



## FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

by Katrina J. Meyer  
Executive Director

Welcome to the start of a brand new collegiate volleyball season. I truly hope that yours is off to a spectacular start. Even though I've been away from the playing and coaching ranks for a number of years now, I still feel the thrill and hope that accompanies the newness of the fall volleyball season. It is such a joy for me to start my first college season with you, as your Executive Director, with a sense of renewal and excitement!

So, as we greet a new 'season,' we bid adieu to another. The summer of 2016 was every bit the freight train that it was advertised to be, and I am proud to report that we stayed ahead of it. The organization is in great shape.

The mantra remains consistent - new website means new process releases. I really must give a shout out to Tim Stevens, our web developer, and Miki Kennedy for their tireless efforts in ensuring that PAVO members have been able to successfully register for the 2016-2017 membership year and the 2016 NCAA/PAVO Clinic season. The lion's share of the member registration experience and follow-up related to these two programs is borne by Tim and Miki, and they are essential to a year filled with transition.

Paralleling the weather in most places, mid- and late-summer really heated up with the release of NCAA/PAVO Exams and annual Clinics. Thanks to Brian Hemelgarn and his committee for ensuring that the *RefSchool* question bank remains a viable tool for exam preparation and for creating exams that meaningfully test the depth of our current rules knowledge. Then there is the small, but incredibly powerful group of clinicians who march to the leadership of Anne Pufahl and Joan Powell. If I heard it or read it once, I heard it or read it a dozen times - the 2016 Clinic was fantastic. One particular member was so impressed with the material that he took the time to send this email:

*"I just wanted to take a quick moment to convey some thoughts about the National Clinic. You guys really knocked it out of the park this year. The content of the clinic was collectively the best I think I've ever seen...just really fantastic job....well thought out...relevant and useful for officials of ALL levels. I remember when you and I spoke right after post-season and I mentioned that I thought it was apparent that we could use some help on our "next-level R2 stuff" (dealing with unusual situations, etc.), I was especially impressed with the content in the clinic on that subject...fantastic. Please pass on the compliments to any and all that had a hand in it. Man!.....the only bummer is it's going to be hard to top that next year!"*

Another of our highly regarded programs is the National Rating Team (NRT) Program. As of press time, only one of the four NRT events for 2016 has been completed. More on this year's success stories in a future report, but an advanced thank you to Mara Wager and our team of National Raters for their commitment to ensuring that our newest National Referees are ready for the on-court challenges and successes that accompany this hard-earned certification.

Late in the month of July I held the second of two conference calls between PAVO staff and nearly 50 of our Affiliated Board Chairs (ABCs). Our discussions revolved around these five primary topics:

- The executive director transition
- iREF 300
- The 2016 training and certification materials
- Mission critical website updates since March
- 2016 Board Chair Packets

More notable updates have been made to the PAVO

Website. The [2016 Rules Comparison documents](#) are available from the **Rules and Tools** tab. The [Scorers Tools page](#) has been populated and is accessible from the **Rules and Tools** tab. Also available from the **Rules and Tools** tab is the [2016 Rule Changes, Rationale, and Clarifications Summary document](#). From the PAVO Resources tab you'll find a more easily readable list of [Conference Contacts](#) and a more user friendly [Uniforms and Vendors page](#). I want to encourage you to visit the

site with some regularity so that you can become familiar with all of the great features and functional information available to you 24/7.

Finally, the 2016 PAVO Officials Convention is four months away. Make plans NOW to DISCOVER GREATNESS in Columbus, Ohio from December 14-17. Visit the [PAVO Convention webpage](#) for early registration details.



by Julie Voeck  
President

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Technology in Officiating

The influence of technology in officiating was the theme of this year's National Association of Sports Officials (NASO) Summit. The overarching message was that technology is here to stay and, in general, has been a positive influence on the game.

Technology continues to change our lives and the way games are officiated. This year, the NCAA rules committee embraced the additional use of technology and approved the Challenge Review System (CRS) as a new rule.

