

# THE OFFICIAL WORD NEWSLETTER



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Joan Powell

How refreshing and rejuvenating it was to be exposed to volleyball colleagues in two extremely different settings!

After refereeing the first weekend of the new season, I came back home by way of Boulder, Colorado for my first ever AVP (Beach Volleyball) Tournament. It was quite an extravaganza - TV, celebrities, sponsors, interesting intermission/entertainment, beer, scantily clad participants and spectators. Amongst all of the distractions, there were referees doing what they do best - ensuring that the game is safe and fair. It takes a special kind of referee to work the beach tournaments. The atmosphere is very different from indoor. It is raw entertainment and it is all about the players, TV and the purse.

I enjoyed watching Steve Owen (head referee) interact with his



crew:  
Glenn Sapp,  
Keith Murless,  
Dave Carson, Steve  
Kenyon, Richard Bleau, Dan  
Apol, Brig Beatie, Brant Lee, not to  
mention Ryan McDowell representing

"Team Sandboni," the raking crew! There were many others on staff, but I was only there for a couple matches near the end of the weekend.

Intensity runs through the competitors' veins and it is apparent that money is on the line. The relationship between the competitors and the officials is congenial, some bantering, but the athletes dictate the tone.

The fact that there are only two athletes on a team lends to the excitement. The fans know the game and the individual athletes. Their proximity to the court allows them to be intimate. Of course, with the amount of alcohol consumed in the hot August sun, like at all professional sporting events, the atmosphere is conducive to a more raucous environ-

ment. But through all of this I thought our referees did an exceptional job. I appreciated witnessing the other half of the USA Volleyball Rule book!

A week later I found myself far from the beach. The coach from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Phil Shoemaker, had invited me to be a "guest official". I was happy to join a list of former "guests" like Ann Fruechte and Corny Galdones.

My charge was to train the local high school and collegiate officials. The day after conducting a National Federation clinic, I attended a local high school match. During the junior varsity and varsity games, officials were rotated in the umpire position each game. It may sound unorthodox, but the coaches, players and tempo of the game were unaffected. The referee was solid and flexible as her partner changed every game. It was such a tremendous opportunity to take the clinic information and put it into practice. Between games, I was able to take the umpire (along with those waiting their turn) to the auxiliary court to discuss what they had just experienced.

The following day I was invited to the collegiate tournament banquet - dinner was a salmon bake at a favorite restaurant. The university chancellor and athletic director

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**WE'VE GOT TICKETS!!!**

PAVO has a large block of tickets for the NCAA Division I Championships in Omaha, available to PAVO Convention registrants only!! Conventioneers may order two tickets each - the first will be confirmed immediately (supply permitting) and the second orders will be confirmed in the order received beginning on November 10.

Register for the convention today, and order match tickets - be a part of the first-ever sold out Championship!

*President's Message - Continued from page 1*

welcomed the four NCAA Division II teams. Each coach was given the opportunity to speak. Alaska's program has strong support from their institution and from the community.

Because the Alaskan collegiate officials do not travel, there is a concern that the group's exposure is limited only to the local teams and the teams that travel to Fairbanks. Phil Shoemaker is passionate about the officials learning the new rules and techniques and being evaluated by an outside source. I am pleased to report that these officials had a solid foundation and were eager learners. I was able to rate alongside them as well as officiate with them. We would debrief after each match. They loved evaluating me and believe me, they found plenty to talk about!

The Alaskan adventure was not just business, however. I had time to visit their beautiful sites as well. The riverboat was a cultural lesson. I was able to see Susan Butcher's home and the site of her musher training and her gorgeous dogs. Susan was the first female to win the Iditarod. It is quite the race - a thousand plus miles, in freezing temperatures, on her sled led by her dogs. She won the race three times. Unfortunately, Susan passed away in August from leukemia at the age of 52. In between Saturday's matches, I was able to attend Susan's Memorial Service. Susan's husband along with their two young daughters, each with a leashed Husky in tow, welcomed and thanked everyone. The program was outstanding with Melinda Gates (Bill Gates' wife), a close friend as the most profound speaker. There certainly was a great deal of emotion during the service.

I was very fortunate to be able to go to "the beach" observe my friends in a different venue and then to travel Alaska, meet new friends, share volleyball, sightsee and be a part of some Alaskan history.

Not to sound trite - but, volleyball has been very, very good to me!!



**Alaska referees:**

left to right  
standing - Jason Moore  
sitting - Roxanne Stickel, Karen Espinoza, Ruth Olsen, Kassie McDonald, Dani Raap, Tina Cox-Cole  
standing - Pat Garis-Shoemaker  
not pictured - Kim Killion

## Thanks, Dues and More



*Nancy Funk  
Director Scorekeeping Certification & Evaluation*

I want to begin by extending a HUGE thanks to all the National Scorekeepers in New Orleans who acted as mentors to the National Scorekeeper candidates. Also another HUGE thank you to the National Scorekeepers who were gracious enough to have a candidate with them for an observation match to learn the operation of the USA Open tournament. It is great to know how you all can be counted on to help new officials

By November 1st the form for 2007 National Scorekeeping candidates should be posted on the USA Volleyball website. Scorekeeping Chairs need to start thinking about who they would like to send as a candidate and start grooming them so they are prepared when they arrive in Austin. Anyone interested in becoming a National Scorekeeper needs to contact their Regional scorekeeping chair so you can get the wheels in motion to attend the 2007 USA Volleyball Open Championships in Austin, Texas. For those of you that want to start planning, you will have to arrive for the clinic on Tuesday, May 29, 2006.

All National scorekeepers need to remember that you must remit your annual \$40.00 dues to the officials division to remain in good standing if you have not done so already. If you are a National referee there is only one fee due for the two certifications. So if you were a National Scorekeeper candidate that received your National patch in New Orleans you will owe dues for the upcoming 2007 season. Send your check to: USA Volleyball, Officials Division, 715 South Circle Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 80910.

To retain your USAV National Scorekeeper status each of you must meet certain criteria. These criteria can be found on the USA Volleyball website for your review.



## A Word from Glenn

from Glenn Sapp  
Vice President, USAV Officials Division

I hope all of your High School and College seasons went well as we prepare to embark upon the USAV season. As I sit here typing this article it dawns on me that if you combine the High School, College, USAV and even the Beach season, one really can work all year long as a professional volleyball official. Not sure one would want to but you can!

The last Vice President's article touched upon a few of the new programs which are funded by the Official's Division's program budget. Permit me to elaborate on two of those new programs. The first is the "Recruiting Program." The basis of this program is the Official's Division sending a "recruiter" to some of the Qualifiers or other large tournaments with the sole purpose of looking for talented officials. These could be Regional, Provisional or PAVO officials who might be working the event. The "Recruiter" will visit with the official and find out about them--what Region they are from, some of their goals or aspirations--and give information on the benefits of becoming a national level official. The "Recruiter" will then contact the official's Region to discuss the official with them in order to help in determining what opportunities may be available to the official. In this way perhaps we can get more eyes and perspective on potential future National officials.

In another program, the Official's Division (at the request of a Region) will provide qualified persons to help in the teaching of how to prepare and give clinics, how to set up programs for evaluation of officials, or any other needs the Region might have where the Official's Division can be of service. We will ask that the Region pay a minimum of half of the costs of bringing in raters and/or trainers and the Official's Division will pay the remainder. This should be a win/win situation for the Regions and the Official's Division.

Both of these programs fit into the goals of the Official's Division as they pertain to growth and establishment of minimum national standards for USAV officiating. How these programs will promote growth is evident. Let me elaborate on the goal of setting "national standards." For a number of years there has been a desire to make evaluations and promotion of officials a more streamlined and financially efficient model. This included a joint process with USAV and PAVO. It is an arduous task and I think there have been some very positive strides in the past year. Part of the basis for this process would involve minimal standards at all levels by which to evaluate the ability of officials. Another aspect would be a point renewal system to pro-

mote growth and proficiency for all officials at all levels. Let me be perfectly clear that in no way does the USAV Official's Division intend to impose these standards on any Region or PAVO board. The goal is to set "minimum" standards. A Region or PAVO Board would have latitude in enhancing these "standards" to what ever "minimum" they may want to impose upon the officials within their respective jurisdiction. There is currently a rough draft model that has been sent to PAVO and USAV region chairs for evaluation and input. This model was created by the current PAVO/USAV Joint Evaluation committee. The members are Marcia Alterman and Ben Jordan for PAVO and Kathy Ferraraccio and Charles Ezigbo for USAV. I want to thank them for all of their time, efforts and considerable progress to date.

