

**Arizona Region of USA Volleyball
Junior Board Minutes
March 5, 2006**

Call to Order: 12:15 pm

Present: Jonathan Norris, Dan Kaminskas (via phone), Jane LaBrot (via phone), Shayne Lehman, Lisa Naughton, Karen Sitkiewicz, Harold Cranswick. Guests: Becky Hudson

Reading of the Minutes of January 22, 2005 was waived. Motion to approve the minutes Shayne Lehman, Karen Sitkiewicz. Minutes approved as written. The minutes of the Aug 28, 2005 meeting had not been approved at the January meeting - Motion to approve the minutes of August 28, 2005 Shayne Lehman, Dan Kaminskas. Minutes of Aug 28, 2005 approved as amended.

Welcome to our new Junior Board members Dan Kaminskas (North Zone) and Lisa Naughton (Metro Southeast Zone). The Board members were appointed to fill vacancies by Harold Cranswick after being recommended by the Junior Board.

Old Business

Choosing Tournament Host Sites

There have been teams questioning how sites are chosen for our tournaments – specifically which divisions are assigned to which sites. A description of the process of assigning divisions to a site will be produced and given out at the General Assembly.

Education Director Recommendation

Jonathan Norris was not able to meet with Shayne Lehman and Eric Hodgson regarding the Education Director position. A Job Description for the Education Director will be developed before Jonathan has a discussion with Eric and Shayne. This position has the possibility of becoming a year round position.

New Business

High Performance Funds Reallocation

High Performance Director, Eric Hodgson has put a proposal before the Junior Board (attached) that asks for the funds budgeted for High Performance for 2006 season to be reallocated to run a HP Camp instead of a HP team for the 2006 season.

Eric attended the HP Coach's Training Seminar in Colorado Springs in January. He assessed the changes that USAV is making to the HP program and would like for the Arizona Region to sit out a year and see how things shake out with USAV HP.

The funds would be used to run a three day HP Camp in early June. We would bring in two coaches that have worked with USA HP to run the camp, train coaches and evaluate our players. The entire amount that was allocated to HP for 2006 would not be used in running this camp.

Motion: Recommend that the Executive Board reallocate funds for the 2006 HP team to Discretionary Funds to run the camp. Shayne Lehman, Jane LaBrot. Motion passes unanimously.

Review of Match Comment Forms

The following incidents were recently submitted in Comment forms to the Junior Board: 1. There was a car that was backed into at one of our tournaments, no note left; 2. an East Valley team trashed the bathroom at South Mountain CC.

The inaction of the Region to deal with Match Comment forms has cost us influence with Club Directors and with parents. To better deal with the process the Match Comment forms concerning juniors will be sent to Jonathan. The zonal rep will then mentor the offending club director to deal with the situation reported. Immediate response is necessary to affect behavior. This process will be placed in the Best Practices Manual.

New Club Directors need help in training their coaches and parents on appropriate behavior. The coaches in the Arizona Region need training in ethics and dealing with parent behavior. A suggestion was made by Harold Cranswick to establish a New Club Director's meeting that is held on the day and site as the General Assembly but at an earlier time so that they can learn a little more about how things work in the Region and they can be mentored in what to expect their first year. This is done at the National level for all new Commissioners or new Jr Reps that attend the ROD or YJOVD meetings. Currently we instruct them in the proper form submission and timing but not on the events that they will deal with in running a club.

A probationary period for all new clubs was also discussed. More on the probationary period for new clubs and a new club director seminar at the General Assembly will be discussed at the Retreat.

Penalty Policy for Non-Impact Certified Coaches

This will be discussed at the Retreat. The Junior Board is aware of the late coaches. The names and clubs of the coaches involved will be noted.

Update on Beach USAV program – Eric Hodgson

Currently the AVP and USAV are at war. To that end, USAV has picked up its beach profile by making 2 new hires that will take the reins from John Kessel. Denny Lennon and I have spoken the past two weeks. He is the new point man for USA Beach. He wanted to start a Junior Beach tour through the United States that would give participants points, etc.

Problem was he was scheduling these tournaments throughout the country, like the AVP, even though he admitted to me, he knew most athletes would only attend one of the events. He loved what we are doing in our Region and is using it as a template to help other Regions get started with a beach program.

He wants the Region to use USA Beach as the “sponsor” or title bearer for a tournament that will be held June 10-11 at Victory Lanes. He has offered the winners of each age division a FREE entry into the USA Beach High Performance Program, a \$300 value per entry. The athletes would have to pay for their own travel, food and lodging.

The Beach season is nearly finalized. We are adding a Father/Daughter tournament on Father’s Day which was the recommendation of John Kessel at the January HP meetings. We will not be having beach regionals this year. The top point earners after all the tournaments are done will be once again given their entry fee into Junior Beach Nationals, paid for by the Junior Beach Program.

It is also a good probability that we will be able to bring the program cost down for the third year in a row. The season will run from the week of May 23rd to the week of June 27th. We will not venture into July with the Holiday, JO’s and family vacations wreaking havoc on our players last year.

Motion: Recommend the approval of “USA Beach” be the title sponsor of an AZ Region Beach tournament. Jonathan Norris, Shayne Lehman. Motion passes unanimously.

Penalties / non-penalties for Qualifier teams out of Region

This is the third time this has been brought to the board in one form or another. The schedule was put out in September. Clubs chose to attend a qualifier over the Region tournament in this instance. The teams that will miss the Open tournament on April 1st due to attending a National Qualifier will drop to the bottom of their division just as if they would have if they did not participate in any other tournament date. The teams will not drop a division because it is the last tournament prior to the Region Championships. At the Retreat, the Junior Board will make every effort to not schedule a tournament that would conflict with our teams’ play on the SoCal NQ weekends.

Various Facility Groups

Home Courts has begun construction on their building. Bud Noble has come by the office to reestablish contact with the Region. American Sports Center is still interested in coming to Arizona. We have heard nothing from Pinnacle Sports or Valley Sports Center.

It is the position of the Junior Board to listen to these groups but not to jump into negotiations with any of them until such time as the project is viable and we have something to talk about. We have taken a lot of time and effort meeting with various groups only to have them fall through.

National Club Qualifier Format

The format that the Junior Board established for the National Club Qualifier calls for a double elimination format for 10 teams or more that may take place over two days. We have one division that has 12 teams entered. It was decided to make the tournament take place on one day.

Junior Board Elections

There are two zones that are due for elections – the Metro Northwest and the Metro Southwest. Nomination forms and instructions will be sent to the clubs in those zones.

The election will take place in the spring so that the board members can be a part of the planning process at the Retreat.

Next Meeting: Sunday, May 7 at 12 noon.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:53 pm

Minutes were recorded by Becky Hudson

Action Items as a result of this meeting:

- A description of how tournament sites are assigned will be produced and distributed to the Club Directors at the General Assembly and put on the website.
- A job description will be created for the Education Director prior to talking to prospective candidates for the position
- A recommendation will be made to the Executive Board to move the HP funds in the budget to Discretionary Funds to fund the HP Camp and bring in national level coaches.
- The process of dealing with Match Comment forms will be revised in the Best Practices Manual. The procedure will be implemented immediately.
- A recommendation will be made to the Executive Board to allow USA Beach to be the title sponsor of one of our Junior Beach tournaments.
- The National Club Qualifier 16's Division will be scheduled to take place on one day
- Nomination forms will be sent to the Metro Northwest and Metro Southwest clubs.
- Items for the Retreat: Penalty Policy for club/coaches that do not get IMPACT certified by January; Make every effort to schedule the SoCal NQ tournament weekends off weekends so our teams may attend.