While it was an experimental rule for just one season in 2015, the experience by those who used it was so positive that the current NCAA rules will allow any team to use CRS in 2016. Many more teams and officials will be able to use and experience the system this year, including the semi-final and final matches at the NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championships.

Technology is also enhancing the way volleyball officials are trained. PAVO debuted the *iREF* on-line training program two years ago with 100-level training classes for beginning referees. The 200-level training classes were added the following year and 300-level courses will be available shortly. PAVO expects the *iREF* on-line training to continue to grow and expand to include line-judge and scorer training in the near future.

The assigning process has also been greatly impacted by technology. Most of us receive our officiating assignments via an on-line assigning system. We can

even receive text messages reminding us of an upcoming game or changes to an assignment on our cell phone. Use of on-line assigning systems allows for better communication between conference coordinators and officials as well as direct communication with host institutions.

However, technology also requires us to do our part. We need to keep our information current and complete post-match reports in a timely manner. As discussed in the pre-season clinics, keeping our availability current and calendar up-to-date is a key requirement for all coordinators. Assigners also expect match reports and evaluations to be completed online in a timely manner following the match.

As I think about the future for volleyball officials, I believe that technology has been a great tool to help improve officiating and will only continue to get better. I am a visual learner – along with many of you. Technology now provides so many opportunities to review situations and plays through *iREF*, the NCAA Central Hub and NCAA/PAVO clinics. Video provides officials training for match situations that can take place before they actually happen. Technology and video training allows officials to learn more quickly and be more prepared.

I hope all of you are able to use technology in some way to improve your officiating in the upcoming season.

See you on the volleyball courts.



**USA Volleyball**

*by Dave Spencer*

*Associate Chair, Indoor Officials Commission, Referees*

## USAV NATIONAL INDOOR REFEREES

Thank you to everyone who officiated at the USAV Indoor Adult Open National Championships, Girls' 18 Spring, Girls' and Boys' National Championships and High Performance Championships. Referees and scorers officiated over 1500 official-days at these events. Because of the overlap of the two JNC events, the single day requiring the most officials was July 1st, Day 8 of the GJNC and Day 3 of BJNC, when about 400 referees were needed to cover all of the matches. This does not count those who also served as head officials, officials room staff, scorer monitors, assignors, raters, trainers, and other event staff positions.

Congratulations to our colleagues who were presented with various USAV and Commission awards in Orlando. Their dedication to the sport and to officiating is being justly rewarded.

Congratulations as well to the 48 Junior National and 15 National Referees that earned their certifications this summer whose names are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Their hard work has paid off and they will be great additions to our ranks.

Several of our colleagues have retired their national-level referee certification since the last listing in the February 2015 issue of the Official Word: Debra Anika (LS), Tom Beckham (NT), Richard Bleau (LS), Scott Cull (RM), Jonathan Daclison (AZ), Sandra Doherty (NO), George Fetz (GE), Erik Fisaga (GW), Felicia Green (FL), Ed Halik (RM), Al Herbert (OV), Bob

Hume (SO), Michelle Kellen (IE), John Kimmel (LS), Gary Kufahl (HA), Daniel Leake (OD), Ric Lomibao (PS), Sue Mailhot (GP), Patsy Malta (SC), Greg Milam (NT), Robert Okamura (SC), Gary Oncale (LS), John Patterson (PR), Greg Roth (HO), JR Salima (AZ), Dave Spencer (GP), Marilyn Thompson (CR), Tom Van Someren (HA), and Ruby Winschel (GW). They served USAV and their regions for many years. Thank them and wish them well next time you see them.

As the new quad begins, the Indoor Officials Commission is undergoing some changes. Expect to see new people in some commission positions as we move forward. And in the USAV office in Colorado Springs, Paul Albright has been hired as the first Director, Officials Development. He will support officiating for all disciplines - Indoor, Beach, and Sitting. He has played an active role in the selection of new members for the Officials Commission, and will assist in any structure change proposals moving forward. The new commission members should be announced very soon.