In the most recent Regional Operations Division meeting the issue of background screening of officials was discussed. It was determined that at this time each Region will set the standards for whether or not officials will have background screening conducted.

At the Official's Division Assembly meeting in May, they took the position that each Region should control this issue with the recommendation that background screening of officials should not be necessary. I'm sure there will be additional discussion on this issue as the season progresses.

The next Joint PAVO/USAV Interface meeting will be in December at the Final Four and the next meeting of the Official's Division Administrative Council will be in early March (exact date, time and date is to be determined), and it will probably be in Denver.

Thank you all again for your contributions to the advancement of our sport and I hope to see you at events this season.

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## PAVO Board

Focus on development, services,  
communications highlight Board vision

By Marcia Alterman  
PAVO Executive Director

The PAVO Board of Directors met in Wichita Kansas on February 10-12. This dedicated group consists of: Joan Powell (President), Marcia Alterman (PAVO Executive Director and Rules Interpreter), Mike Carter (National Rating Team Director), Fono Fisaga (Director at Large), Karen Gee (Finance Director), Dale Goodwin (Interim Board Member); Ben Jordan (Examinations Director), Verna Klubnikin (Board Delegate), Crystal Lewis (Board Delegate), Anne Pufahl (OTP-Clinic Director), Julie Voeck (OTP-Camps Director), and Mara Wager (Director at Large).

There was productive discussion on a variety of topics. Many of the subjects discussed centered on a few predominant themes, including recruitment of new referees and support officials, increasing member services and communications, and the budget.

A workgroup met to brainstorm ideas on recruiting, and several potential programs resulted. The group suggested developing public service announcements to be used on video-scoreboards, verifying that the PAVO website is tied to appropriate keywords to be found on searches, advertising in publications like Volleyball Magazine, Referee Magazine,

and Fitness Magazine, and reaching out to high school, AAU, and park/rec referees via their publications. These ideas will be developed further and brought back to the entire Board for review and action.

The directors took action in several significant areas, including:

- o A budget item was created to fund conference calls for the Conference Coordinators during the season to help network issues and disseminate information on interpretations or problem areas.
- o Funds were allocated to target a representative of women and/or minorities to attend an NRT site in 2007.
- o Repercussions were clarified for National referees who fail to attend a pre-season clinic.
- o A non-member examination fee was established to allow full access to the test prior to the start of the season (effective 2006).
- o An invitation will be extended to the Division I Conference Coordinators Association to send a representative to the PAVO Board of Directors meeting at their expense.
- o A budget line item was established for subcontractors to assist the PAVO staff with technical and other tasks.
- o Funds were allocated to create a Fundamental Volleyball Officiating video.
- o A budget line item was established to create a Rules

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and Points of Emphasis video for coaches.

- o Online registration for clinics will be developed, with a higher fee charged to those attendees who choose not to pre-register online.
- o The Official Word newsletter will be supplemented with email announcements of programs or other important information in order to provide timely communication.
- o At the 2006 PAVO/USAV Interface meeting, the feasibility of continuing the joint examination effort will be a major topic.

A tentative 2007 budget was developed based on projected programs. The possible need for a dues increase in 2007 was part of that discussion. It was determined that an official announcement of an increase must be given about a year in advance.

A tremendous amount of business was conducted in a 2-and-a-half-day meeting, and several more hours will be contributed by the various directors as they do program work and other assigned tasks throughout the year.



Junior National  
Rating Team  
Observations  
USAV Junior  
National Rating Team

*By Charles Ezigbo*

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

Many referees probably still don't get enough practice working as or with a second referee. There generally isn't enough communication between the

first and second referees during a match. First referees need to take advantage of the opportunity of having a trained and competent partner and allow them to make their calls, look for help when appropriate, and include them in their scan at the end of the rally before showing a signal. This is what is being referred to as "centering" at the OTP clinics this summer.

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

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

Time management is always an issue. Time wasted between matches adds up and adversely affects the poor referees working the last match(es) on that court. These referees could be eating an earlier dinner or enjoying more bedtime if even half an hour had been saved by referees on earlier matches. When a match is completed and the teams for the next match have

taken the floor, the coin toss should be administered and the warm-up time should be started immediately. There should still be enough time to deal with scoresheets or personal needs, locate the game ball if it's missing, and brief the rest of the officiating team if you plan all these things beforehand. As long as one referee stays on the court to administer the warm-up, the other can be away for a very short time, and they can take turns. The key is to have a plan.

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

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

## A VERY SPECIAL, SPECIAL OLYMPIAN



By Joe Sharpless

Former USVBA Vice President for Officials and Referee-Emeritus  
Volleyball Technical Delegate for Special Olympics, Inc.

Prologue: If we are lucky, we will meet some very extraordinary people in our lifetime. If we are extremely lucky, some of these people will become our friends. Let me digress.

I had been either associated or active with volleyball for over 40-years when in 1994, I was offered the position of Director of Special Olympics Volleyball. My first assignment was to be the SOI Representative at the 1995 Special Olympic World Summer Games (SOWSG) in New Haven, Connecticut. It changed my life.

I was introduced not only to a different brand of volleyball, but to a different philosophy and concept of competition than I had ever worked with before. For the duration of the games I applied my past experience with sport and volleyball only to the extent that it would supplement my Special Olympics education. But this is not about me, it is about a very special Special Olympian who was about to enter my life and make an impact very few have done. She has been an inspiration for me since. I consider myself to have been extremely lucky.

In my role as Technical Delegate for Volleyball at the 1999 SOWSG in North Carolina I was introduced to a program entitled, "Special Olympics Officials' Program for Athletes", or SOOPA. Volleyball had been assigned three SOOPA officials. Initially I was very apprehensive. As a retired USA National Referee, I was sensitive to the level of training and experience required to be a competent official at this level. How could a Special Olympic athlete step into this role and assume this level of responsibility? In reflection, I realize now I had much to learn. My education with Special Olympics was just beginning and would be a continuum of experiences.

One of these SOOPA officials was a young lady named Maryann. After registering with, but prior to coming to the games she injured her leg, it was casted and she was restricted to a wheel chair throughout the competition. Her disappointment was obvious, but she was willing to be as signed to score-keeping and ancillary duties. Undauntedly she tackled her daily assignments with enthusiasm and an eager willingness to learn. She consumed critique knowing it to be a step towards the next plateau. Her dry wit and sense of humor reflected her positive personality and soon won over the cadre of seasoned FIVB and USA National officials. We soon found out

that Maryann was no ordinary person. Maryann Gonzales was born on the 12th of December 1964 at the Dover (DE) AFB. She grew up in a group home in Miami, Florida and was there until the age of nine when she moved to Adamsville in Sumter County, Florida. In 1993 she moved into an apartment with a roommate and in 1995 purchased her own home in Bushnell, Florida where she still resides today.

She is currently employed as a trainer with SCARC Inc. an evaluation, training and employment center in Bushnell that provides a variety of services to adults who are developmentally disabled. She assists with the training of others with telephone responses, taking and transmitting of messages, completing timesheets and computer use.

She first became involved with Special Olympics as an athlete. As a 9-year old she participated in athletics, or track and field as most of us understand it, until the 1980's when she decided to play team sports. In the 1980's she participated in basketball, softball and volleyball. In the 90's she played golf, horseshoes and shuffleboard. She still competes as an athlete in softball, volleyball and golf, her most recent stint on a team representing Florida at the 2006 National Unified Volleyball

Championships in New Orleans. She has been a Special Olympic athlete for 32 of her 41 years and hopes to continue as long as she is physically able.

