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## Dear National, Junior National, and Zonal Officials,

The National Office and regions thank you for all your hard work thus far this season. Regional events are winding down and national championship events are coming up. GJNC 18s was a giant success and we had incredible support from our national referees. What an incredible team you all were, and we received numerous compliments regarding your officiating. Thank you for being so positive and kind, and showing a high level of decorum and professionalism.

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## Health and Wellness Information

**This is an interesting and important article on hearing for officials** and has significant long-term consequences for our profession.

With these **new technologies and studies**, it's more important than ever to wear hearing protection while officiating. I know many of you are concerned about being able to hear the touches or the players, and we would like to stress the priority should be your hearing and long-term health. When a captain or coach comes to talk to you, simply remove your hearing protection or your headset and visit with them. There are also a number of links in the article to other groundbreaking research.

Dr. Frank Lin, the Johns Hopkins University researcher who co-led this research, described the study, its findings and their policy implications at a National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director's lecture series. ACHIEVE followed nearly 1,000 adults age 70-84 with untreated mild to moderate hearing loss and normal thinking and memory abilities for three years.

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## 2024 Successful National Referee Candidates

We had 19 successful Junior National Referees who received their National Referee patch at Girls 18s Junior National Championship in Baltimore. Please congratulate our new National Referees!

Ann Abernethy – Old Dominion  
Tim Boyer – Ohio Valley  
Doug Dunkle - Chesapeake  
Jim Ewart – Heart of America  
Blair Gillard – Lone Star  
Alexus Hernandez – Sun Country  
Leann Madtes - Carolina  
Jared Malott – Ohio Valley

Jason Marshall - Hoosier  
Brooklynn Messer – North Texas  
Tony Oligney-Estill – Great Lakes  
Kennedey Paine - Carolina  
Drew Puckrin – Ohio Valley  
Daniel Rodriguez – Great Lakes  
Rodney Scifres – Pioneer  
Francisco Torres – Badger  
Jenn Vander Meer – Lakeshore  
Cristina Wilson – Florida  
Przemek Wlodarczyk – Palmetto

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## 2024 Open National Championship

Opens are coming up May 24-29 in Columbus. Thank you to all the referees and scorers who are coming to work this event.

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## RVA Officials Development Meetings in Columbus

We are having our annual meetings in conjunction with the Open National Championship in Columbus, May 22-23.

### Schedule

#### May 22

RVA Development Officials Chairs, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
USA Volleyball Hall of Fame at the Boyce Banquet: 5-9 p.m.

#### May 23

RVA Development Officials Chairs, 9-11:30 a.m.  
Rules Commission, 12-1 p.m.  
Para Officials meeting, 4-4:30 p.m.  
Officials Assembly and Awards Presentation, 4:30-6:30 p.m.  
Officials Check-in Procedures, 6-8 p.m.  
Special Olympics Ref and Scorers meeting, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

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## USA Volleyball Hall of Fame Boyce Banquet

**[Order tickets to the USA Volleyball Hall of Fame Boyce Banquet](#)** by May 15.  
The event is May 22 at 6 p.m. at the Hilton Polaris in Columbus.

The Officials Development Team would like to invite you to sit at USA Volleyball officials tables at the banquet if you plan to come. Let's join together in celebrating our colleagues. If you would like to join us at the tables, please let us know by end of day May 15 by emailing **[officials@usav.org](mailto:officials@usav.org)**.

Here is a list of our officiating friends who are being honored:

USA Volleyball George J. Fisher Leader in Volleyball Award – Kevin Wendelboe  
USA Volleyball Joseph B. Sharpless Arbitrator Service Award – Kevin Twohig  
USA Volleyball Junior Boys Indoor Coach of the Year – Tom Pingel  
USA Volleyball Wilbur H. "Wil" Peck Referee Emeritus Award – Fred Buehler  
USA Volleyball Glen G. Davies Referee Service Award – Steve Webster  
USA Volleyball Edward P. Lauten Scorer's Service Award – Ric Washburn  
USA Volleyball Referee of the Year – Michelle Prater  
USA Volleyball Scorer of the Year – Arthur Chavers

Get Hall of Fame Tickets

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### **Regional Referee Camp for 2025 Prospective Junior National Candidates**

Exciting news! Our new and expanded Regional Referee Camp has filled with 40 campers. The program will take place from July 8-11 and will feature some of our top Junior National and National Referee coaches. We are looking forward to working with these campers and providing important mentoring and coaching.

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