

Arizona Region of USA Volleyball  
Junior Board Meeting  
July 29, 2008

**Called to Order:** 4:08 pm, AZ Region office

**Roll Call:** Mike Lindsay, Metro NW; Brooke Saunders, Metro SW; Lisa Naughton, Metro SE; Michelle Malis, South.

Guests: Harold Cranswick, Commissioner; Becky Hudson recorded the minutes

**New Business**

**I.) Review Retreat Items**

**a. Use of Officials at Boys Open Division Tournaments**

It has been requested by some boys clubs to provide paid officials on all matches of the boys Open division. The cost to the contract would increase \$12.50 per team per tournament.

**Motion 1:** To provide a paid R1 on every match at the Boys Open tournaments for the 2008/2009 season. (Lindsay/Saunders/MC)

**b. Black Out Period change/ Commitment Date**

Commitment dates give the majority of kids the opportunity to tryout at different clubs before making a commitment to one club. The Elite level is the minority in this situation. The problems come with the second tier of kids – promised one thing by a club and delivered another.

**Motion 2:** To modify the Girls Black-out Period for the 2008/2009 season for the 15 - 18 ages, to begin Nov 1<sup>st</sup> and continue through the last day of the HS State playoffs. There will no longer be a black out period for the 14 and under ages. (Saunders/Malis/MC)

**Motion 3:** To establish a tryout period and commitment date for junior girls. The tryout period will commence the Sunday following the last HS State playoff day and the commitment date will be the following Sunday. During the tryout period no club may cause a player to commit to a club, receive earnest money or signed contracts prior to the established commitment date. (Lindsay/Naughton/MC - Brooke Saunders abstains).

For the 2008-09 season tryouts may commence on Nov 16<sup>th</sup> and the commitment date will be November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**c. Zonal Club Play Initiation**

Zonal Club play is a way for the club division teams to play in their zone and not have to travel to Phoenix for play. This is a major savings on gas for the teams that are not travel teams and just looking to get better. The North and South Zones would participate in zonal club play. Club teams from the North and South Zone could participate in the Phoenix metro Club play if they chose to. All play will take place in the Phoenix Metro area for the regular club division – there will not be tournaments scheduled in Tucson or Prescott for the regular club division. Zonal Club

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play would be set up the same and the contract the same as the Club Division with 5 or 6 tournaments plus a championship tournament. The Region office will do the scheduling and secure the courts.

The South Zone is all for it. No information was gathered from the North zone.

It was decided to use and pay officials for the Zonal Club play. The South Zone will start up a junior officials development program to help with the officiating duties and the cost of officiating.

**Motion 4:** To establish a new division of play that specifically minimizes travel for the non-metro areas and be separate from the Club/Championship/Open divisions.  
(Saunders/Malis/MC)

**d. Calendar**

There is currently not enough information available to develop the girls' schedule of play for the 2008-09 season.

**Motion 5:** To adopt the boys 2008-09 schedule as proposed.  
(Naughton/Saunders/MC)

**e. Club Licensing**

The creation of a Club License was discussed to bring a set standard for our clubs. This could be a list of the items that the club must meet in order to be licensed. The licensing would be optional. The forms turned in does not mean the Region agrees with what they say, it just shows that the information has been submitted.

It was not decided what that list should include nor what the license would mean to the club. More discussion and research of other Regions is needed before any action can be brought forward. Items discussed included:

- 1.) The club's administrative structure (club director, officers, staff, etc.).
- 2.) Verification of director's and coaches IMPACT/CAP certification
- 3.) Due Process/Grievance procedures
- 4.) Player selection process (try-out format)
- 5.) Player contract
- 6.) Financial obligations and club fee payment schedule
- 7.) Have the club spell out what they do in certain cases. For example the team collected money for a travel tournament that they did not attend – is the money refunded? A player signed a contract for the season and then had a season ending injury – are they responsible for the entire contract even though unable to practice or play? Etc.

**Tabled Motion:** The creation of a Club License which will allow those clubs which voluntarily provide a listed set of documents to the Region to be "licensed" by the Region. This licensure will allow clubs to promote the fact that they are licensed, but will in no way dictate the Regions sanctification of the documents, rather it would be an acknowledgement of compliance with the suggested guidelines.

**f. Additional Board members**

There are vacancies in the Metro SE and Metro NE positions on the board as a result of a voided election. There were no legal votes cast in either zone except 1 vote in the Metro SE. The election was voided and the positions will be filled by appointment of the commissioner. Names have been provided to Harold as prospective board members. He has had a difficult time getting in touch with them to discuss the positions. Brooke Saunders will contact the parties about what the position entails.

The North Zone position has been accepted by Anastasia Rivera of AZ Mile High VBC in Prescott. She was not available for the Retreat or this meeting.