In the early 1990's she started helping other athletes more, with coaching, and in a position entitled, "Training Director." In 2000 she was elected to the United States Leadership Council, the North American Leadership Council and the SOI Sports Committee. She is the incumbent Coordinator for Special Olympics in Sumter County, Florida. Maryann has received several recognitions from within Florida and from Special Olympics Inc., and she is a SOI Global Ambassador. An impressive resume' to say the least!

In the late 1970's Steve and Marsha Perkins came forward to help her, in many ways as if she was a member of their family. Ultimately they became her mentors. They were always there for her in times of need and still today they are family in her heart. Steve had been active with Special Olympics and was invited to the 1991 SOWSG as a softball official. On his return he queried Maryann of her interest in becoming a softball umpire. Of course she said yes, and was willing to give it a try. From then on it was tutoring, clin-

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Special Olympian Continued from page 6

ics, and lots of practice. She successfully completed the full testing program and was soon working Special Olympics as well as community league games. With the 1995 SOWSG on the horizon she was accepted as a SOOPA softball umpire.

However, in 1996 she and Steve conferred and decided on her next challenge - volleyball. First, it was not as hard on her legs, and secondly it was inside and usually cooler. It was back to the original formula.....tutoring sessions, clinics, field-testing, written examinations and officiating assignments. Practice, practice, practice and she was ready for North Carolina, World Games II, only this time it would be volleyball.

After her disappointment with being unable to referee in 1999, she continued working locally to hone her skills as a volleyball official under the guidance of her mentors. She worked with Special Olympics Florida and officiated SOFL competition whenever possible. She applied for the 2003 SOWSG in Dublin, Ireland, and this time was able to fully function as a referee. There were many returning officials from previous games and they immediately embraced Maryann as an integral part of the volleyball officiating team. The Irish (Volleyball) Referees Association adopted her as well. Although most of her assignments were as an R2, there were a few R1 gigs to test her continually improving officiating skills. The most challenging test however, came when she was assigned as the First Referee on the highly competitive USA-Irish Match pitting the skills of the younger, better conditioned Irish referees against the more experienced, maturing US referees. Not surprisingly, she held her own. She was the clear winner in that match! She even managed a Yellow Card.....now that took some courage!

What does the future hold for Maryann? Since the Ireland Games she (1) has officiated at the Special Olympics USA National Unified Championships in Atlanta, where she

was rated and critically acclaimed by Joan Powell and Marcia Alterman, (2) has obtained a USA Volleyball Provisional Referee rating from the Florida Regional Volleyball Association and (3) just recently completed assignment to the Inaugural Special Olympics USA National Games, where she was assigned as an R1 three times and was awarded the R2 position in the Women's Gold Medal match. A highlight of these games for her was her interview with ABC-TV as an ambassador of Special Olympics.

It is anticipated that Maryann will be officiating at the next SOWSG in 2007. More and higher level training sessions are in the offing between now and her next assignment at the International level.

In response to a question, she replied, "Everyone has put forth a lot of effort to get me where I am today. Without these people and their support I do not think that I would have gotten this far in my personal life. I have road blocks but I am learning everyday with support from major people in my life as to how to get around them and keep on going."

Her goals? "To take one day at a time and see where it takes me. Hopefully I will be ready for the next World Games, and in life, learn to be patient and keep working hard, and to have the strength to get through each day."

Handicapped? Perhaps! However, in the final analysis, who among us is not handicapped in some manner?

Maryann? For those who know her they know that if she wants it, she will attain it. To all who meet her they know they have not only met a very special Special Olympian, but a very special person who they will never forget. Soon you will see her in the tower at the 2007 Special Olympic World Summer Games at the Volleyball venue in Shanghai, China, and maybe, just maybe, wherever the Games will be in 2011.



## OTP Wrap-up

Clinics draw positive reviews

By Anne Pufahl  
OTP-Clinics Director

The 2006 Officials Training Program season ended on a high note with over 1,580 clinic attendees at 27 different sites across the country. Despite some travel problems this year's clinics were an overwhelming success. The video clips were a huge hit and were mentioned on almost every evaluation. I want to thank everyone for their insight and suggestions, which will be incorporated in the 2007 clinic program.

Thanks to all the clinic hosts for all their time and hard work in running their clinics. This is a thankless job so make sure you give them a pat on the back the next time you run into them.

A big thanks to Mary Faragher for her ongoing efforts to develop and improve our PowerPoint technology. I also want to recognize Marcia Alterman's efforts to provide all the great video clips that have added a lot to the clinic content. She puts tremendous effort into watching and editing match after match for just the right situations.

Thanks to the OTP clinic staff who gave up their summer weekends to travel across the country to conduct their clinics. This year's clinicians were Mike Carter, Mary Blalock, Brian Hemelgarn, Marcia Alterman, Steve Thorpe, Joan Powell and Anne Pufahl. Special recognition goes to Donnie Goodwin for stepping in and conducting a clinic at the last minute due to unforeseen travel issues.

Finally, I want to recognize Diane Plas as the winner of the OTP clinic host of the year award. Diane has continually run a premiere clinic at a very comfortable, techno savvy location. For winning this award Diane gets her choice of clinic dates for 2007.



## Convention in the Big O

Register Now for Best Professional Development Opportunity Around

By Dale Goodwin  
PAVO Interim Board Member

Kathy DeBoer, current AVCA Executive Director, will deliver the first serve at the 2006 PAVO National Convention in Omaha, Neb., when the three-day workshop tips off Dec. 14 at the Doubletree Hotel.

DeBoer worked for 23 years in intercollegiate athletics as a volleyball coach (University of Kentucky), administrator and fundraiser prior to serving the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government as the overseer of Parks and Recreation, the Lexington Sports Authority, and the Blue Grass State Games. Since taking the helm of the AVCA in early 2006, she has steered that organization toward a new home in Lexington and a fresh approach to the organization's administration as a partner with Host Communications. DeBoer is a sought-after speaker for groups as diverse as athletics administrators, women in law enforcement and high school students. She also is a frequent keynote speaker at academic conferences and business seminars. Volleyball has been her passion for decades, and she will set the tone for this professional development and highly entertaining confab.

If you've never attended, you should this year. Attending this convention is like packing 10 officiating camp experiences into one. You will hear from some of the best volleyball and officiating minds around. Tentative plans cover a wide breadth of topics, from how to take care of yourself in this pressure cooker profession, to an on-court demonstration of key things to look for. Marcia Alterman will present another edition of "You Make the Call," where video clips are used to examine how to handle tough situations. A joint session with the AVCA convention-attendees is in the plans, and will include a discussion of the topics that provide the "hot buttons" for coaches. A session on crew communications and perspectives from college coaches and conference coordinators will also adorn the agenda, as will an analysis of the officiating of the semi-final matches, paired around a social for all convention participants.

Convention registration is open to everyone. PAVO members may register for \$125 before Nov. 15. Non-members may register for \$150. Registration includes admittance to all sessions, a Saturday morning continental breakfast, a goodie bag, and free admission to the American Volleyball Coaches Association Trade Show. Few will walk away from the convention without a door prize, provided by volleyball vendors and college conferences.

A special \$75 rate is available for a mini convention package, which includes Friday night's semi-final analysis and social, and Saturday morning's sessions. Tickets to the NCAA semifinals and finals are available for purchase in a PAVO block, on a first-come, first-served basis. A PAVO Convention registration flyer is included in this newsletter. Complete it now.

For more information, check out the PAVO web site at [www.pavo.org](http://www.pavo.org).

In addition to 10 professional development sessions Dec. 14-16 at PAVO's host hotel, the Doubletree, there will be the PAVO Board Assembly for local board leadership, and a USAV Regional Volleyball Representative Assembly. Time will be built into the schedule to allow for browsing the points of interest in Omaha.



