
Ruchelle Dunwoody**	Heather Pickett
Erin Eaton	Scott Prox
Cory Federline	Brent Reichert
Ken Frances	Rodante Saballa*
Ben Goodwin**	Michele Schaab
Patrick Hazlett	Robert Skidmore
Chris Haworth	Rena Smith*
Duane Holben	Tina Spann
Landry Homsher	Terry Stephens
Brian Jones	Rachel Stringer*
Juli Jones	Don Tarin*
Pat Kekic	Tom Ulibarri
Diane Kendall	Jim Visgaitis
Ryan Knoblock	Nathan Wagner
Ron Kolash	Roger Wallenburg
Jeff Kopaska	Michal-Ann Watts*
Jeff Krause*	Barry Woosley
Kevin Lane	Matt Zatchey
Patrick Loebig	Sara Zinsman



A ROAST, THEN A TOAST TO HONOR AWARD RECIPIENT ANNE PUFAHL

by Dale Goodwin

When officials and volleyball leaders Anne Pufahl has assigned, mentored, directed and collaborated with met in Oklahoma City at the annual PAVO Officials Convention in December, she had no idea that she was being honored as the 24th recipient of the PAVO Honor Award and with it, an induction in the PAVO Hall of Fame.

But those gathered knew of her steady stream of contributions to better officiating across the country and were more comfortable roasting her than toasting her, at least in the beginning.

Fellow Hall of Famers Denise Izatt, Pati Rolf, Dale Goodwin, Marcia Alterman and Karen Gee, along with PAVO President Julie Voeck shared stories about fur coats, bathroom etiquette, hot flashes and barf bags.

But joking aside, Pufahl distinguished herself as a giant in PAVO history and officiating women's collegiate volleyball. As an official, she received her PAVO National rating in 1992. She officiated the NCAA Division III Championship semi-finals and finals in 1995, 1996 and 2004. She worked numerous NCAA Division I first/second rounds, as well as Regionals in 1999 and 2000, and the 1999 semi-final and championship match in Honolulu, Hawaii.

She serves as the Coordinator of Officials for the Big 12, Sun Belt and Summit conferences.

But her biggest contributions are in her work in training and mentoring officials through PAVO. She has served as National Rating Team director, Officials Training Program-clinic director, and as rule interpreter. She also has served as both an NCAA/PAVO clinician and PAVO training camp mentor. She is NCAA Secretary-Rules editor and is responsible for editing the NCAA Volleyball Rules Book.

In addition, she is coach of the Marquette

University women's club volleyball team and owns two National Invitation Volleyball Club Tournament championships.

"The growth in numbers of PAVO National Officials is a direct result of Anne laying the foundation of the NRT program, establishing parameters and expectations of a national referee," said Mike Carter, former NRT director. "Then as clinic director she developed clinics and training materials to help our cadre of officials throughout the country progress through the rating process."

Carter said he can attest to how much Pufahl has meant to PAVO.

"Although taking on a new role herself, she gave herself freely for the first two years of my term to ensure a smooth transition and to make sure I had all the tools I needed to continue the program," he said. "She truly went above and beyond."

About receiving PAVO's highest honor, PAVO Executive Director Marcia Alterman said "she has contributed to PAVO in a number of roles over the past 10-plus years. She tackles each task she is given with a measure of passion and dedication that is unsurpassed. She demonstrates her dedication and loyalty to volleyball officials and PAVO on a daily basis, and the organization has benefitted from that commitment in many ways."

Others called Pufahl a loyal colleague and friend.

"More than her professional contributions, I appreciate Anne's competitive nature, passion, sense of humor and friendship," said NCAA National Officials Coordinator Joan Powell.





PAVO RECOGNIZES TOM SWEENEY WITH EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE AWARD

*by Brian Hemelgarn
Director of Examinations*

For nearly 20 years, Tom Sweeney has been the behind-the-scenes technical guru for the online volleyball rules exams. His officiating knowledge and computer programming expertise enabled him to contribute incredibly to the development of online training and education materials for referees across the country. Sweeney has been tireless and unselfish with his time when it comes to transforming our paper exams into online electronic versions.

