



*by Julie Voeck*  
*President*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### **PAVO: 23 years of improving volleyball officiating**

Since its inception in 1994, the Professional Association of Volleyball Officials (PAVO) has focused on educating, training and certifying officials. These same goals continue to be the core of PAVO's mission today.

PAVO is dedicated to improving the quality of volleyball officiating for all skill levels. PAVO strives to increase the number of competent officials through education, training, and mentoring, and promotes involvement in the governing bodies of other volleyball officiating groups.

PAVO collaborates with other organizations such as the NCAA, NAIA, NJCAA, NFHS, NASO and USA Volleyball to provide information to members and further develop volleyball officials.

In 2011, the NCAA began its volleyball officiating improvement program and hired a national coordinator to lead this effort.

PAVO collaborates with the NCAA on its officiating initiatives. PAVO works closely with the NCAA to offer NCAA/PAVO annual referee clinics and to develop the

annual exam. PAVO also provides support to the national coordinator by assisting in the development of training material for the Central Hub.

In a similar fashion, PAVO collaborates with the NAIA on officiating initiatives. NAIA uses NCAA volleyball rules with a few minor exceptions. Many PAVO members call both NAIA and NCAA volleyball.

As part of its commitment to continuous improvement of volleyball officiating, PAVO felt it was important to ensure consistent training of officials for both the NCAA and NAIA. As part of this commitment, I have agreed to serve as the Officiating Resource Advisor for the NAIA. In this role, I will coordinate with the NCAA rules interpreter to ensure training, testing and rule interpretations between the organizations are consistent.

PAVO is committed to providing our members with the most current and up-to-date information on volleyball officiating. As always, we welcome your feedback on how we can serve our members.

See you on the volleyball courts.



## CRS BY THE NUMBERS

by Katy Meyer  
Executive Director

Whether or not you're one of the select referees across the country who have had the opportunity to work with the Challenge Review System (CRS) ~ surely, you're aware of its existence and growing prominence. 2016 is the inaugural year of NCAA Women's Volleyball Rule 18, the Challenge Review System (CRS) and already the statistics are rolling in. Through the dedicated efforts of some instrumental

people, PAVO established a CRS data submission, gathering, and reporting program. If you're like me, you'll find these to-date statistics (thru October 16, 2016) a bit fascinating. They will serve our indoor discipline (officials, players, and coaches) well as the CRS integrates and matures, across the collegiate volleyball landscape.

### 2016 CRS FACTS (through 10/16/16)

- There are 7 NCAA Division I Conferences with one or more schools that have participated so far in the PAVO CRS data gathering and reporting process for the 2016 regular season. Several other conferences participated during the pre-season, only.

**Big 12 Conference  
Big West Conference  
Southeastern Conference (SEC)**

**Big East Conference  
Mountain West Conference**

**Big Ten Conference  
PAC-12 Conference**

- There are 41 NCAA Division I Member Institutions who have hosted CRS.
- There are 90 separate referees who have used CRS.
- **There have been a total of 583 challenges lodged in 232 matches.**

#### **SUMMARY: Number of Challenges**

*2.51 ~ the average number of challenges per match*

- 12 ~ the number of 0 challenge matches
- 50 ~ the number of 1 challenge matches
- 51 ~ the number of 2 challenge matches
- 69 ~ the number of 3 challenge matches
- 31 ~ the number of 4 challenge matches
- 14 ~ the number of 5 challenge matches
- 5 ~ the number of 6 challenge matches

## 2016 CRS FACTS (through 10/16/16) (continued)

### SUMMARY: Challenge Time

1:23 ~ *the average challenge time*

- 4:58 ~ *the longest challenge time*
- 0:10 ~ *the shortest challenge time*

### SUMMARY: By Type and Result

- 276 (47.34%) ~ the number of challenges lodged for Ball contacting a player
  - 84 times the official's decision was confirmed
  - 123 times the official's decision was reversed
  - 66 times the video was inconclusive
  - 3 times there was mechanical or video failure
- 220 (37.74%) ~ the number of challenges lodged for Ball ruled in or out
  - 110 times the official's decision was confirmed
  - 81 times the official's decision was reversed
  - 29 times the video was inconclusive
- 85 (14.58%) ~ the number of challenges lodged for Net fault by player
  - 57 times the official's decision was confirmed
  - 24 times the official's decision was reversed
  - 3 times the video was inconclusive
  - 1 time there was mechanical or video failure
- 2 (0.34%) ~ the number of challenges lodged for Service foot fault
  - 2 times the official's decision was confirmed

### SUMMARY: By Result

- 253 (43.40%) ~ the number of times the Official's Decision Confirmed
- 228 (39.11%) ~ the number of times the Official's Decision Reversed
- 98 (16.81%) ~ the number of times the Video was inconclusive
- 4 (0.69%) ~ the number of time there was Mechanical or video failure



## PEREIRA MAKES ENCORE APPEARANCE AT 2016 PAVO CONVENTION

Discover Greatness, you deserve this!

by Katy Meyer  
Executive Director

Fresh off the release of his new book providing insights into NFL rules, their applications, and some of the most recent controversial calls in recent memory, Mike Pereira returns to the PAVO Officials Convention as the keynote speaker for the 2016 event in Columbus.