The Doubletree is located near the historic Old Market and the Qwest Center, site of the NCAA Division I semifinal and final matches, Dec. 14 and 16. Spacious guest rooms, indoor pool, covered parking and warm chocolate chip cookies will greet their guests. A special PAVO rate of \$99/night is available only until December 1- call 800/766-1164 for reservations, and mention that you are reserving in the AVCA/PAVO block. The majority of PAVO convention session will be held there (the on-court session and the AVCA/PAVO joint session will be at the Qwest Center). The Doubletree is about 8 blocks from the Qwest Center (playing site) and AVCA Headquarters (Hilton).



## 2007 Junior National Candidacy Information

Charles Ezigbo  
Director, USA Jr. National Referee Certification & Evaluation

The application period for submitting applications to become a USAV Junior National referee begins on January 15 2007. If you are thinking about applying as a Junior National candidate for 2007, now is the time to start the ball rolling. Acceptance is not automatic how-

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*Candidacy Continued from page 8*

ever. There are a few things that must occur prior to being accepted. Since each Region is limited in the number of candidates it can send, each candidate should make sure that he/she knows and follows the procedures in order not to run the risk of being eliminated for such things as missing deadlines.

First and foremost, you must be recommended by your Region. If you have not already done so, make your intention known to your Referee Chairperson and your Region Commissioner. They are aware of the steps that are necessary to guide you through the process. You should also seek guidance from them on the best way to properly train for the rating process. Many Regions have their own process for selecting candidates to represent them. Along with this, it would be a good idea to seek advice from a person who has recently gone through the national rating process. They can often offer a tidbit of information here and there that may prove useful.

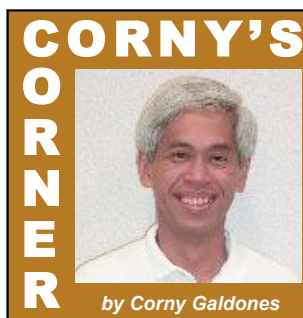
During the national rating process you must demonstrate practical proficiency as both a first and second referee. You must also show theoretical proficiency by taking and passing a modified scorekeeper exam. If you have not already done so, please read the article in this newsletter entitled "Junior National Rating Team Observations". It highlights some of the pitfalls that occasionally hinder the performance of Junior National candidates.

In terms of prerequisites, you must be in "good standing" both in your Region and with the USAV Official's Division (OD). Examples of being in "good standing" are: membership with your USAV Region; all Regional and National dues paid on time; required tests taken, passed, and submitted by its due-date; etc.

There are deadlines that you should be aware of and must meet in order to remain in the process. These deadlines will be published in more detail in early January 2007. The candidate registration period will begin on January 15 2007. The deadline for submitting your application is April 1 2007. Candidates will be notified as to whether or not they are accepted as a candidate by May 1 2007.

More detailed information about the Junior National process requirements, expectations, and entitlements can be found on the OD page of the USAV website, [www.usavolleyball.org](http://www.usavolleyball.org). Simply navigate to the section on "Becoming an Indoor Volleyball Referee" under the "Rules/Officials" tab. On January 15 2007, you will also find the application for becoming a Junior National referee on that site.

Good luck and hope to see you at the USA Girls Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships.



### **Wanted: More Officials, Capable Officials**

*By Corny Galdones,  
September 2006*

Starting out, we volleyball officials were deer in the headlights. Indeed, we were.

Oh, come on. Admit it. Our development wouldn't have been as fast nor our progression as high if someone had not taken us by the hand, shown us the ropes and paved our way. We should be forever grateful.

Our profession needs us to return the favor now more than ever. The demand for our services is growing leaps and bounds. On the flip side, officials are walking away from it all here and there. Our numbers are stretched to the limit to meet the demand. We need more bodies, capable bodies through recruiting and mentoring. These days of working till we drop are getting old. Sure, the pay is nice. But is it worth the price we pay? Rest may no longer do anything for our beauty but our bodies could use the rest. My mirror and ticker don't lie to me. How about you? Oh, come on. Admit it.

Recruiting new officials is urgent. Beat the bushes indoors, outdoors, in other sports but not the streets. Once we bring them on board, we can't leave the responsibility of education entirely to our organization. Otherwise, these rookies may stagnate or quit for lack of individual attention. Having mentors step in to motivate them, develop their skills and guide them around roadblocks will go a long way in picking up the quantity and quality of our ranks.

What is a mentor, you might ask. A mentor is someone of expertise who's willing to teach, coach and go to bat for a novice. A mentor is looked up to. Of course, as short as I am, I look up to a lot of people. That's the wrong notion. Admire, respect and trust is what pertains here. Are you cut out to be a mentor? Sure you are! Anyone with a working knowledge can be a patron to a lesser skilled official. It's not hard. Hey, we're only talking one to one, not one to many.

So what does it take to be a mentor? Most of all, it takes time. Yes, I know. Our time is precious. But let's share it. After all, someone once spent time with us. Select a protégé. Get up close and personal. Pass on the wisdom of your mistakes made and lessons learned. Tutor your ward in action. Advise on what needs to be done and what to look out for to improve. Be a cheerleader. Last of all, run interference for your ward.

Every one of us is in this together. We can't sit back and rely on a dedicated few to carry the load. It's a team effort. Set a task for yourself. Each season, find someone to become a volleyball official and take that person under your wing. Imagine if everybody did a part. There would be more time to relax when the day is done. Let me tell you. A sit-down dinner beats a pizza delivery or a fast food burger any day. Or is Domino's or McDonald's your thing? Oh, come on. Admit it.



## Tall Texan Giacomazzi looking for next great adventure

PAVO Member Profile

*By Dale Goodwin*  
*PAVO Interim Board Member*

Jim Giacomazzi is a man always in search of a new adventure, or at least it would seem. He started his college career as a gifted baseball player, got hurt along the way and took a year off only to become an assistant volleyball coach at his school, Azusa Pacific University. In that interim he helped Coach Elaine LeGrand lead their team to an AIAW national championship in 1979, and a NAIA national title in 1980.

But the tug-of-sports continued. He was drafted in 1981 by the San Diego Padres and took time off from coaching to play in the minor leagues, in Mexico, and back with the Chicago Cubs organization before his alma mater, Azusa Pacific, asked him back as its head baseball coach.

Giacomazzi got himself into a little trouble at AP when his team finished second in the NAIA World Series in his first year. His team had gone through the area and regional play-offs undefeated, and then was bracketed against the host Lewis-Clark State Warriors, which Jim thought was a slap to his team. He shot off his mouth about how the tournament committee had forced his undefeated team to play the host team, and an eager young sports writer took down and reported on every word. The story went national. Giacomazzi received letters from at least 20 college athletic directors from throughout the country. His own university president suggested Jim should learn more about the nuances of politics and the press.

But when he went to Oral Roberts University as head volleyball coach in 1985 - another sport change -- he couldn't help but marvel about the drivers there. "I swear all of the country's worst drivers were right there in Oklahoma. Blinkers don't mean a thing to them, drivers take to the freeway on-ramps at no more than 10 miles an hour, then stop before they actually enter the freeways," Giacomazzi said.

He marveled, too, that when he took his team to Denton, Texas for a road trip, and he ordered a chef's salad, the waiter brought a head of lettuce and a couple of tomato wedges. "And that was a chef's salad to these people," he said.

But when he finally moved to California to coach high school volleyball for a year, he ran into seasoned volleyball officials Sue Lemaire and Terry Lawton, who had got him into volleyball officiating back in 1979. He began to sit back and listen a little closer, and leave his remarks behind, or at least as best he could.

He actually was already getting the message that he might

not know everything, he admitted. "At ORU I would call time out and draw up a play, then my senior setter, who would later become my wife, would take the team back onto the court and tell them something completely different. She knew more about the game than I did."

Jim's next stop was Washington State University, where he served as assistant volleyball coach for one

year before taking the head coaching job at University of Nevada Reno, "where the AD told me this is the budget, don't go over it and don't cause problems."

Back then the schools were still assigning their own officials, and his officials budget for the year was \$1,000, he said. "Todd Brownell and Karen Gee would come over for next-to-nothing, we'd get them a free room, and many officials did not mind coming to Reno because the gambling made up for the low wages. Then the next year we went into the Big Sky Conference, and my officials budget quadrupled as the rest of my budget shrank to compensate. But it was great to see more national-caliber officiating."