Finally, farewell! I am hanging up my whistle 31 years after earning my Junior National patch. It looks now like my last "official" match will be at a small NAIA school an hour from home the first weekend of November. Over the years, you have all become my second family. Thank you to everyone who helped me become the best official I could be. I will miss you all. Now I just have to answer my wife Pat's question: "What are you going to do now?"




## YOUR PAVO PROFILE

**A VALUABLE RESOURCE – IF IT'S USED CORRECTLY!**

*by Marcia Alterman*

One of the enhancements that the new PAVO website provides is a higher level of security and privacy. However – you must make decisions about balancing your accessibility with that privacy factor. It's important that current and potential assignors/coordinators and your assigned officiating partners be able to contact you easily. And you hold the key to making that work, by how you manipulate your profile.

1. Log onto the PAVO website, then click on your name in the upper right corner to access your profile.
2. Scroll down to the "EDIT PROFILE" button, and click.
3. You'll see all the fields that you can control, and most will have a little "eyeball" icon beside them: 
4. By clicking on the down arrow by the "eyeball", you will see options for that field; you control whether that particular field can be viewed by:
  - Public
  - Members only
  - Admin only
  - Friends & groups (this feature is not active yet on the website, so don't select it)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE INFORMATION YOU MARK AS VISIBLE TO MEMBERS OR ADMIN ONLY MAY NOT BE SEEN BY ASSIGNORS AND COORDINATORS WHO OFTEN USE THE PAVO DATABASE TO FIND INFORMATION ON OFFICIALS THAT THEY WANT TO CONTACT!!**

5. Be sure that you click on ALL of the sections on your profile to manipulate the visibility of your information.
6. While you're at it, upload an appropriate picture if you haven't done that already.
7. Finally, in the CONTACT INFORMATION section, make sure that the phone number that you want others to use is listed as PRIMARY. When the information was transferred from the old PAVO database, it's likely that your HOME phone was moved to the PRIMARY field, and many officials would prefer their CELL phone be the primary point of contact.

These tasks will only take a few minutes, and will allow the contact information that **you choose** to be accessed by those who need to contact you. If you have questions, please contact Miki Kennedy in the PAVO Central Office.



## 2016 CLINIC TAKEAWAYS

*by Anne Pufahl & Joan Powell*

The 2016 NCAA/PAVO clinic was filled with concrete and relatable information, which was delivered in a variety of styles. Hopefully you are “Taking Care of Business”, professionally!

The clinicians’ script and PowerPoint provided the rules and techniques. Mini-modules and videos, which are always a favorite, helped illustrate the pertinent points.

The second referee de-escalation segment provided some great tricks of the trade. The audience participation portion allowed partners to take on the role of a coach and a reacting referee, while viewing video clips. According to the clinic evaluations, that seemed to be the clinic highlight.

So what were the basic takeaways from this summer’s clinic?

- Retro Rules/Clarifications and Techniques
- New Rules
  - o Uniforms must have Arabic numbers (that is not a font style)
  - o In 2019, the color of the number must be in distinct contrast of the color of the jersey
  - o Conference logos are treated like mascots (in size) – 3”X 5” or 4”X 4”
  - o Pursuit rule is gone, but be careful, players will still pursue the ball
  - o Challenge Review System (CRS) is in
  - o Check the editorial changes in your rules book
- New Techniques
  - o Check out the Line Judge Corner on the Central Hub, especially the new LJ Signal

Summary. Referees – you’ve got to know this information!

- o Pre-match sanctions - show the appropriate card (delay, yellow or red) at the beginning of the first set, and record on the first set scoresheet.
- o Between sets sanctions are recorded on the scoresheet for the next set and shown by the R1 at the start of the next set
- o In both cases, R2 needs to verbalize to the coach at the time of the issue that the sanction has been assessed
- Second Referee Re-training
  - o If the net padding and setup allows, R2s should try working closer to the pole – refrain from butting up against the scoretable
  - o R2, when the antenna needs your attention, do the Prater-move
  - o And when the coach attempts to come in your sub zone, try to “waltz” the coach right out of your workplace – another Prater move
  - o In the pre-match discussion, ask the scorers what they need from you
  - o Engage and protect your line judges
  - o As R2, be a good facilitator
  - o Be a good manager - Be in control, but not controlling
  - o Choose your words and watch your body language

Have a great season!