Sweeney was recognized with the Excellence in Service Award, given annually to a PAVO member who gives generously of their time.

He initially began by offering the USAV rules exams online for the New England Region of USA Volleyball, where he is a member. The success of that program eventually expanded beyond the region, and since the exam-writing process is a joint effort between PAVO/NCAA and USA Volleyball, it wasn't long before PAVO/NCAA jumped on this bandwagon. Sweeney's web-based program has become the basis for all of PAVO/NCAA's online testing, including rules, scoring and line judging exams.

With volleyball referees taking a yearly exam, most are at least partly familiar with his work, not only from use of the online system, but also because he is often directly involved with any individual user issues. Sweeney has always been immediately responsive and quick to solve any problems or offer advice to end users. His "customer service" is top-notch. He even catches

typos and errors that slip past the exam review committee.

Tom's low-key, behind-the-scenes personality hasn't garnered him much attention or recognition, nor has he sought it. He has preferred to remain quietly efficient, ultimately providing PAVO members with one of the most valuable tools to help them prepare for the season – our exams.

"Personally, I am indebted to Tom for his attention to detail, his tremendous work ethic, his adherence to deadlines and his responsiveness to the members," said Joan Powell, the NCAA National Coordinator. "Tom Sweeney's selfless efforts have always been provided without much fanfare, by his choice."

Sweeney has done all of this with little or no compensation. Because of him, for many years PAVO has been able to offer one of the best online exam/training programs of any sport in the country. He has rolled with the punches through the years, accommodating necessary changes along the way to ensure we are providing the best examination program to our PAVO membership.

Considering the number of years, the countless hours and the tireless effort that he has put forth, it seems only logical and appropriate that his contributions are recognized. He has just completed his final year as our exam website guru, and we all extended a sincere "Thank You" to Tom Sweeney, the 2014 PAVO Excellence in Service Award winner.



LIABILITY, NEW UNIFORMS, DUES INCREASE AND LINEJUDGE TRAINING AMONG TOPICS DISCUSSED AT BOARD CHAIR ASSEMBLY

by Julie Voeck
President

Attorney Alan Goldberger says there are several steps local PAVO boards must take to minimize exposure to liability and that all boards need to carry directors and officers liability insurance. That was among the topics addressed at the 2014 Board Chair Assembly held in December in conjunction with the PAVO Officials Convention and NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship in Oklahoma City.

The 40 PAVO board chairs who attended were also briefed on the state of PAVO and told about a dues increase for the 2015 season.

Here is a summary:

Ten Ways to Increase Your Board's Exposure to Liability

Goldberger highlighted several "dos" and "don'ts" that boards need to watch out for and stay out of trouble. He discussed the importance of following bylaws and keeping meeting minutes. He also talked about the risks of making officials employees of the association. He also discussed the importance of matching insurance to the risks of the organization, and the need for all boards to carry directors and officers liability insurance, a type of liability insurance covering directors and officers for claims made against them while serving on the board.

Line Judge Training

Brian Jones of the Mid-Atlantic Volleyball Board of Officials (MAVBO) presented a description of the line judge training that the MAVBO is doing. Jones' approach includes clinics (using PAVO training materials), significant on-court training and a personal touch with the training cadre. Jones offered to work with other boards to develop similar programs for training line judges.

State of the Organization

PAVO leadership provided board chairs with an update on new products and programs that PAVO is working and upcoming enhancements to our existing website.

Last year PAVO unveiled the *iRef* learning management system. The online training program went live last summer with the 100-level courses, which are targeted at entry-level referees, but available to all members. In 2015, PAVO will offer the next level of training courses, the 200-level courses, targeted at referees with (or seeking) Local certifications. The 200-level courses will expand to cover topics such as ball-handling, communication, libero-tracking, professionalism, R1 & R2 mechanics, position faults, working with the score sheet, and stress management.

