

Arizona Region of USA Volleyball
Junior Board Meeting
August 25, 2009

1. Call to Order – the meeting was called to order at 5:47 pm by Michelle Malis

2. Roll Call

Metro Southeast Rep	Lisa Naughton
Metro Southwest Rep	Vacant
Metro Northwest Rep	Vacant
Metro Northeast Red	Matt Cohen
North Rep	Anastasia Rivera
South Rep	Michelle Malis
Boy's Rep	Chad Speer
Secretary	Becky Hudson
Commissioner	Harold Cranswick

Guests: Jen Leo – EVJ, Kent Schwitters – Sideout VBC, Paul Vitola – White Tank Mountain VBC, Scott Lloyd – Aspire VBC, Mark Weary – Club VOS, Carlos Flys – Intensity VBC, Justin Blake – AZ Sky VBC.

3. Guest Comments

Matt Cohen described the competition changes proposed at the retreat.

Open Division – Top 32 teams – 24 -18U teams, 8 -16U teams.

Championship Division – Next 32 teams – next best 24 -16U teams, top 8 -14U teams.

Club Division – Remaining teams that did not qualify would play by age group.

National Club Qualifier – after 3 tournaments restricted to top 8 teams in each age division. Teams may decline to enter the qualifier.

Paul Vitola – Is not sure of the reasoning on restricting the National Qualifier tournament. As a small club it is hard to know what we have so early in the year. Our teams will be precluded from entering the tournament if not in the top teams in early January. The tournament decision at the very early part of the year determines what the season will be like before they even know what type of team they have. The first tournament qualifier is too important - before they are even playing. In the current system if they have a bad first tournament or take a while to get going they can still get better and qualify. With this format and restriction they can't get back or even be allowed to participate. Two weeks out of tryouts the team has to qualify to set up their entire season.

Suggestion by Chad – to add at-large bids to the NCQ tournament for those teams that take off in the season and do well.

Scott Lloyd – Medium size club - I don't have the recruiting machine. My teams need time to grow and still have the opportunity to participate.

Justin Blake – there is a lot riding on the initial seeding for the division qualifier with the limited number of teams being selected.

Carlos Flys – small club - the survey was very clear and the club directors liked what was in effect. None of this change was intimated in the survey. This is a pretty significant change that was included as part of a large email. The way the email was written it gave the assumption was that these changes were based on the results of the survey. This is not the case. This favors the elite recruiting clubs. This dismisses the small to mid size clubs. It gives the large elite clubs recruiting advantage. His main concern is with the ability to participate in Championship - his teams are not looking to play Open. The economic impact is huge for the players. At least his teams are not precluded from participating in the level that my team may aspire to. This needs to be tabled for this year and a good plan worked through for next year. This is a negative for the small to mid size clubs. Put out a survey and then go in another direction.

Justin Blake – Large club - we have some issues at the national level in competing. Compared to Rocky Mountain Region we are behind in competing at that level.

Jen Leo – Large club - The board has looked at what other regions do. Limiting the teams in the NCQ is the problem for me however it relies too heavily on the division qualifier at the start of the season and the initial seeding for that tournament. It is good that the region tournaments mean something but with a team that comes on in a few months they now have no chance at the NCQ. Recommends doing this in baby steps instead of this huge change. Make some changes to the makeup of the divisions without the limiting of the NCQ. The very first tournament should not determine who can participate in the NCQ. She likes the idea of the 18's in Championship and allowing them to blend with other ages. By separating them out there are now some 16's teams that won't be able to play the 18's and play up. There were 32 14's in Championship and now there will only be 8. Why are we separating the 18's out of Championship? Why is that better for them? The 14's and 16's will miss out on the better competition.

Matt Cohen reply – It seemed like there were only about 8 teams that actually move up into the 16's and the rest stay with their own age teams. 18's was a morale thing – playing and losing to 15's team is poor for the 18's morale. They should be playing their peers. It is better for the 18's age group finale of their junior play. Breaking them out into their own division will allow all the 18's to play with other 18's and possibly be seen by junior college coaches on the same weekend with the Open.

Matt Cohen – Can we state that the issue is with the first tournament being so important and then being precluded from the NCQ? We are trying to eliminate the self selecting for the teams.

Paul Vitola – The main issue he was unhappy about is precluding potential teams from participating in the JNC. There is nothing wrong with the teams entering the JNQ for the experience.