Giacomazzi found his next great adventure at West Texas State University, where his team hosted the 1991 national NCAA Division II championships, and he teamed up with his wife Trisha to coach another national title team.

But in 1992 Jim and Trisha's daughter Natasha was born, adding to a family that already included sons Kristopher and Nicholas. Trisha had graduated as a teacher, and by default became Jim's assistant. Now it was time for her to pursue her career, Jim said. "So I said I'd be Mr. Mom. It was fun, but it was the hardest thing I'd ever done in my life. I have a much greater appreciation for women coaches, for mothers and wives," he said. "When I was coaching I did my regular coaching stuff all day, taught classes, made recruiting calls in the evening. Trisha did all the same things, plus did the laundry, cleaned the house and fed the kids."

Now Giacomazzi is a mortgage banker, but he still coaches a club program ("If I like the parents, then the kids can play for us," he said).

He also is determined to recruit and train new officials. "We're not going to be around forever, and it's our responsibility to ensure the sport has officials in the future," he said. "Just ask someone to get involved. That's how I got started."



*Continued on page 13*

## 2006 PAVO Officials' Convention – December 14–16 REGISTRATION

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
PAVO Board Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

	PAVO Members Before 12/01/06	PAVO Members After 12/01/06	Non-PAVO Members Before 12/01/06	Non-PAVO Members After 12/01/06	Amount You Are Paying
<b>Convention Registration *</b>	\$125	\$175	\$150	\$175	
<b>Includes all PAVO sessions and AVCA exhibit show (dates &amp; times TBD)</b>					
<b>"Mini" Convention Registration *</b>	\$75	\$100	\$75	\$100	
<b>Includes PAVO Social &amp; Semi-final Analysis on Friday evening, and all Saturday sessions</b>					
<b>Extras and Options:</b>					
<b>NCAA Match Tickets **</b>	Tickets are not included with convention registration. Matches are on Thursday, Dec. 14 and Saturday, Dec. 16. Tickets sold in sets for both days. Limited quantity available, orders filled in arrival order. Each convention registrant may order a maximum of <b>TWO</b> tickets, but the second ticket will only be fulfilled if quantities permit as of Nov 10. See the PAVO website for complete details. Non-registrants may not place ticket orders. <b>PLEASE CIRCLE NUMBER OF TICKETS ORDERED.</b>				0 tickets = \$0 1 ticket = \$48 2 tickets (if quantities permit) = \$96
<b>AVCA Coach of the Year Luncheon (Qwest)</b>	Thu, 12/14/06. May overlap some PAVO Convention sessions. <b>\$45 x _____ (No. of tickets)</b>				
<b>AVCA All-America Player Dinner (Qwest)</b>	Fri, 12/15/06. May overlap some PAVO Convention sessions. <b>\$45 x _____ (No. of tickets)</b>				
<b>Guest attendance</b>	Fri., 12/15/06 PAVO Evening Social and Semi-Final Analysis (Guest ticket only needed for NON-convention registrants) No. of guests _____ X \$20 each (Max. of TWO per convention registrant)				
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>					
<b>Make checks payable to PAVO &amp; 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 _____ Exp. Date _____					
Signature _____					

\* Requests for convention registration refunds received before December 5 will be charged a \$25 service fee. Requests for convention registration refunds received after December 12 will be charged a \$40 service fee.

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

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

TO: PAVO  
P.O. BOX 780  
Oxford, KS 67119



Member Profile Continued from page 10

He still has one adventure, call it a dream, in the back of his mind, though.

"My dream has always been to be part of a national championship in every decade," Giacomazzi said. "I was able to do that in the 70s, 80s and 90s, but my coaching days, at that level, are over. So maybe my next national championship will be as an official."

Giacomazzi has attended numerous PAVO and AVCA conventions. He has learned from professionals at the PAVO spring camps. And in September he earned his PAVO National rating at the University of Portland.

Now it's just a matter of seeing where the next great adventure takes this tall Texan. Perhaps to the Final Four.



**Janet Blue, AVP**  
USA-International Scorekeeper Commission

### USA-International Scorekeeper Commission

The summer was filled with many activities for both the qualified and certified USA-International scorekeepers: High Performance Tournament, World League matches and the NORCECA Girls' Youth Championship.

We were fortunate to have a candidate-rating event at the latter held in Gainesville, FL, in late July. Four national (qualified international) scorekeepers received the necessary ratings to become certified USA-International Scorekeepers. It is with great pleasure that I present these newly certified scorekeepers: **Becky Brockney**, Rocky Mountain; **Amber Fulk**, Carolina; **Emi Vishoot**, Ohio Valley; and **Kim Williams**, Puget Sound. Each of these individuals not only worked hard at the event but also in the years preceding, with an average of 17 years dedicated to the National Scorekeeper program. Scorekeepers and raters for this event were **Janet Blue**, Old Dominion; **Dixie Collins**, Chesapeake; and **Donna Wigton**, Rocky Mountain. Cristóbal Marte Hoffiz, president of NORCECA, was very complimentary of the work done by the scorekeepers saying that this was one of only a few tournaments he remembers as having NO scorekeeping problems!

Just prior to this event was the annual High Performance Tournament. It was held in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, and **Debbie Reed**, Chesapeake, once again represented the commission as the scorekeeper supervisor. Participating qualified USA-International scorekeepers were **Rob Brecheisen**, Gulf Coast; **Marilyn Thompson**, Carolina; and **Jenny Vogt**, Puget Sound. My thanks to all.

Three U.S. cities held World League events during the summer giving many of our qualified and certified scorekeepers the opportunity to use their skills. The first two matches between the USA Men and Poland were held in Salt Lake City. **Cathy Hoy**, Lone Star, was the scorekeeper with a local assistant. The second set of matches was contested against Japan in Minneapolis. **Sue Mailhot**, Great Plains, was the scorekeeper, and **Travis Karlin**, North Country, served as her assistant. The final two matches, contested against Serbia and Montenegro, were held in Spokane. **Kay Brown**, Northern California, was the scorekeeper and **Cathy Rivera** and **Roger Jamison**, Evergreen, served as her assistants.

And finally, The Men's Sitting team is participating at their training center at the University of Central Oklahoma in an International Sitting Tournament October 6 to 10 against Bosnia and Mongolia. Qualified scorekeeper, **Steve Crane**, Lone Star, is serving as the scorekeeper for this event.

After a very busy summer, I look forward to taking sometime to update our information and lists on the USAV web-site with regard to USA-International qualified and certified scorekeepers as well as reviewing all the scoresheets from Open and the other various events.

The best to all of you as you work in your region during the fall and winter months.





## Our Biggest Judgment Issues: Ball Handling and Net Faults

*By Marcia Alterman, NCAA Rules Interpreter*

At the OTP clinics in August, we spent a significant amount of time on two important topics. And yet, my mailbox and voice mail have been filled with questions and concerns about two primary issues - ball handling decisions and net faults. Let's reexamine both of those topics.

### **BALL HANDLING**

It is very difficult to teach ball handling judgment with the written word, or even in a classroom setting. Even an on-court session is limited to the plays that we view at that time, when the plays that we see at our next "real" match will probably look different! But continuing to discuss this topic will help us all get better and more consistent.

Today, there is a general trend in our collegiate volleyball culture to "let them play". While I do still feel that the rules should be applied judiciously, referees must be certain that they actually saw a fault before blowing the whistle.

We have preached for years about not calling faults based on technique, body position, sound or spin on the ball. And yet, it's difficult not to do so when we are pressured by the expectations of coaches and fans who DO use those factors for determining when they think a fault should be called. If a ball comes out of a players' hands spinning like mad, and you did NOT see two contacts, don't blow your whistle. However, rationalize that there is some chance that it was a double-hit and you missed it, and adjust your focus if possible. You might have missed one, but don't make a call based just on spin. However, remember that spin is not a universal red flag for double contact - think of how many digs/passes come out spinning, and no one expects a double contact to be called on most of those. If it were true that a ball only spins if it was contacted consecutively, then why aren't referees seeing double contact faults on passes/digs as a rule?