PAVO also announced the development of a new website and database. The plans are to have the first phase of the renovation, which includes the E-store, in place before dues are collected in the spring. The website will have a new look and feel and enhanced usability for PAVO members. PAVO also plans to make updates to the database to incorporate new features and improved functionality, both for members and board chairs.

PAVO is currently in the process of requesting proposals from suppliers for manufacturing and supplying the new alternative uniform shirts to members. PAVO said it expects that new shirts will be available for members for the 2015 collegiate season.

PAVO members, both standard and associate, will pay more for membership in 2015, but the final amount had not been determined. NCAA registration fees will go up \$10 for standard members and \$15 for associate members. An additional fee will be added to cover PAVO programming. That number will be announced in March.



USA Volleyball.

USAV OFFICIALS ASSEMBLY WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

by Devonie McLarty
Officials Assembly Chair

Ever wonder what happens with the comments, questions and suggestions that official stuff in boxes in the workroom at USAV championship events? Each one is passed on to the USAV Officials Commission.

The commission will review and discuss the suggestions during its in-person meeting. Officials are encouraged to bring concerns and suggestions forward to their elected representatives, Sue Mailhot, Pati Rolf, Glo Bailey and Devonie McLarty.

"Your voice is important," McLarty said. It will "help keep us moving forward."

Rolf, a newly elected at-large referee representative, and Mailhot, the officials representative to the USAV Board of Directors, spoke to and listened to concerns during the annual Officials Assembly meeting held during the PAVO Officials Convention and the NCAA Women's Final Four in Oklahoma City.

There was a big turnout for the session which featured breakfast and was sponsored by USAV and PAVO.

"We continue to work towards improvement for our cadre of officials, and this open-forum type of meeting environment helps keep things moving in the right direction," McLarty said.



OFFICIALS PUT COACHES ON THE SPOT AT THE 2014 PAVO OFFICIALS CONVENTION IN OKLAHOMA CITY

by Dale Goodwin and Donna Carter

The room inside the Skirvin Hilton Hotel went silent when emcee Anne Pufahl asked 180 officials sitting in on the coaches panel at the PAVO officials convention, "How many of you would be comfortable talking about an error you made as an official, or a situation that went totally south if you were over at the coaches convention right now?"

The fact that coaches Christy Johnson-Lynch from Iowa State and Joe Sagula from North Carolina bared their souls to the gathering of officials spoke highly of their desire to bridge the gap between our two professions.

"The fact that these coaches were willing to come and talk about these difficult situations was awesome," wrote one attendee on her convention evaluation form.

Another session featured keynote speaker Clay Staires, a leading authority on processing frustrations and difficulties that accompany leadership. His main pearl was this: "Your thoughts determine your actions, and your actions determine your results. To change results, you have to change the way you think." Great advice for officials who sometimes deal with assigners they don't see eye-to-eye with, partners who don't communicate well, and coaches who perhaps communicate a little too much.

In their evaluations, attendees told us the panel discussion with coordinators/assignors was way too short. The session featured officials Sergio Gonzalez, Margie Ray and Paul Albright asking questions of assigners Janis Matson, Carlos Rodriguez and Marcia Alterman. No doubt, this session will be repeated in 2015 when the 20th annual PAVO Officials Convention makes its third stop in Omaha, Dec. 16-19.

"The officials did their homework -- much more information needs to be discussed between the

two groups," said NCAA National Coordinator of Officials, Joan Powell. "Certainly the officials need to know the difficulty of being a coordinator, but the coordinators need to listen and collectively be willing to 'coordinate' their efforts within their group. The officials seem to be stuck between conferences and assignments and want to please everyone, but want to be treated fairly."

Powell presented 90 minutes of on-court training for officials at the Cox Convention Center. There was lots of talk about what constitutes net and center line faults, ball handling ("get over it", she says), and officials' presentation style. Suzanne Lowry and Katy Meyer, with help from Keith Murlless and a number of volunteers, performed an entertaining, informative and interactive session on rules and procedural differences between officiating indoor and sand volleyball. Next year the NCAA will stage its first sand volleyball women's championship as 40 teams are now committed to playing the sport.