Justin Blake – The concern is about the seeding up front for the division qualifier. This system is relying too heavily on the division qualifier.

Eric Hodgson – we had a GREAT 16's to start. We entered Open and won one match all season. It is hard to know what you have at the start. Recommends holding 3 tournaments and then redistributing the teams.

Jen Leo – You can't limit the JNQ to one day if opening up to more teams. Michelle Malis – We will have to go back to two days.

Carlos Flys - Proponent of self selecting into divisions allowing the teams to have opportunity to get better over time. Could we look at punishing teams for over qualifying their teams? We should be able to self select into the NCQ.

Justin Blake – We like to enter Open division because we do travel and Open division has fewer tournaments. When in Championship or Club Divisions there are more region tournaments where there is a possibility of conflict.

Michelle Malis - Qualifying for the Open Division is not a new concept. Are we very opposed to the number of teams being allowed into Open?

Suggestion was made to reset the divisions after 2 or 3 tournaments.

Paul Vitola – Would prefer to keep the non-qualifying 18's in Championship Division instead of a separate division.

4. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda –

Motion 1: Move to approve the agenda as revised. (Rivera/Cohen/MC)

5. Reading/Approval of the Minutes –

Motion 2: Move to approve the minutes of June 9, 2009 meeting as amended (Cohen/Speer/MC)

6. New Business

a. Boy's Season

i. Discuss pros/cons and implications of early start

Pros – opened up more dates and not playing on SAT testing dates. All clubs started when they wanted to which was good. There is more time to fill teams before the season starts.

Cons – more gym time to pay for, it may get more competitive at tryouts when there is a big difference in the dates of tryouts between clubs.

Sept 19th – Chad is hosting a boys' middle school tournament at Grand Canyon. The Region should staff a booth for information on boys play. 12 boys teams are participating and they are all 14 and under.

ii. Determine Solution for September 19 Officiating Clinic/IMPACT Clinic for South. Marana Mountain View HS - 11 am – 1 pm for officiating, 1 pm – 5 pm for the IMPACT clinic, AJ Malis will be the instructor.

iii. Increasing athlete participation for HP/Increasing HP competition opportunities for 2010. Chad would like to name a coach early so that we can recruit kids to commit to the program during the boys club season. Tabled

iv. Team support for the Boys JOVC and our Boys 18 Region Champion.

Currently we collect \$10 per team per tournament to support one entry into the Boys JOVC for the 18's Region Champion. This amount has amounted to over \$2000 per season. We only use \$900 for one entry. Do we reduce the amount collected per team/per tournament or increase the number of teams we support?

Suggestion by Chad is to put half the money towards a more consistent Boys HP team.

Motion 3: Move to reduce the \$10 fee collected per tournament per team for the entry fee for the Boys 18's Region Champion to \$5 and collect \$5 for support of an annual Boys HP team. (Speer/Cohen/MC)

b. Review Retreat Items

i. Review Feedback to Competition Division Changes

1. Determine Goals for Region Competition – not addressed

2. Finalize Plans for 2010 Girl's Season

Open Division – 24 - 18s and 8 - 16s = 32 teams with a qualifier to enter Region Championships are winner takes all – no 16 Open Champion

Championship Division – 32 – 16's and 16 – 14's with qualifier to enter 18's that do not qualify in Open or do not enter the qualifier will be in a separate 18 Championship. Age specific Region Championships – 14's, 16's and 18's.

Division Qualifier – is a seeding tournament. The cost will be rolled into the tournament contract. Teams that don't qualify will be placed in Club Division by age groups.

Teams that don't qualify in Championship may play up in a higher age division if they choose. They will be required to participate in the Region Championships of the age division of Club that they play all season.

Motion 4: Move to change the competition format for junior girls play as noted above. (Cohen/Rivera/MC)

Stasia Rivera will develop the handout for the General Assembly that explains the competition format and distribute to the Board members for oversight.

ii. Arizona Region National Club Qualifier

1. Continue with plan from retreat or modify?

The tournament will remain the same. No team is precluded from entering the National Club Qualifier.

iii. Calendar

1. Boy's Schedule is confirmed
2. Girl's Schedule is not complete
 - a. Conflicts with National Qualifiers – NQ dates are available but the ages of the teams playing each weekend is still unknown.
 - b. Changes will be made based the 2 day qualifier for those large divisions.