Referees tend to overcall on non-setter second contacts, net/block recoveries, and one-hand sets. We tend to undercall on third contacts that are set over the net and setters that are in good position to set a good pass, but then mishandle the ball. We can work to adjust the overcall situation by not allowing outside factors to influence us - and that includes spin, sound, technique, and the opponent's complaints. We can strive to do better in the undercalled category by focusing on the play and not leaving the visual field too early, or presuming the legality of the contact.

### **NET FAULTS**

Life would certainly be simpler if it were still a fact that all net contacts were a fault. We could do our job better and more consistently with black/white decisions. However, that is not

where our sport is culturally, so we have to adjust and work hard to develop a concept of the intent of applying judgment to this play.

There are now two primary criteria for determining if net contact is a fault. First, we must judge whether or not the player that contacted the net was playing the ball. I'm guessing that 90% of the net contacts are by players playing the ball. That is good news, because calling those faults is still pretty much a black/white decision - contact of the net by someone playing the ball is a fault.

However, determining when a player is or isn't playing the ball still has some gray areas. In the first rules interpretation newsletter, a situation was described when a ball is clearly going out of bounds, and a net contact occurs. The ruling explained that the player who made net contact was probably not playing the ball - that is NOT a hard and fast ruling. The referees have to weigh in all the factors - nearness of the player to the ball/play, how certain all participants are that the ball is out, etc - before deciding that the player is not involved in the play. The same type of factors are considered for a play where the offensive team's third hit goes into the belly of the net, and an opposing blocker contacts the top of the net. Consider the timing of both events, the probability of the ball going over, and the blocker's location. Had the ball already gone into the net and started to fall to the floor when the blocker jumped (apparently just to jump)? Then the blocker might not be determined to be playing the ball.

The second criteria for net contacts being judged as a fault is "interference with play". In the clinics, we described that magnitude is one factor to consider when determining if contact interfered. However, that factor must be weighed with others as well. In the recent rules interpretation newsletter, a situation was described where the ball is clearly going out of bounds, and a "big" net occurs. There is no interference with play in that situation. Again, there are multiple facets to consider.

There is also a concern that first referees are now stymied when it comes to making net fault calls, since they don't know if their partner's failure to whistle a net contact means the second referee just didn't see it, or has determined that the contact does not meet the criteria for being a fault. That same issue arises with center line faults. If you are the first referee, and you see encroachment that is a safety issue, you should blow your whistle after giving your second referee a split second to do so. If you are the first referee, and you see a net contact by a player playing the ball, or a net contact that interferes with play, give your second referee a quick opportunity to make the call, and if s/he doesn't, blow your whistle!

Both ball handling and net faults are difficult for us because they are highly judgmental. But, with practice and continued discussion within our cadre, we can get better at applying those judgments consistently. And, once you do make a decision for a particular play, be prepared to respond to questions from coaches using the language of the rules.



## 2006 RULES INTERPRETATION NEWSLETTER #1

September 15, 2006

NOTE: Use the following code to analyze these situations:

R = RECEIVING TEAM	S = SERVING TEAM
R1 = RIGHT BACK	S1 = RIGHT BACK
R2 = RIGHT FRONT	S2 = RIGHT FRONT
R3 = CENTER FRONT	S3 = CENTER FRONT
R4 = LEFT FRONT	S4 = LEFT FRONT
R5 = LEFT BACK	S5 = LEFT BACK
R6 = CENTER BACK	S6 = CENTER BACK

1. When the referees review the facility before a match, they notice that the extensions to the attack line are (a) missing; (b) solid lines; (c) otherwise not drawn with the correct specifications. What action should the referees take?

**Ruling:** If the attack lines are missing or otherwise incorrectly drawn, the referees should instruct the host institution to try to correct the lines. Tape can be used to create lines with the correct specifications. The correct specifications are: Five 6" lines, each 8" apart. The first 6" line begins 8" from the outside edge of the sideline. The total length of the extension, measured from the outside edge of the sideline to the furthest edge of the last 6" line is 70".

2. The Team S libero has served in the current game in position three (in replacement of starting player #5). Later in the same game, the libero comes from the bench to replace starting player #7, who is just rotating to the right back position, and prepares to serve. The officials are aware that the libero cannot serve in this second position, but what action should they take?

**Ruling:** There is nothing improper about the libero coming from the bench to replace a back row player, so the officials should treat this situation as any other potential wrong server. The scorekeepers and referees should wait until the service contact is made before assessing the rotation order fault (Rule 18-4-4-b). Once the fault is assessed, the libero can remain on the court in replacement of #7 if the team desires, as a rally has occurred.

3. The Team S libero has served in the current game in position three (in replacement of starting player #5). Later in the same game, the libero is on the court in replacement of starting player #10. The team wins a rally and rotates to serve next - starting player #7 is the next legal server. However, player #7 leaves the court, player #10 returns to the court, and the libero goes to the service area, prepared to serve. The officials are aware that the libero cannot serve in this second position, but what action should they take?

**Ruling:** The libero replacement is improper, since the libero can only avoid sitting out a rally between replacements if the libero is the next legal server. If the officiating crew is proficient enough to intervene prior to the service contact, they can correct the improper libero replacement and assess a team delay (player #7 will serve the next ball, and the libero can either remain in the game for player #10 on the back row, or go to the bench). However, if the officials do not catch the improper replacement until the libero illegally contacts the serve, it is a rotation fault (wrong server), and no team delay results. Once the rotation fault is assessed, the libero can remain on the court in replacement of #7 if the team desires, as a rally has occurred.

4. At the end of the interval between games two and three, Team S is late returning to the floor. However, an assistant coach is present. At game time, the assistant coach requests a timeout.

**Ruling:** The timeout should be granted to Team S. A subsequent timeout can also be requested and granted, and the first team delay for failure to report to the court will not be assessed until the end of the requested timeout(s). However, the rule states that a maximum of five total minutes is the maximum that is allowed before forfeiting the game (Rule 8-4-2-b), so if the team is not present five minutes after the end of the interval, the game is defaulted. The timeouts just avoid the team delay sanctions being assessed, but do not affect the total time frame of the default.

5. Team A and Team B have just completed playing the fourth game of a match, and each team has won two games. The assistant coach for Team B reports to the second referee for the deciding game coin toss.

**Ruling:** The second referee will call for the Team B playing captain who is on the court at the end of game four to report instead. Immediately at the end of the game prior to a deciding game, playing captains are still required to report to the second referee for the coin toss (Rule -2-4-d and 18-3-4-d).

6. The visiting team is not present for a match that is scheduled for 1:00 pm, and has not notified the host institution about the delay. The referees assess a team delay sanction at match time, and subsequent team delay sanctions every 30 seconds for five minutes before defaulting the first game.

**Ruling:** Incorrect action by the referees. If a team fails to appear at match time with at least six players, the first game of the match is forfeited at match time. Up to 10 minutes is allowed for the team to have sufficient players to play the next game, or game two is then defaulted. A second 10-minute (maximum) waiting period then begins before defaulting game three and the match (Rule 10-5-2). Assessing repeated team delay sanctions for a maximum of five minutes is only applicable for (a) a late line-up when the team is in the facility (Rule 10-1-1-I, corrected below), or (b) a team that reports late to the court for a game once the match is started (Rule 8-4-2-b).