The convention wouldn't be complete without Marcia Alterman and Pufahl presenting 'Can You Make this Call,' with a series of video clips showing our counterparts in stressful situations. Some calls were right, some not so good. And each individual watching was either thinking 'so glad that wasn't me' or 'I could have made that call.'

"We're trying to help our cadre to increase the frequency of the second option," Alterman said.

Attendees also learned about tax accounting benefits through volleyball officiating, the road to international officiating and how to take care of one's self when the schedule is hectic. Other sessions dealt with understanding communication styles to help partners and adversaries communicate most effectively, and the SafeSport program through USA Volleyball.

The Oklahoma Board of Officials and Oklahoma Region hosted a well-attended pre-convention social at the Brickhouse Brewery with free drinks, snacks and giveaways. USAV and Tachikara sponsored breakfasts for conventioners Friday and Saturday mornings. The Sports Imports

social and semifinal analysis was highlighted by presentations of the Honor Award to Pufahl and the Excellence in Service Award to Tom Sweeney (see separate stories on these award winners in this issue).



USA Volleyball.

by Bill Thornburgh
Director, Indoor Referee Camps and Training

USAV TO OFFER TWO PREMIER REFEREE TRAINING CAMPS

Two Premier Referee Camps will be offered by USAV in 2015. The first camp will take place at the National Collegiate Volleyball Federation (NCVF) tournament in Kansas City.

- Location: Bartle Hall Convention Center, Kansas City, MO 64105
- Arrival and pre-tournament meeting on April 8th
- Camp competition days on April 9-10
- Departure on April 11 (at end of competition) – Recommended campers will referee on the final day for pay

The second camp will take place at the Girls Junior National Championships (GJNC) in New Orleans. This will be a three-day camp prior to the Junior National Referee Candidates rating session.

- Location: Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, LA 70130
- Arrival and pre-tournament meeting on June 22nd
- Camp competition days from June 23-25
- Departure from camp after 5pm on June 25th (*or attend JN candidate meeting later in the evening*)

The registration fee for these USAV Premier Training Camps is \$250*. Priority for campers at the NCVF camp will be given to any USAV national-level referees, as we anticipate that most campers will be candidates in New Orleans. All applicants for the GJNC training camp must have at minimum, a USAV Regional certification with Referee Chair recommendation, as we anticipate that most campers will be either existing Junior National referees, Junior National candidates in New Orleans, or looking to upgrade to a Junior National certification in the future.

*Note:

- NCVF Campers will be responsible for their own travel costs. Meals and a portion of the lodging expenses will be paid for by NCVF during this two-day camp
- GJNC Campers will be responsible for their own travel costs, meals, and lodging expenses during this three-day camp

Based on the criteria above, acceptance for each camp is on a first-paid basis, so be sure to submit registration and fees in a timely manner. Prior attendance at a 2015 USAV National Referee Clinic and successful completion of the 2015 examination are requirements for camp applicants.

General camp structure:

- Campers will attend a classroom session the evening before the camp begins
- Campers will have evaluations as both first and second referee on competition days
- Campers will be debriefed, have the opportunity to discuss the matches, and ask questions of the USAV National Trainers
- Campers will have the opportunity to participate in other duties (line judging, scoring, observations, etc...)

Don't miss this opportunity to learn the latest techniques and rules from some of the top trainers and referees in the country. Space in the camp is limited, so register now! If you have questions, please contact Bill Thornburgh (wthornbu@yahoo.com) or submit the application form with payment for consideration. This application form can also be found on VRT.

USAV Premier Referee Camps – NCVF and GJNC – 2015

Fill out this form and return it to George Egan at USA Volleyball – Premier Camp,
4065 Sinton Rd, Suite 200, Colorado Springs, CO 80907.

Checks should be made out to USA Volleyball Camps.