**USA Volleyball.**

by Donna Wigton  
Director, International Indoor Scorers

## INTERNATIONAL SCORER COMMISSION

The lead up to Rio involved a few FIVB tournaments in the USA, giving our scorers some great experience. In Southern California, the USA Men vs **Japan Cup** in May provided a tune up for Terry Lawton and Jane Dong, along with qualified scorers Joe Aguilar and Diana Johnson at USC and Long Beach. Then in June, Terry Lawton led SC region scorers Jane Dong, Maureen Barbosa, and from Carolina Region, Amber Fulk at the **Women's Grand Prix** in Long Beach. Every tournament provides learning opportunities and I'm grateful to Terry for such thorough and insightful reports, and encouraging each scorer's perspective – it helps us all! In Dallas, the **Men's World League** matches in July were scored by Becky Brockney (RM), Margie Mara (RM), and Kent Haggard (RM). It was great that so many of the teams at the Boys' JNC could see our national team play!

Qualified scorer Rebecca Johannes coordinated scorers for the Pan Am and World Deaf Championships in Washington, D.C. in July. She was joined by Chesapeake region national scorers Nathasha Claxton, Karen Smith, and Tia Story; qualified scorer Lynette Muller; and certified scorer Debbie Reed. They all used the e-score program! Although technically not under my jurisdiction to assign, I thank those members of our cadre (and future ones!) for stepping up and providing excellent support for these championships.

The **High Performance Championships** in Ft Lauderdale, FL were a great success. I want to thank the following qualified scorers working the regular courts: Joe Aguilar (SC), Rose Atkinson (KE), Roy Benasaraf (KE), Fran Bentley (FL), Michael Chandler (OV), Ryan Feickert (AZ), Tyrone Fuertes (NE), Vickie Hinkle (PS), Lyman Johnson (SC), Dan Kitchel (LK), Jackie Martin (FL), Thang Nguyen (LS), Melissa Pouyer (GW), Ben Rosenthal (IE), Rob Shewmaker (DE), Milka Steiner (AZ), Janna Ter Molen (NT), and Lynne Updegraff (IA). Special thanks to certified scorers Maureen Barbosa (SC) who worked the regular courts and served as a mentor, and Carlos Rodriguez (LS) who served as head referee. A big congratulations to National scorers Andres Lopez (AZ) and Charlie Tamez (LS) who earned their qualified status at this tournament. Thanks for the hard work of all the above folks, and especially the training court scorers Ross Erickson (NO), Ronnie Kaase (LS), and Tina Stanley (GP) and the fine scorer staff, Becky Brockney (RM), Amber Fulk (CR) and Kim Williams (PS).

Stay tuned for news about the NORCECA U-20 Continental Championships held in Florida in the October '16 *Official Word*.



## FOR PUFahl, INTERIM NATIONAL COORDINATOR IS JUST ONE OF MANY HATS SHE WEARS

by Dale Goodwin  
Interim Board Member



Anne Pufahl

I called on a Thursday night in late August to interview Anne Pufahl, new NCAA Volleyball Coordinator. She couldn't talk. She was off to her skeet shooting league.

Pufahl is a woman who is on the go from sunrise to well after dark, and her closet is full of hats, many of which she often wears simultaneously.

By day, Pufahl is director of the intramural sports program at Marquette University in Milwaukee. In the rest of her waking hours she is assigns officials for three NCAA Division I conferences, and serves as NCAA secretary/rules editor, and PAVO co-director of clinics. And now we can add interim NCAA Volleyball Coordinator to her "off time" duties.

Pufahl started as Volleyball Coordinator on Aug. 1. Her interim term runs through March 30. The position will open up for applications again in January, 2017.

Fortunate for her, she worked closely over the past five years with outgoing coordinator Joan Powell; Pufahl on rules and Powell on techniques. Now Pufahl does it all.