12's Region Championships will determine the National and American bids for Arizona. The 12's teams must declare ahead of time if they are attempting to qualify.

- c. June Friendship Tournaments
Eric Hodgson will contact the university coaches about their tournament and dates.

iv. Borrowed Player Policy

1. Policy Discussed at Retreat: In order for a team to use a borrowed player the following criteria must be met: the director must notify the Region that a borrowed player will be used (which team the athlete is coming from/which team will borrow), the same athlete cannot play in the AM/PM wave of the same tournament with different teams, and the borrowed athlete must be borrowed from a lower ranked team.
2. Motion 5: Move to amend the Borrowed Player policy as stated above. (Rivera/Cohen/MC)

v. Age Waiver Policy

1. Policy discussed at Retreat: Region age waivers will only be considered under the following circumstances. 1. Athlete must be in the 14U or lower age division (exception is boys teams and girls players outside the Phoenix and Tucson metro areas who can be of any age division). 2. No more than 2 waivers allowed per team. 3. The age waiver must be turned in with original registration paperwork.
2. Motion 6: Move to amend the Age Waiver policy as stated above. (Speer/Naughton/MC)

- vi. IMPACT Certification Policy
 - 1. Policy Discussed at Retreat: Coaches must be minimum IMPACT certified prior to first team tournament. Coaches not certified or who have not renewed certification before first tournament will be suspended a minimum of one tournament and until certification requirement is met.
 - 2. Motion 7: Move to amend the IMPACT certification policy as stated above. (Cohen/Naughton/MC)

c. General Assembly

i. Topics to Discuss/Person who will Lead Discussion

- 1. Competition Divisions – Matt Cohen with Stasia Rivera's handout
- 2. AZ Region Qualifier Tournament Format – Matt Cohen
- 3. Calendar – Lisa Naughton
 - a. Competition Dates Boys/Girls
 - b. Officiating Clinic Dates
 - c. IMPACT dates/Education Weekend
 - d. AZ Region National Club Qualifier
 - e. June Friendship Tournaments (NAU, ASU, UA)
- 4. IMPACT Certification/Policy (plug for Education Weekend) – Eric Hodgson
- 5. Policies (IMPACT, Borrowed Players, Age Waivers, Rosters at Scorer's Table) – Michelle Malis
- 6. Recognition – Stasia Rivera
 - a. Teams that had high finishes at year-end tournaments
 - b. High Performance team finish
 - c. Junior Beach
 - d. Athletes/coaches accomplishments
- 7. Boys – Chad Speer
 - a. Starting early
 - b. Second season
 - c. Boys High Performance

d. Elections for the Metro NW, Metro SW and Boys Positions

i. Candidates

Becky Hudson will contact people for candidates to positions that are up for election.

e. Dates for Future Jr Board Meetings.

- i. Wed, Sept 30th @ 5 pm
- ii. Wed, Oct 28th @ 5 pm
- iii. Wed, Dec 9th @ 5 pm
- iv. Seeding – Wed Dec 30th @ 2 pm

7. Announcements

- a. General Assembly, September 20th (Mandatory Attendance)
- b. Education Weekend, December 4-6
- c. There is no Jr Assembly meeting in October. There is a possibility of a Jr Assembly meeting in December in conjunction with the AVCA convention and the NCAA Women's Final 4.
- d. RVA meetings October 10-12 in Denver. The RVA Assembly will have an attorney to discuss the player/club financial relationship and what the Region can do about it. Eric Hodgson will be there to take notes and present to the RVA.

8. Adjournment - meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm

Motion 8: Move to adjourn. (Rivera/Cohen/MC)

Motions and Action Items as a result of this meeting:

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Motion 8: Move to adjourn. (Rivera/Cohen/MC)

- Chad Speer hosting a boy's middle school tournament Sept 19th at Grand Canyon. Requests Region staff a booth at the tournament to increase interest in Region play.
- Southern boys Score/Ref Clinic to be held at Marana Mountain View HS at 11 am. IMPACT Clinic to follow from 1 – 5 pm.
- Becky Hudson to collect names for candidates to the Jr Board zones that are up for election.
- Stasia Rivera to produce handout explaining new competition format for the girls' tournaments for the General Assembly.
- Eric Hodgson to attend the RVA Assembly meetings in October with Harold Cranswick and Becky Hudson