- ☐ NCVF – I wish to attend the USAV Premier Training Camp, April 8-11, at the NCVF tournament in Kansas City at the cost of \$250. I understand the requirements of the camp as outlined above.
- ☐ GJNC – I wish to attend the USAV Premier Training Camp, June 22-25, at the GJNC tournament in New Orleans at the cost of \$250. I understand the requirements of the camp as outlined above.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Mobile Phone _____

Current USAV rating _____ Region _____

Registration is not complete until the \$250 fee is received by the USAV offices.



The Generation Gap

by Corny Galdones

Baby boomers, wake up. Take a look at the officials around you. What do you see? More than likely, it's mainly officials of our generation, those who grew up with Dick and Jane, the Beatles, peace demonstrations and rotary telephones.

Where are the young officials, those of the Generation X, Y or Millennial era? If you're not concerned at all, you should be. The future of volleyball officiating isn't very rosy unless we find officials to replace us. We're not Methuselahs, living forever. Who will make up our future cadre? Who will take over from us? We are in trouble without fresh blood to sustain our lifeline. We need to act now.

Are you looking after only your own interests? Are you sitting back lifting nary a finger? Even if you're not in a leadership role, you can and must contribute to growing our corps. What are you doing to pass the torch? Every little bit counts. Instead of ignoring, scolding, looking down on or poking fun at new officials who don't know what they don't know, take that person under your wing, remembering this was you at one time. We need to keep all the officials we have, regardless if they have little clue of what they're doing. Let's not berate or belittle anyone who messes up, discouraging and turning this person away from officiating. Regardless if you may have been treated this way at one time, this is no reason for you to do the same. Be understanding and free in providing correct advice and instruction. Granted, there are some neophytes who know it all and may not want to hear anything you have to say. Asking them "Do you care for some input?" opens the door every time. If not, you've at least made an offer to help.

Recruit, recruit, recruit. With the number of volleyball tournaments exploding, every "Bambi" we gain is valuable. Take advantage of every opportunity to pass the word along about the virtues of officiating to the younger generation. Generate interest. There are many potential, especially young, officials out there who, when given proper training and guidance, will make excellent officials. Ferret them out and anyone else who's willing to give it a try.

Collegiate volleyball players are such a source, in particular, those who are burned out from the rigors of practice and playing. Players in the junior ranks are another source. What teenager wouldn't mind earning an extra buck or two? Well, maybe that's too low for them. Let's make it 50 dollars or more. Plant a seed in them about officiating. Once they're on board, your job has just begun, though. Hold their hands in getting certified, monitor their progress and stay in touch with them so they don't fall over the wayside. New officials often don't have someone readily accessible and reliable to turn to for personal advice and assistance, someone who goes out of the way to tutor and guide them. Be such a person, a mentor.

If you're in charge, you're in the best position of influence. Do you have a formal plan, a plan to change our environment, a plan to get junior players and former collegiate players on board, an outreach plan to inform them of the opportunities in officiating and the process and procedure of becoming one, a program plan detailing what our current officials should be doing to increase our ranks? Giving lip service about recruiting isn't good enough. Think ahead. Think outside the box. Have a plan.

Also have a plan for our geriatric officials. Many have not had much recognition, even though they have contributed a great deal through the years for our cause, blazing the trail for us. While these seniors may have seen their better days, we should be happy and honored to have them around to help bear the demand for more and more officials and share their infinite wisdom with 'whippersnappers' while they still can blow the whistle and have their wits about them.

It's inevitable and unfortunate that at some point in time, they must retire, even if they may not want to. However, to toss them out the door without so much as a "thank you" would be ungrateful on our part. Do something about it. Come up with a plan to acknowledge the good they've done, letting them leave gracefully with their dignity intact. Your day is coming, too. Sooner than you think, you'll be a geezer as well. How would you feel?



MEMBERSHIP AND TECHNOLOGY CHANGES WILL BRING DUES INCREASE IN 2015

by Marcia Alterman
Executive Director

When it comes to technology and services, the expectations and possibilities shift very quickly! It's a challenge to simply keep up, much less stay ahead of the many options available in terms of web-based and member services.