"When I did my first clinic in Baltimore this summer, I told the group that if I was National Coordinator I'd advocate for R2s not moving to the offenders' side to make signals. At my last clinic, I could say 'I'm the National Coordinator and I don't want R2s moving to the offenders' side to show their signals,'" said Pufahl.

When she was asked to serve as the national coordinator, Pufahl's first response was no. But the NCAA liked her experience in the game and the set of skills that has distinguished her as one of the sport's most informed volleyball administrators, and brought her on board.

Her next thought was this: "What am I thinking? First, I followed Marcia Alterman as rules editor, and now I'm following Joan Powell as National Coordinator? On one hand, both those women had established an excellent foundation for me. On the other hand, how do you follow two of the greatest names in women's volleyball history?"

But Pufahl has made a name for herself. She officiated at the 1999 women's NCAA Division I Final Four. She was an all-star player for her University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse volleyball team. As coach she led her Marquette club team to three NIRSA national championships over her 18-year career. And she is a member of her high school, college and PAVO halls of fame, as if she needs any more credibility.

Enough said. Time to get to work.

She was fortunate to have written her first rules interpretation newsletter in early July for dissemination the first week of September. The NCAA/PAVO Clinics had all been scheduled and she only had a couple more to present. And her work at Marquette is a little less frantic during the summer months, giving her time to plan for her season as national coordinator.

The first thing she had to do was put together a 16-week travel schedule. "I look forward to seeing officials I haven't seen before," she said. Second, she had to secure a team of regional advisers: Cecile Reynaud, Steve Thorpe, Ken Taylor and Norma Carr.

She'll still have rules interpretation newsletters to write, scheduling changes to make in her conferences and protests to rule upon. Needless to say, the next few months will be very busy. At times she may even forget which hat she has on. But through the shuffle of her half dozen jobs or more, she knows to take care of herself with a little balance in her life.

"On Tuesdays over the lunch hour my staff and I play pickle ball. It's a blast. I really look forward to it. And of course, Thursday nights are skeet shooting league. I'm not any good at it, but it's a lot of fun."

Whatever gives this woman a break!





## COLUMBUS IS SITE OF ANNUAL PAVO CONVENTION AND FINAL FOUR

*by Donna Carter*  
*Membership Development*

The planning committee for the annual PAVO Officials' Convention is looking for topics and speakers to be included in the event, which will be held Dec. 14-17 in Columbus, Ohio in conjunction with the 2016 NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championships and the American Volleyball Coaches Association Convention.

The official's convention is geared toward making referees better and provides great networking opportunities. Additionally, PAVO will convene the annual Board Chair Assembly, to assist PAVO board chairs provide better service to their members. A USA Volleyball National Referee clinic is likely as well. Additional topics and speakers are being planned now. Anybody with suggestions can email the PAVO office at [pavo@pavo.org](mailto:pavo@pavo.org).

What is already set is the host hotel, the Columbus Hilton. Registration for the full convention before Nov. 15 is \$225 for PAVO members and \$275 for non-PAVO members. Those who can only attend on the weekend (Friday night through Saturday) can purchase the "Mini-Convention" for \$125. Rates go up starting Nov. 16. See registration form.

Discounted rates are offered to early registrants, and full details can be found on the PAVO Convention webpage at <http://pavo.org/Training/Convention>, in future Official Word publications, and future convention specific email communications.

Join us and discover YOUR greatness in Columbus!