7. The Team R libero is in the attack zone, and makes Team R's first contact by using finger action (a setting motion). However, the ball falls through her fingers, contacts her forehead, and rebounds upward. A teammate contacts the ball while it is completely above the height of the net and sends the ball to the opponent's side.  
**Ruling:** No attack fault has occurred. The successive contacts by the libero (hands and then forehead) are legal because it was the team's first contact, and the final contact by the libero was not using finger action (setting). Therefore, a teammate can attack the ball after the libero's contact.
8. As Team R's substitutes watch the match, they edge closer to the service area (sideline extended). At one point, a few substitutes farthest from the attack line are 15 feet back from the end line, but nearly even with sideline extended. The referees allow the substitutes to remain in this location.  
**Ruling:** The substitutes cannot remain in this area. The warm-up area extends to a line that is 2 meters from the court and service area. The service area is defined by the extension of the sideline. The second referee should instruct the substitutes to move into the warm-up area. Multiple reminders can result in a team delay sanction.
9. Team S's coach has designated No. 10 as the captain on the lineup sheet. The coach informs the referees before the match that when the libero replaces No. 10, the libero will be captain. Later in the game, while the libero is on the bench, No. 5 substitutes for No.10, and the coach designates No. 4 as the new captain. A few plays later, the libero replaces No. 5. Is the libero now the captain?  
**Ruling:** No. The rules state that the player designated as captain on the lineup sheet is captain anytime they are in the game. When the lineup-captain leaves the game, and the coach designates another player as captain, that player remains captain until either she leaves the game or the original captain returns. In the situation above, No. 4 is captain until either she leaves the game, or No. 10 returns to the game.
10. Team R's assistant coach (designated on the first-game lineup sheet) requests a substitution. The second referee does not honor the request.  
**Ruling:** Incorrect action. Any designated coach may request a timeout, substitution, or lineup check. Any designated coach may approach the court to instruct players (Rule 5-2-4-b). An assistant coach may even address the referee to clarify a non-judgmental rule (Rule 5-2-4-c). However, when multiple coaches approach one or both referees regarding a decision, that behavior should be controlled. It can be considered disruptive coaching, and sanctioned as such.
11. Player S2 fakes an attack near the second referee's net pole, as the Team S setter sends the ball to the other outside attacker. S2 contacts the net on her follow-through - the contact is just enough to make the net move slightly.  
**Ruling:** The contact by S2 is not a fault, and should be ignored by the referees.
12. Player R2 is playing in the right-front position. Player R5 passes a served ball and causes the ball to enter the plane of the net. Seeing that a Team S attacker (S3) is going to have an easy attack-kill, Player R2 gently tweaks the net string as S3 swings, hoping to convince the referees that S3 committed a net fault.  
**Ruling:** A net fault should be whistled on R2. R2 is not playing the ball, nor was the contact of a large magnitude. But the contact described does interfere with play, and is a fault.
13. Player S5 is attempting to set the ball, which has been passed very close to the net. Before S5 can contact the ball, S3 steps in and sets the ball to the outside, where S4 attacks it. As S4 is attacking the ball, S5 loses her balance and falls into the net. The net moves significantly when S5 grabs it to keep from falling.  
**Ruling:** A net fault should be whistled on S5. Although S5 is not playing the ball, the ball is still in play near the net and her location, and the contact was of a magnitude that interfered with the nearby play.
14. Player R3 uses her team's third hit to save a ball. Her contact causes the ball to cross the net, but is very clearly going out of bounds and no Team S player could possibly touch it. While the ball is still in the air, S4 stumbles and grabs the net to regain her balance.  
**Ruling:** S4 is not playing the ball, nor is her location near the ball or the play. Therefore the net contact does not interfere with the play. No net fault should be called.
15. Player S3 is near the middle of the net area, and has just attempted to block a ball coming from Team R's side. Player S5 digs the ball, and the ball is traveling directly toward the area where S3 has just returned to the floor after blocking. In order to avoid the ball and the incoming setter, S3 moves quickly along the net, and contacts the bottom of the net with her shoulder, moving the bottom of the net several inches.  
**Ruling:** S3 is not playing the ball in the action described. She is avoiding the ball. Unless her net contact in some way interferes with the play (for example, is of a magnitude that, in the referee's judgment interferes with play, or causes the net to touch an opponent, etc.), it should not be considered a fault.



## 2006 Rule Book Corrections

1. Rule 1-3-4 (Page 15). This paragraph should be shaded as new information.
2. Sanction Table (Page 37). On the final line of the table, labeled "Aggression", the text under "Offender" should read "Any team member".
3. Rule 10-1-1-I (Page 52). Replace this entire paragraph with the following: "If a team that is present for a match fails to submit a signed lineup in a timely fashion, a team delay sanction is assessed. After an additional 30 seconds, if the team has not submitted a signed lineup, a team delay penalty (red card) is assessed. After each additional 30 seconds, if a signed lineup is not submitted, another team delay penalty is assessed. After a maximum of five total minutes has passed from the start time of the game, the game is defaulted. If another game is required, the same process will be utilized after the next interval between games has concluded."
4. Rule 18-2-3-c (Page 85). This paragraph should read: "conduct the coin toss and conference of the referees and team representatives."
5. Scorekeeping Example (Page 131). The second paragraph should read: "Central libero serves for point 20. Record the point in a triangle in the Central scoring section, and draw a triangle around the 20 in Central's running score."
6. Rule Interpretations, Rule 7 (Page 149). Situation 4 should read: "A Team S Player enters the game with a towel tucked into the waistband of her shorts. Ruling: A player is allowed to have optional personal equipment such as a towel, insulin pump, eye glasses, etc. However, if that equipment falls to the playable area and play must be stopped for safety purposes, that team will be assessed a team delay. (See Rule 7-2.)"



by Kathy Ferraraccio

The collegiate season is coming to a close and many of us have begun working in our regions on weekend tournaments. We are working on our USAV signals and techniques; and thinking of where we hope to be in our officiating level this year.

Each National and Junior National referee who needs to attend a tournament this coming summer has heard from me about what is expected of them. If you did not receive a quick email from me, then you are up to date at this time, although your attendance is always appreciated as we struggle to keep quality officials at all the qualifiers and the national events. I ask that each of you consider working at least one event a year - a qualifier, a boys bid tournament, one session of one of the JOVC events, the Invitational, or the Opens - so we can continue to provide great officiating at all these events as they continue to grow.

Next on the agenda are the Officials Division Dues. The \$40 was due on November 1, with a \$20 late fee being assessed to any checks which are RECEIVED after December 1. If you have not yet paid your dues, please do so immediately so this late fee is not assessed to you. Reminders have been sent each month so you should have the form that MUST accompany the dues for them to be logged into the system. If you have not paid your dues, and cannot find the form, please contact me and I will send it to you.

Last, but not least, each National and Junior National referee can now take the USAV portion of the exam online. You just need to enter the USAV/PAVO data base, and click on the heading that is there for the exam - it states "New!!! 2006 Online Referee Exam for USAV

National/Jr National Referees". If you do not wish to take the exam online, you may contact your regional chairperson for a copy of the exam, and then have it corrected. Please remember that I must have a copy of your GRADED answer sheet by the February 15, 2007 deadline. If you take the exam online, your results are sent directly to me, making it very easy on you. Do not leave the taking of the exam online to the last minute!!! If you do not achieve the minimum score of 90 on the exam, you must then take Exam B, and those results must also be on my desk by February 15. So don't delay, take the exam as soon as you are ready!!!

Have a great end to your collegiate season and I hope to see many of you at the PAVO convention in Omaha, NE. If not there, then have a great Christmas, and I will see you in the New Year.