PAVO is trying to do just that, with plans for a much-improved website and web-based education for members. Of course, those changes sometimes push us out of our comfort zones – most of us don't like change to our routines – and most always come with a price tag.

In addition, some changes occur in areas where we have limited influence. For example, the original agreement between PAVO and ArbiterSports regarding NCAA registration has ended, and the new agreement is being negotiated with a few significant changes:

1. For **Standard** PAVO members (those who are eligible for referee certification), the amount PAVO will forward to ArbiterSports to cover your NCAA registration from your 2015 dues will be increased by \$10 (from \$55 to \$65). PAVO continues to work diligently and effectively for volleyball in this area; compare our \$65/year rate to the \$110-\$150/year rate that other sports are paying to ArbiterSports, and you can see that there is power in having a professional association advocating for you.
2. For **Associate** PAVO members (those who are eligible for line judge/scorer certifications only), the previous agreement allowed Central Hub access for no cost. Per the new (2015+) agreement, PAVO must forward \$15 for each Associate member to ArbiterSports for NCAA registration. The Central Hub will provide more pertinent information targeted at line judges and scorers.

These changes in the ArbiterSports/NCAA agreement, plus increased costs within PAVO for the increase in staff size, iRef initiative, and website revision, will mean an increase in dues for the upcoming season. The PAVO Board of Directors will meet in early March to finalize the dues structure for 2015, but plan now on at least a \$20 increase for Standard members (\$10 of which will go to ArbiterSports), and at least a \$15 increase for Associate/Affiliate members (all of which will go to ArbiterSports).

No one is happy about increased costs of doing business, but PAVO's goal is to provide you better member services and improved training with the funds it keeps in house. And, the National Coordinator continues to work with ArbiterSports to make the information on the Central Hub pertinent, timely and valuable.

Don't forget another change that takes place in 2015 – all PAVO Standard and Associate members will pay their dues online through the PAVO E-store, rather than paying to your local board. Details and instructions will be provided closer to the June 1 dues payment date.

Watch for other PAVO member benefits to be added soon – we're working on some new discounts with retail and travel corporations. Combine those with PAVO advocacy, education, certification, insurance coverage, and special events, and your PAVO dues are a true value.



USA Volleyball.

*by Donna Wigton
Director, International Indoor Scorers*

INTERNATIONAL SCORERS: IT'S TIME TO PRACTICE AND PREPARE

Scorers qualified on the international scoresheet will have several opportunities to work during high-level tournaments this spring and summer.

Details about the events will be announced in the April edition of the Official Word, but it will include the Open Championships, PVL matches and the annual High Performance Championships.

To prepare, scorers should be practicing on the FIVB scoresheet at local tournaments to be ready to receive assignments.

The FIVB scoresheet can be downloaded at http://www.fivb.org/EN/Refereeing-Rules/Documents/FIVB_VB_Scoresheet_2013_updated2.pdf. Scorers should also review the instructional PowerPoint Presentation and current USA-International Scorer Manual on VRT (www.VolleyballRefTraining.com). Also, visit www.dataproject.com for training materials on the eScoresheet.

National scorers who want to become qualified on the international sheet should do the same by following the procedures above to learn the scoresheet and try it out at a match.

The steps to become qualified are on the VRT website - click on "Certifications" on the tool bar, then the red "Indoor" square, then under the green "scorer" rectangle click "International Indoor Scorer" and read the "To become qualified" section.

Attendance at the International Rating and Training Commission clinic, usually given on the day before the USA Volleyball Open Championships start (definite day and time will be announced by the April newsletter) is required. At that meeting, candidates will fill out a short application form.

There is no fee, but candidates are required to print out and bring their own manual. During the Open Championships, May 23-26, candidates will need to score a minimum of two practice matches in the Open or PVL matches. One match will be done on the FIVB sheet, and one on the experimental 6-U sheet. The sheets will be turned in for review.

I am looking forward to seeing most of you at one of the tournaments this summer!