**2016 PAVO Officials' Convention ~ Columbus, OH**  
**December 14-17, 2016**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Registrant Name \_\_\_\_\_

PAVO Affiliated Board \_\_\_\_\_

Registrant Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Can we release the above information to other convention attendees and/or sponsors (circle one)? YES NO

	PAVO Members before 11/15/16	PAVO Members after 11/15/16	Non-PAVO Members before 11/15/16	Non-PAVO Members after 11/15/16	Amount you are Paying
<b>Full- Convention Registration*</b>	\$225.00	\$275.00	\$275.00	\$300.00	\$
<i>Includes all PAVO sessions and AVCA Marketplace admittance (dates and times TBA)</i>					

<b>"Mini" Convention Registration*</b>	\$125.00	\$150.00	\$125.00	\$150.00	\$
<i>Includes PAVO Social and Semifinal Analysis on Friday evening, and all Saturday sessions.</i>					

**Extras and Options:**

<b>NCAA Championship Match Tickets**</b>	Tickets are not included with convention registration. Sold in sets of 2 ~ each all-session ticket includes the two semi-final matches on Thursday, Dec. 15 <sup>th</sup> and the championship match on Saturday, Dec. 17 <sup>th</sup> . Seats are located in the lower bowl of the Nationwide Arena. Limited quantity available. Non-registrants may not place ticket orders through PAVO.  <b>\$72.00 x _____ (Number of tickets)</b>	\$
<b>AVCA/Jostens Coaches Honors Luncheon</b>	Thursday, Dec. 15 <sup>th</sup> from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. Battelle Grand Ballroom inside the Greater Columbus Convention Center. May overlap some PAVO Convention sessions.  <b>\$45.00 x _____ (Number of tickets)</b>	\$
<b>AVCA All-America/ Players-of-the-Year Banquet</b>	Friday, Dec. 16 <sup>th</sup> from 10:45 am to 12:45 pm. Battelle Grand Ballroom inside the Greater Columbus Convention Center. May overlap some PAVO Convention sessions.  <b>\$45.00 x _____ (Number of tickets)</b>	\$
<b>Guest attendance</b>	Friday, Dec. 16 <sup>th</sup> . PAVO Social and Semifinal Analysis. (Guest ticket is only required for NON-convention registrants, maximum of TWO per registrant).  <b>\$45.00 x _____ (Number of tickets)</b>	\$
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT DUE</b> <b>Make checks payable to PAVO</b> <b>Submit payment to PO Box 780, Oxford, KS 67119, or</b> <b>Complete Credit Card information below and mail or fax to 620/455-3800</b>		\$
Visa MasterCard Discover (circle one) Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Security digits (3) on back of card: _____		

**Signature of Registrant:** \_\_\_\_\_

\* Requests for convention registration refunds received before December 1<sup>st</sup> will be charged a \$25.00 service fee.  
 Requests for convention registration refunds received after December 1<sup>st</sup> will be charged a \$40.00 service fee.

\*\* NOTE: NCAA match tickets are **NOT** refundable under any circumstances.



**USA Volleyball.**

*by Jen Williams*

*Director, Nat'l Indoor Scorer Evaluation & Certification*

## SCORER EVALUATION UPDATE

88 scorer re-evaluations were completed during the USA National Open Championships in Orlando, Florida. Thank you to our rating team members, Rose Atkinson and Rachael Stringer for a job well done! They found some common errors in their re-evaluations to include:

- Remember to wear the correct patch
- Make sure you wear approved outer garments
- Complete as much information prior to the start of the match
- Remember to note your available subs!
- Help the assistant scorer complete the Libero tracking sheet correctly if necessary
- Work pre-match with referees to verify the rosters
- Verify submitted line-up numbers BEFORE entering it on the score sheet
- Verify a substitute is legal BEFORE noting it on the score sheet
- Make sure rosters are readily available on the table during the match
- Make sure a # or "X" is written in each Libero box
- Consider crossing out the previous set on the line-up sheet
- Put the pen down before making any signals
- Signals should be made in front of you, but eye contact should be with the second referee
- Make sure you no longer use the "one-handed" signal for a legal substitute
- Record time-out information BEFORE giving number of time-outs taken to the second referee
- Finish recording all substitute information BEFORE giving ready signal
- Captains – the square and circle must have a # or "X" for every set
- Roster captain is the game captain if on the court
- Check line-up at the beginning of the set at the

same time the second referee is also checking the line-up

- Keep communicating with the officiating team from beginning to end
- Help assistant scorer with duties if necessary
- Check the visual score often for correct score and set #
- If you are correcting an error, make sure you are still paying attention to the match. If you cannot fix the error while the match is going on, please ask the referees to wait so you can correct the error
- As much as possible, please do not delay the match
- Review the new method for cancelling unused points - draw a horizontal line under the last slashed point; draw a vertical line through all unused points

Congratulations to the NEW national scorers who went for gold in Dallas!!