**Speaking of events, here is the line up for this coming summer:**

- o Open Nationals are in Austin, Texas from May 26-June 2
  - o May 26-May 29 - Club BB/B; U-Volley AA/A, Masters/Seniors 0's, US Open, SOI National Unified Championships
  - o May 30-June 2 - Club AA/A, U-Volley BB/B, Masters/Seniors 5/s, Co-Ed BB/B Regular, Co-Ed BB/B Reverse
- o Girls Invitational Championships are in Atlanta, GA from June 7-10
- o Girls JOVC are in Minneapolis, MN from June 29-July 8
  - o June 28-July 2 - 12 National/American, 14 Open/National/American
  - o June 29-July 3 - 13 National/American
  - o June 30-July 4 - 15 Open/National/American
  - o July 2-July 6 - 18 Open/National/American
  - o July 3-July 7 - 16 Open/National/American
  - o July 4-July 8 - 17 Open/National/American
- o Boys JOVC are in Atlanta, GA from July 4-July 11
  - o July 4-July 7 - 18 Open/Club, 15 Open/Club, 13 Club
  - o July 8-July 11 - 17 Open/Club, 16 Open/Club, 14 Open/Club, 12 Club



## 2006 RULES INTERPRETATION NEWSLETTER #2

October 9, 2006

NOTE: Use the following code to analyze these situations:

R = RECEIVING TEAM	S = SERVING TEAM
R1 = RIGHT BACK	S1 = RIGHT BACK
R2 = RIGHT FRONT	S2 = RIGHT FRONT
R3 = CENTER FRONT	S3 = CENTER FRONT
R4 = LEFT FRONT	S4 = LEFT FRONT
R5 = LEFT BACK	S5 = LEFT BACK
R6 = CENTER BACK	S6 = CENTER BACK

1. When player #2 for Team R rotates to position 4 (left front), Team R regularly substitutes player #5 for player #2. As those two players exchange positions in the substitution zone, they do not hesitate or make eye contact with the second referee, but just exchange "on the run". What action(s) should the second referee take?

**Ruling:** Rule 11-2-1 states "The player leaving the court and the incoming substitute must wait near the sideline in the substitution zone until authorized to exchange by the second referee", and "If a substitute enters the court before the authorization signal, the substitution is denied and the team is sanctioned with a team delay.". The second referee MUST insist on eye contact and require the player(s) to see the "authorization to enter" signal. To prevent players exchanging without seeing the authorization, the referee(s) should:

- Remind both team captains of this requirement in the pre-match meeting.
  - Mention this requirement to the coaches during the pre-match greeting. .
  - The first time that substituting players from that same team do not make eye contact and see the authorization to enter signal, bring the players back to the sideline and insist on them complying with this requirement.
  - If the same team's players fail to comply again, issue a team delay and deny the substitution.
2. After winning a rally, the Team S coach requests a substitution. However, the incoming substitute significantly delays in reporting to the substitution zone. What is the correct action by the referees?

**Ruling:** Rule 11-2-3-c states "At the moment of request, the substitute(s) must be prepared to enter. If the requested substitution is not completed immediately, the request is denied and a team delay sanction is assessed." It is not appropriate to either (a) deny the substitution and not assess a team delay sanction, or (b) assess a team delay sanction but allow the substitution.

3. During a dead ball, the first referee is just beginning to beckon when the Team R coach summons a player from the warm-up area, and that player moves quickly toward the substitution zone. The first referee whistles and authorizes service prior to the player entering the substitution zone, and the coach never requests a substitution. The second referee waves his arm to stop the player's approach, and the rally is completed. After the rally, the first referee indicates that Team R should be assessed an improper request because the beckon had occurred prior to the player's entry into the substitution zone. Is this the correct decision?

**Ruling:** No. There are two ways that a substitution request can be made - either the coach can make a request (verbal &/signal) or the substitute can enter the substitution zone. Since neither of those occurred in this situation, there was no request, and therefore no improper request. The second referee used good control to prevent the late request, and no further action is called for.

The document below was developed after a conference call of the NCAA Division I Conference Coordinators. The coordinators shared common issues that have come up as the season has progressed, and felt that these points should be distributed to coaches and referees in order to improve consistency and hopefully manage the expectations of the coaches and players through this communication. Please review these points thoroughly and implement them into your officiating routine.

Coordinator's Conference Call  
9/25/06

### PERTINENT POINTS:

1. Attack line extensions - The specifications for the attack line has been in the rule book for years (Rule 1-2-2-c). The NCAA will not give "permission" for attack line extensions that do not meet the specifications. Officials should be vigilant in making sure that all court markings are in accordance with the rules, and instruct the home administration to use floor tape to make them right if they are not. Treat this issue just like a net that is not quite correct - get it as legal as possible using all available resources, and then play the match.

2. Substitution authorizations - The rules state clearly that substitutes must wait to be authorized before entry (Rule 11-2-1 and Rule 6-3-2-c). To be as clear on this expectation as possible, referees should not instruct the players to "hesitate" - instead, instruct them to look at the second referee and wait to see the authorization signal. Referees should not give multiple warnings on this issue - make it part of the pre-game routine to remind coaches and team representatives that failure to wait for authorization results in a team delay and a denied substitution. Remember, it is the officials' responsibility to fairly and judiciously apply the rules to all participants in the match & control this kind of instance.  
Related referee techniques: The first referee can assist by being alert to substitutes entering the zone when the second referee is otherwise occupied, and use a whistle or hand signal to indicate that the substitutes should wait for authorization. The second referee should not give the "ready" signal to the first referee until the second referee is in the correct position with the whistle in or near the mouth, support crews (ball crew and speed wipers) are ready, etc.
3. Net faults - Rule 15-2-1 states that "contact with the net by a player is not a fault unless it is made during an action of playing the ball, or it interferes with the play". The message that was distributed in the clinics might not have been as clear and inclusive as it should have been. The clinic emphasis was that a "big net is a big net". That is an oversimplification.  
There may be instances where a significant net contact is not ruled as a fault. For example, if the ball is being passed deep into the opponent's back court, or the ball is very clearly going out of bounds untouched, then net contact of a significant magnitude by someone not playing the ball might not interfere with play. If that is the referees' judgment, then no fault should be whistled. On the other hand, visualize a blocker who is sliding just a step or two toward the position where she is going to jump in an attempt to block. Even if the referees determine that the blocker is not yet playing the ball, her nearness to the play should result in less latitude being given to a net contact.  
Criteria to consider when making net judgments may include (a) nearness to the play, (b) magnitude of the contact, (c) result of the play if obvious, (d) distracting a majority of the participants or (e) moving the net to the extent that players who are playing the ball are in jeopardy to either contact the net or misplay the ball.  
When questioned by a coach about why a net contact was ignored, referees should respond using the language of the rules. For example "The player who touched the net was not playing the ball, and the contact didn't interfere with play".
4. Timeout administration - Second referees are sometimes guilty of two extremely different faults in timeout administration. Timeouts are 60 seconds in duration - the teams should be allowed the full 60 seconds to meet, as long as they are on the court and prepared to play when the referees indicate the end of the timeout.  
The correct technique is for the second referee to sound a warning whistle when 15 seconds remain in the timeout. Then, if a team is not breaking up their huddle and moving toward the court with about 5 seconds left, the second referee should move toward the huddle and verbally instruct the players to return to the court ("Let's go ladies - time is almost up" or something similar). When the horn or whistle is sounded to indicate the end of the timeout period, the teams should be on the court, so that the original tempo of the interval between points can be resumed. If a team's return delays the next service authorization, then a team delay should be assessed.
5. Ball handling issues - All coaches and referees should read the Committee Report on ball handling decisions on page 8 of the current NCAA rule book. Referees are instructed to not make ball handling decisions based on spin, sound, or technique. Referees should only whistle ball handling faults when there is 100% certainty that either an illegal double contact or a carry occurred. Don't guess.  
That philosophy is similar to that applied to other faults. For example, today's referee training emphasizes not calling overlaps or even back row attacks unless the referee is certain that the fault occurred. Ball handling should be viewed the same way. Referees must rely on visual acuity, and try to react to seeing a distinct fault as quickly as possible. If the referee's whistle is consistently blown well after the ball has left the setter's hands, then perhaps other criteria are being applied, like spin or sound.  
Often, the coaches and players' expectations affect our judgment as well - referees should "stick to their guns" if they're applying the right criteria already, and not be influenced by the reactions of the participants or fans.
6. Referee conferences - There are times when the first and second referee simply must communicate verbally to ensure that the right result occurs. It is a relatively rare situation when a second referee has vital information to be delivered that requires verbalization, but those situations are often critical to the success of a match.  
Referees should cover this topic in the pre-match conference, so that a required conference can occur without delay. That pre-match discussion should include how the second referee might indicate that such a conversation is needed (stand on the sideline and make eye contact, move well to one side of the pole and make eye contact, point to self, etc.). Getting the call right is well worth the few seconds that a succinct conversation will take.

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