PAVO CONVENTION WILL MARK ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY IN OMAHA

by Christina Fiebich
Board Delegate

The 20th edition of the PAVO Convention will take place Dec. 15-20 in Omaha, Neb., in conjunction with the NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship.



The DoubleTree by Hilton in downtown Omaha will serve as the host hotel and is only eight blocks from the CenturyLink Center, where of the Division I Women's Volleyball Championship matches will be played.

As the convention comes during holiday season, the city will be illuminated with hundreds of lights decorating the streets for the Holiday Lights Festival. The magical winter wonderland encompasses 40 blocks of sparkling lights, holiday concerts, ice skating, and many family-friendly activities.

Nearby the host hotel is Nebraska's largest museum, the Joslyn Art Museum that features spectacular collections from antiquity to the present. Admission is free. And, just down the street is the Old Market Entertainment District, offering shopping, dining and nightlife.

More exciting things to do during your stay in Omaha will be featured in future issues of *Official Word*. As always, PAVO will provide a wide array of educational and entertaining presenters, while allowing time to enjoy the Championship matches and the host city. The convention is an outstanding opportunity for education and fun – plus, you get to watch great volleyball and excellent volleyball officials. Plan now to join us!!



PURSUIT RULE IS HOT TOPIC WITH RULES COMMITTEE

by Anne Pufahl
NCAA Secretary-Rules editor

A large majority of officials are in favor of retaining the current pursuit rule according to a rules survey recently conducted by the NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules Committee.

The committee also reviewed three non-scoring-related protests and possibly liberalizing player introduction protocol when it met in Indianapolis in January to go over results of a survey completed by coaches, administrators, conference coordinators and officials. Officials had the highest rate of returns.

No changes to the rules are expected since 2015 is not a rule-change year. The survey items were for discussion purposes only, but could be included in future surveys, lead to further research and possibly rule changes for 2016.

According to survey results, 68.5 percent of officials said the current pursuit rule allowing players to retrieve the ball from the opponent's playing space provided the retrieving player does not commit a centerline violation should stay as it currently is.

Second officials are vulnerable during this type of play and the committee spent several hours discussing the rule. The committee was shown several videos of players and coaches colliding during pursuit situations and a rather graphic video of an official getting seriously hurt during a

pursuit attempt. The committee said it will take a serious look at player, official and coach safety concerning pursuit during the 2016 rule committee meeting.

The committee also looked into three protests filed in 2014 that centered on temperature, lighting, and a misapplication of the playing rules. The situation where the playing rules were misapplied resulted in an upheld protest, and the match was replayed from the point that the protest was lodged. The other two issues, lighting and temperature, were both discussed at length, and interpretations will be coming out prior to the start of the 2015 season.

The committee discussed liberalizing the rules regarding player introduction. Currently, players must be introduced from the end line or from the team bench. The committee felt an interpretation to allow more flexibility for team introductions is appropriate. It is up to each individual conference to set time limits as needed.

While no rule changes are expected for 2015, some conferences will be testing an experimental rule which allows for a challenge/review system. The rule is being reviewed by PROP (playing rules oversight panel) to decide if it can be used for the fall 2015 season. Look for more information to come in the next *Official Word*.



DODD SEATED AS PAVO'S NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

*by Julie Voeck, President and
Marcia Alterman, Executive Director*



Suzanne Dodd, of Greenville, SC, has joined the PAVO Board of Directors and will hold the position of Director of Training Camps.

Dodd, who will serve a three-year term, is a national PAVO and USA Volleyball official and is also a member of PAVO's *iRef* Committee. *iRef* is a new proprietary online education and training program.

"Suzanne's experience in training referees and dedication to continuous improvement of performance will be great assets as she takes on this new role," the board said in announcing her appointment. Dodd has been active in training officials locally and "will bring a wealth of experience to this role."

In other board news, Julie Voeck was re-elected as president and will serve her second term. Donnie Goodwin, of Fisherville, KY, was re-elected as Director At-Large and will serve a second term.