Katherine Blaise, SC  
 Kirsten Boessneck, PM  
 Geraldine Brokenbough, SC  
 Wade Colson, AZ  
 James Hammar, OV  
 Steve Lambert, PS  
 Rachana Tan, SC  
 Roger Wallenburg, HA  
 Gil Wartell, AZ

Thank you also to our national scorer rating team members consisting of Carlos Rodriguez, Jane Dong, and Janna Ter Molen for all of your hard work! Hopefully all candidates walked away with some great feedback and things to continue to improve on!



## DOWN THE LINE: BE READY TO STAND IN THE LINE OF FIRE

### Practice anti-flinching drill during warm-ups

*by Tom Berg*

With few opportunities to practice the craft, line judges must take full advantage when taking the corner, even during warm-up at the 11-minute mark to “warm up the eyes.”

But far from just standing there as the hitting lines hum along, line judges must practice the techniques they will actually use in a match. That means working on getting your eyes to the line before the ball arrives; focusing on the blockers’ hands before the hitter contacts the ball; (rather than the hitter’s contact); and proper positioning.

Of course, there are several no-nos during your warm-up period: deflecting the balls with your hands or feet or scanning the crowd to locate friends or family members.

As players know that “you play as you practice,” line judges must know “you officiate as you practice.”

However, one critical technique that the Powers-That-Be didn’t consider when they started encouraging line judges to warm up the eyes is what I call the “anti-flinching drill.”

Coaches, players, fans and officials expect a player to stand in the path of a hard-driven attack and not flinch. Fairly or not, they expect the line judge to do the same, but one significant difference exists: players actively train not to flinch at receiving the attack; line judges do not.

Line judges who flinch when the ball lands four feet

away on any line or passes several feet overhead must dramatically shrink their “comfort zone.”

During hitting drills, practice shrinking your comfort zone by acclimating yourself to hard-driven volleyballs passing close to you either in the air or after the bounce. Accept the fact that a ball can pass near you without harm, and test your limits. Soon, you will recognize how to move deftly to avoid flinching, but only after becoming comfortable with the dynamics of a ball in flight or after the bounce as it approaches you.

Concurrently, you must simultaneously reduce head and eye movement. Practice advanced ball-avoidance/anti-flinching movement techniques by moving your torso horizontally or dropping your torso vertically – all while keeping your head and eyes level. Never crane your neck to avoid a ball passing close to your head because your eyes lose horizontal stability.

The anti-flinching skill set is not a game of “chicken” or “matador versus the bull”; do not even entertain such concepts. You have responsibilities at the rally’s end: the R1 – and the coaches, players and fans – needs to know if the ball was “in,” “out,” or touched. Failure to make a call, or making the wrong call when you flinch, raises doubt about your skills.

Through practicing your anti-flinching drills, you can inure yourself to the “Zowie-that-was-so-close-to-me!” yips. Instead, stand in the line of fire, let the ball take its action, deftly move, confidently make the call . . . and get the call right!



**USA Volleyball.**

*by Michelle Prater*  
Director, Nat'l Indoor Ref Eval & Cert

## NEW NATIONAL REFEREES

It is hard to believe, but another season has passed, and another rating session is in the books. The USAV National Referee Rating Team certified 15 new national referees in Dallas, TX and 48 new junior national referees in Indianapolis, IN. Michael and I would like to thank everyone for their continued support, and the raters for a job well done.

The Shadow a Rater Program continues to be a success. This program is designed to help national referees that are leaders in their region gain knowledge to take back to their region and help up and coming referees. We had three national referees shadow raters of junior national referee candidates for two days.

