

Arizona Region of USA Volleyball
Minutes of the Junior Board
December 5, 2007

Call to Order: 6:15 pm, AZ Region Office, 2105 S. 48th St, Suite 108, Tempe, AZ

Roll Call: Jonathan Norris – South, Michael Lindsay – Metro NW, Brooke Saunders – Metro SW, Lisa Naughton- Metro SE, Karen Sitkiewicz – Metro NE, Dan Kaminskas – North.
Guests: Becky Hudson, Harold Cranswick, Eric Hodgson

Reading of the Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting on August 22, 2007 were read.

Motion 1: To adopt the minutes of the August 22, 2007 meeting as written. (Lindsay/Sitkiewicz/MPU).

New Business:

1. “No Pay No Play” Policy

Policy allows the Region to accept a decision from small claims court when a player has not paid one club the dues owed them before moving on to another club. Suggestion from one club has been made to allow collections submissions as well. There was a discussion regarding the types of arrangements that collections agencies make with their clients.

There are two types of arrangements: 1. One buys the contract from the client to collect paying the client a portion of the original contract; 2. The other pays the client when they collect. Sending a debt to collections does not mean that the issue has been mediated by anyone. We want to keep the mediation step in the process. Small Claims Court acts as the mediator in the process.

The Region can be an information source to the club directors on what they can do to collect the debt to keep the player from joining another club.

2. AVC Tournament

The entry fee will be \$450. The website will be updated and the information sent to the clubs.

3. Review of Tryouts

The results of a poll of the board members regarding their tryouts and the blackout period are as follows:

1. Metro area - Numbers were down or broke even from last year. Economy could be an issue. Players that were expected to return and did not are not playing anywhere. Followed the blackout period to the letter.
2. North - Maintained the same number of players and teams.
3. South – hit hard due to several new clubs in the area – high schools starting their own programs for their varsity level players. Higher level players stayed with the club – the mid to lower level players stayed with their high school.

Some problems arose with the creation of new clubs after the General Assembly. The potential new clubs were creating teams and contacting players in violation of the blackout period. The new clubs need to be held accountable to the policies that are in effect to prevent recruiting. We don't want to stifle growth but what harm is being done when clubs start late and violate the policies to the detriment to existing clubs?

Some deadline to start a club might be good but we can't restrict small businesses from starting. Suggestions for consideration: Require the new directors to attend a new club director's session; create a more organized process for club recognition; create a deadline for starting a club for the season. Word of caution – it is easier to start an AAU club team and cheaper than a USAV club process.

This discussion will be carried on at the Retreat. The junior girls clubs will be surveyed with this at the end of the season for feedback as well.

4. Blackout Period Review

Comments heard from others on the blackout period: There was no buzz to start club because the school seasons had ended much earlier; High School coaches liked the blackout period but they would like the blackout period during the season and allow for contact after the HS season was over. Still start the tryouts later but the contact is allowed; one team was hijacked by another club less than one week before the blackout period and could not contact the players to counter the attack because the blackout period was in effect; many parents and school coaches loved the break from play – healed injuries, etc.; parents want their kid to be courted so won't write up violations.

Did the blackout period work in the way we intended? Giving the athletes rest, remove them from the recruiting during the state high school playoffs and championships, giving the parents the time to investigate clubs for their kids to participate.

Possible considerations for tweaking the blackout period - The blackout period is a good thing but the timing of it could be askew. Make the blackout period earlier during the school season and allow for contact during November – tryouts would still be later to allow for time off. The goal of the blackout period needs to be clearly identified and then work within that goal.

Violations of the blackout period that were heard of but not officially reported:

A coach handing out flyers during the blackout period; Phoenix Force contacted players using data from those who used his services as a strength trainer; direct phone calls to players during the blackout period.

Survey for parents or high school coaches could provide info on this. Survey the parents – did you know about the blackout period, were you recruited during the blackout period, did this lessen your excitement for club, did you feel that the blackout period was a positive or negative experience. Survey could be sent to those that did not come back to play with any club. A marketing survey will be developed by Eric Hodgson and Michael Lindsay.

One sure item for next year is to heavily market the Parent Info Nights – get the information out very early and to many sources.

5. Girls 12's Format Suggestion

A suggestion was sent to the Jr Board via email regarding reformatting the 12's tournaments from two waves to three waves in one day and using the Cactus Classic to make up the fewer matches that would be played as a result. It was decided to reject this suggestion for two main reasons: 1. Outlying areas would not be in favor of driving several hours for two matches and; 2. we can't require that all 12's teams participate in the Cactus Classic.

6. Grassroots Director recommendations

The Executive Board is looking for recommendations for the Grassroots Director. Hector Gradillas' was mentioned.

7. Mandatory Club Director Attendance at the General Assembly

A recommendation was put forward requiring attendance from every club at the General Assembly. If they miss the General Assembly one other meeting would be established for attendance. After that it is a one on one session with the office. New clubs have the most problems at first. Hope is to educate them early to avoid the problems later.

Club Directors are currently the one aspect of our sport that does not have to recertify annually as a club director. We should key on education of the club directors at our General Assembly. Board members recommend to distribute packets at the end of the General Assembly instead of the beginning.

Retreat agenda should include more emphasis on director education.

8. Compliance Director

Dan was given one email and one blackout rumor that dealt with one club director – new club for 2008.

9. Changing Divisions after first tournament

There was a request from some coaches to see if they can change divisions after the first tournament. Consensus of the board is not to allow this to happen. If there is a large discrepancy in the level of play and where they are assigned it can be considered – each case on its own merit.

10. American Sports Center

Jonathan met with American Sports Center people. They are teamed up with Major League Baseball's Field of Dreams. They are looking for a municipality to provide the opportunity. On their trip to Arizona they met with officials from Chandler, Peoria, Tucson, Mesa and Tempe. They currently have no money and no site - looking to build. Look into Home Courts. Find out the agent to call.

Approved 1/30/08

**Adjournment: Motion 3: To adjourn the meeting. (Lindsay/Sitkiewicz/MPU)
Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm**

Action Items as a result of this meeting –

- Website to be updated with AVC tournament information
- Items for the Retreat agenda: 1. Tweaking blackout period, 2. Creation of more organized process for starting a club, 3. Establishment of deadline to start a club for the season, 4. Requirement of mandatory club representation at the General Assembly, 5. Club Director education
- Eric Hodgson and Mike Lindsay to develop survey for parents and high school coaches for their feedback on the Blackout Period. Another survey for players that did not return to club to track why they are not continuing to play club volleyball.
- Item for junior coaches year end survey – knowledge of and feedback on the Blackout Period.
- Hector Gradillas name to be forwarded to Ex Board for possible Grassroots Director.
- General Assembly format to be considered as to the time to hand out the packets.
- Forward information on Home Courts to American Sports Center representatives.
- Establish dates and times for the Parents Info Nights very early and market it heavily to parents, clubs and schools.