**g. Jr Division Coordinator**

With the resignation of Jonathan Norris, the Junior Board will need to elect a Junior Division Coordinator to sit on the Executive Board. This will be done when the Board has filled the current vacancies. Michael Lindsay will attend the Executive Board meeting on Saturday, Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> as the representative from the Junior Board.

**h. No Pay No Play List**

The No Pay No Play List has been discussed several times in the past few years as a way for clubs to hold players accountable for their debt before they would be allowed to play for another club the next season. The issue of players “club hopping” and leaving a debt trail behind them is becoming a major problem for our clubs whose finances are being squeezed tighter each year.

The decision was made to continue this as an informal agreement between club directors rather than create a list that could be misused or not kept updated – either by the clubs or the Region.

The suggestion is for the club directors to take the player to small claims court. The current policy states that with a judgment from Small Claims Court the Region would then hold up the player’s membership at another club for the next season or until the judgment was paid to the first club.

The Junior Board will discuss this at the General Assembly with the Directors in attendance. This information will also be put in the Club Directors Newsletter.

**i. Schedule of future Board meetings**

Meeting schedules for the Junior Board were established as follows:

Tues, Sept 2, 6 pm;

Sun, Oct 26<sup>th</sup> Noon; Tues,

Dec 30, 6 pm (seeding).

Every 6 weeks from Jan through the end of the season.

All the meetings will be held at the AZ Region office unless otherwise notified.

**j. Age Waivers**

Club Directors have been abusing the Age Waiver usage for players too old for their teams in the past few years. The problem is getting bigger each year as clubs keep players that are too old for any of their teams instead of referring them to clubs that offer a team of the correct age.

The original intent of the waiver was for the rural area kids that did not have the option of a team in their proper age group in their local area. The other intent was for those kids who have summer birthdays and are in the grade below what their age group would require. The team was restricted to two waivers per team of those teams that did not travel.

The Junior Board will address the use of Age Waivers at the General Assembly. The 2008-09 season will be more stringent on age waivers awarded and hold the teams to the limited number of players.

**k. New gym facility proposed for AZ Region use**

The Region has been approached by a developer with plans to build a facility with 6 basketball/12 volleyball courts on all wood floors. The playable area would be on a separate level as the spectator area. The facility would have an adjoining YMCA. Office space has been offered to the Region as well. The best case scenario for opening is the Fall of 2009. They need to have 75% of the facility leased out before they will secure the funding.

The Junior Board wants to make sure we still support the schools with our gym usage. This supports our membership and allows some juniors to play that might not be able to without the club being able to offset costs by hosting our tournaments.

**l. Badges - tabled**

Security of on court individuals

**m. Miscellaneous Items**

i. **List of zonal clubs and contacts** - Michael has created a list of email contacts for each board member of the clubs in their zone.

ii. **Movement towards early registration**

The AZ Region will be requiring the junior clubs to register their coaches in October prior to the first day of tryouts for the junior girls. The Region is being forced to move over to the USAV WebPoint registration system where all members are required to register prior to tryouts. This move for the Region will most likely occur for the 2010 season. Registering coaches in October of this season is an attempt to get registrations started earlier and to make sure background screens are completed before coaches come into contact with the players – which is required by our insurance carrier now.

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- iii. **YJOVD meetings October 10-12 in Colorado Springs.** The Region is allowed to send a maximum of 3 members to these meetings. Jr Board members are encouraged to check their schedules to see if they could attend. Harold and Becky are no longer able to attend as the YJOVD has scheduled their meetings at the same time as the ROD meetings.
- iv. **Volleyball festival is reported to be in Phoenix for 2009**
- v. **5 year plan**, where are we going? How do we get there? We would know how to tweak things if we know where it is we are trying to go.

**Next meeting:** Tues, Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> 6 pm, Region Office

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm

**Action Items as a result of this meeting:**

- Boys Open Division Contract will be increased to reflect the cost of paid officials on all matches of the tournament.
- Officials' Division will be notified to staff all Boys Open Division tournaments with an R1 on every match
- The Blackout Period will be changed to indicate girls 15's – 18's from Nov 1<sup>st</sup> to the first day of tryouts in November. The 14's and under ages are no longer under a communication blackout.
- The Tryout Period/Commitment Date policy will be entered in the Jr Policies and published to the clubs via website, email and at the General Assembly
- Zonal Club Division will be created for the North and South Zones. The tournament contract will be drafted.
- The Boys 2008-09 tournament schedule will be posted to the website and sent to the junior boys clubs.
- Brooke Saunders will contact the prospective board members to let them know about the positions.
- General Assembly topics to put to the Club Directors – Small Claims Court judgments and No Pay, No Play Policy, Return to Age Waiver intent, Zonal Club play for North and South Zones, registration of coaches in October.
- Junior Board meeting schedule to be published on the website
- Board members to check their schedules and consider attending the YJOVD meetings in Colorado Springs Oct 10-12
- Board members to consider a 5 year plan for planning and development
- Michael Lindsay will attend the Executive Board meeting on Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> as the Jr Board representative