Participants were: Brett Myres (IA), Anthony Hines (OV) & Tony Slone (OV)

The re-evaluations continue to be a high priority. The National Rating Team was able to complete 218 evaluations over the five national championships (ONC, GJNC, BJNC, HPC, and 18's GJNC) this season.

### **THANK YOU TO THE NATIONAL REFEREE RATING TEAM:**

Mara Wager (IE), Donnie Goodwin (PR), Paul Albright (SO), Brian Hemelgarn (OV), Darin Clark (FL), Ross Erickson (NO), Stacey Weitzel (CH), Brad Aaberg (NO), Ron Stahl (SC), Eric Hoffman (CH), Jung Park (NE), Clark Radcliffe (GP), Bill Thornburgh (PR), Steve Kenyon (SO), Mark Prater (SO), Carla Bunner (CH), Thomas Hoy (LS), Angelle Simms (BY), Chad Klunck (NT), Steve Franco (SU), Ryan Tighe (GP), Stephen Shepherd (CR), Michael McPoyle (KE), Wade Brence (CR), Tom Joseph (OV), Jeff McKinney (WE), Wayne Clark (OD), Michael Yoshikawa (NC), Marcia Costley (CE), Kathy Ferraraccio (NE), Scott Atkinson (KE).

On behalf of the USAV Officials' Commission, please join me with a great big "Congratulations!" to our new junior national and national referees. Your journey has just begun. We encourage you to continue working hard to improve your officiating skills and to reach other officiating goals. Remember you did not do this on your own. Make sure to thank the people that helped you along the way and to continue to give back to your region and the national commission.



USA Volleyball.

## NEW NATIONAL REFEREES



USA Volleyball.

### NEW JUNIOR NATIONAL REFEREES

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	REGION	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	REGION
Steve	Aguilar	LS	Gerald	Johnson	NT
James (Jim)	Arts	BG	David (Dave)	Jones	KE
Satoshi	Asari	NE	Kelsi	Jurik	IA
Christopher (Chris)	Baker	OV	Edward (Ed)	Lau	LS
Jane	Belinfante	LS	Rick	Mischka	RM
Kenneth (Ty)	Boyd	SC	Edward (Ed)	Moore Jr	NE
Michael	Brandon	HO	Ergys	Myselimi	GE
Laurie	Brown	SC	Janine	Patton	FL
Darryl	Buck	CR	Kevin	Peden	EV
Kristin	Cooper	LS	Teague	Prichard	BG
Bernice	Dere	NC	Darren	Reese	GL
Augusto	Dumlao	LK	Mallory	Roberts	NT
Jeff	Dunaway	PR	Timothy (Tim)	Rough	KE
Wallace (Rocky)	Emert	SO	James (Bo)	Schmidt	NO
Bob	Fessler	IA	Laina	Simmons	SO
Kevin	Finneran	FL	John	Skinner	OD
Lionel	Garcia	FL	Ashlie	Sletvold	OV
Magdalena (Magda)	Gleaves	SC	Gilbert (Gil)	Soliven	BY
Paula	Gottier	GP	Kurtis (Kurt)	Trout	IA
Scott	Hammerbacher	HA	Tasha	Vessely	HO
Filadelfo (Elias)	Hernandez	NT	Stephen (Steve)	Walz	IA
Jude	Holzer	GP	Richard (Rick)	Welch	CH
Ashley	Howerter	OH	Kevin	Welch	PR
John	Hunley	PR	Dennis (Joe)	Wray	HO

### NEW NATIONAL REFEREES

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	REGION	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	REGION
Frank	Ayala	SU	Philip	Hoffman	NT
Patrick	Bradley	SC	Derwin	Jordan	SC
Brian	Brokenbough	SC	Tyler	Kiel	NO
Alston	Cleary	AK	Rodolfo (Tito)	Marrero	FL
Dustin	Crosby	OD	Robert	Owen	FL
John (Darrin)	Frizell	OV	Rachael	Stringer	FL
Margaret (Lena)	Gustafson	IM	Edward (EJ)	Swartz	HO
Michelle	Hayes	OV			



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