MEMBER PROFILE

McLarty's sage advice to aspiring officials: Be a sponge, take it seriously and be professional

*by Chuck Fleet
Board Delegate*

Devonie McLarty is on a whirlwind roll. In the past two years, McLarty, of Naperville, IL, has gotten married, earned an invitation to become an international referee candidate through FIVB and in December officiated the NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship Final.

"Breathe and enjoy every second of this moment," she told herself as she stood on the court in Oklahoma City before one of the championship semifinals.

McLarty has been doing just that ever since she started playing club volleyball and officiating when she was 12 and fell in love with the sport. In her early days, McLarty said she was frequently the second referee when her team was working because no one else ever wanted to do it. She said it was an enjoyable experience and always asked the certified official for feedback, which they were regularly happy to give.

With encouragement from officials in the Great Lakes Region, McLarty earned her provisional USAV ranking at 15. Soon after, she earned her Regional ranking followed by her Junior National and National badges. Before graduating from high school McLarty imagined that she had worked more matches as an R2 than most National Level officials. By then she had her sights set on more lofty goals.

"Becoming an International Referee was my main goal when I became a referee," she said. "When I started out, I was too young to understand what NCAA meant or what the National Championship was. I knew about the Olympics! So it was an honor to be selected to represent our country and USA Volleyball on the International Level."

Her work on the court, officiating thousands of matches at all levels of women's and men's collegiate volleyball, boys and (a tiny bit) of girls

high school volleyball, and all levels of USAV adult and juniors competition from 12's to PVL, was rewarded last winter when the NCAA called and asked her to work last season's NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship in Oklahoma City, including the championship match.

"I CRIED!!! Literally, I was in shock for days! I was surprised about how emotional I got about it actually," she recalled. Upon learning she was to officiate the championship match, "I was surprised and humbled to be selected out of such a strong and experienced crew. When the National Anthem began, I had to hold back the tears. There was so much emotion inside of me and again I was just hoping that the officiating crew could stay out of it and keep the focus on the match."

At one time, McLarty tried her hand at coaching, but she immediately found that officiating was her passion, and a way to give back to the game without getting in the way.

"I will never forget what it felt like as a young girl to have a ref that was mean or yelled at us. We got that enough from our coaches," she said. "Do you know how deflating it was to be a little girl on a team with my friends, playing our favorite sport and have a ref that acted like they would rather be anywhere but reffing at our tournament? I will never feel "too big" for any level of match, and I wish all referees would understand that mentality."

That has been McLarty's recipe for success, and the same advice she'd pass on to other aspiring officials.

"BE A SPONGE! Watch officials, especially ones that are at the level you aspire to be," she said. "Try to emulate them, but find your own style. Have several mentors. Ask questions, but listen more than you speak. Be patient. Approach each

match with the same respect and attitude as if it was the Championship match – even if it's your 12th match in a row and court 132. There is always someone watching.”

She also recommends traveling as much as possible and working as many matches as possible. “Strive to be better in your next match than you were in your last match. Take it seriously and be professional.”

Blessed with officiating success on the court, McLarty was also blessed with a husband and scores of friends who share her passion. On Jan. 17, 2013, in Las Vegas, Devonie and Sergio Gonzalez got married in front of 40 family members and friends, and as you can guess, a lot of them were volleyball officials.



USAVolleyball.

by Michelle Prater

USAV REFEREE CANDIDATE

Both the National and Junior National referee candidate applications will be online this year.

The candidates register in Webpoint for the appropriate clinic/curricula and then complete all requirements in USAV Academy by the April 1st deadline. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Prater at praterm11@gmail.com.



USAVolleyball.

by Michelle Prater

USAV TECHNIQUE CORNER

The second referee technique for an improper request has not changed. A USAV second referee will still use the wave off for an improper request.

The first referee will use the same technique as the NCAA. When the team on the left commits the fault, the first referee places the right hand over the left wrist.

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USAV Officials Commission/Assembly

www.usavolleyball.org

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