Pereira was a big hit at the Seattle convention in 2013 and is one several speakers and highlights of this year's events Dec. 14-17.



Pereira is the former vice president of NFL officiating, and joined FOX Sports in 2010 in the unique position of a multi-platform NFL rules analyst. He contributes regularly to the FOX NFL SUNDAY pregame show, FOXSports.com, FOX Sports Radio and is available to join NFL on FOX game broadcasts. He retired from

the NFL after 14 years with the league in 2009.

In his latest book, *"After Further Review: My Life Including the Infamous, Controversial, and Unforgettable Calls That Changed the NFL,"* Pereira draws on professional experience and his personal life, both his years at the pinnacle of the officiating world and growing up as the son of longtime official, Al.

The book will be available to convention attendees for a tax deductible \$25, and 100 percent of the proceeds will go to Pereira's newly formed foundation, *Battlefields to Ballfields*. The foundation is dedicated to helping veterans become sports officials. Pereira's book will be available at convention check in; however, if you'd like to pre-order a copy, please [email Katy Meyer](#), by December 1. He will be available to sign books during the first two days of the convention.

With the theme *"Discover Greatness,"* the three-day convention includes:

- A warm and welcoming, pre-convention *Social* hosted by the Ohio Valley Region of USA Volleyball and the local area PAVO Affiliated Boards.

- The always enlightening and often entertaining *Coaches Panel*.
- The *SPORTS IMPORTS Social, Awards Program, and Semifinal Analysis*.
- The ever educational *Visual Learning* from the insightful minds of Anne Pufahl (National Coordinator and Secretary/Rules Editor) and Marcia Alterman.
- Three of the most notable volleyball matches of the collegiate season, officiated by some of our very own ~ the NCAA DI Women's Volleyball Semifinal and National Championship matches.
- Networking opportunities and camaraderie.

You can also count on the appearance of some of our newer, popular activities:

- Bonus, breakout sessions covering a variety of specialty topics aimed at addressing common threads of feedback we receive from previous years' convention attendees.
- On-court, interactive indoor and beach sessions.
- The "Officials' Confession" booth.

The 2016 PAVO Convention will also feature sessions by some very powerful presenters. Among them are Bill Topp (*Chief Operating Officer and Executive Editor, Referee Magazine/National Association of Sports Officials*), Joan Powell (*PAC-12 Coordinator of Officials and former NCAA National Coordinator of Volleyball Officials*), and Chris Clemens (*the man behind the NCAA Volleyball Central Hub's Ask the Judge*).

Once this article shows up on your computer/smartphone/tablet screen, you'll already have received an [email notification](#) from PAVO announcing Mr. Mike Pereira as our keynote speaker (scheduled) and the unveiling of the tentative schedule of presentations and events.

See all convention related details, reserve your room, and stay current with any updates by visiting the [PAVO website](#) and the [2016 Convention page](#).

Whether 2016 will be your first year of attendance or it's just one of many ~ make plans now to join us in Columbus. Discover Greatness in yourself and others!



**USA Volleyball.**

## CHANGE OF COURT TECHNIQUE MODIFIED FOR 2016-17 USAV SEASON

*by Michelle Prater*

*Director, Nat'l Indoor Ref Eval & Cert*

Welcome to a new USA Volleyball season! This season, there are two techniques that have been tweaked slightly. All USAV referees should begin using these techniques immediately.

First, so that referees do not appear to be doing the do-si-do on the stand, USAV is modifying the change of courts between sets and at the court switch in the deciding set.

- Begin the signal with your arms straight down by your sides; hands in fists. Bring your arms upward with the right arm going in front of you and the left arm going behind you; both arms should be stopping at the waist. For those of you who work collegiate volleyball, this is the same technique used in that rules set.

Second, a technique reminder that all USAV referees must be using when there are substitutions from each team in the same dead ball period.

- The second referee whistles one substitution request and then authorizes the substitute(s) for one team to enter the court; then confirm with the scorer that everything has been recorded on the score sheet.
- The second referee then whistles the substitution request for the other team and follows the same procedure.
- The technique change is for the first referee – no matter how many substitutions in one dead ball period, the first referee always shows the substitution signal only once



## FIVE HONORED WITH MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

by Bill Thornburgh  
Board Delagate

They have helped put together camp programs, online training materials, led clinics and training, and supported other PAVO initiatives, and for their efforts five members have been named winners of the 2016 Meritorious Service Awards.

The award named after Robert L. Lindsay, the eighth president of USA Volleyball and a former Regional Commissioner who was instrumental in the success of the national team in-residence program in the 1980s, recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to volleyball at the local, regional, or national/international level through USA volleyball or one of its affiliate organizations.

PAVO is a member organization within the USAV structure and in that role is invited to nominate five individuals for this prestigious award each year. The award is given to those who show active participation and leadership in volleyball, present research that enhances coaching, teaching or analysis of play, give speeches or presentations to promote the game, or play an active role in volleyball programs or projects.

Here are this year's recipients:

### **Mike Carter**

For his many years on the PAVO Board of Directors, his service as the PAVO NRT Director for more than a decade, and for his continued support as a rater, trainer, and clinician.

### **Suzanne Dodd**

For her commitment and tireless efforts as the PAVO Director of Camps since 2015, her loyalty to the betterment of officiating through actions such as a convention speaker and contributor to PAVO's *iREF* programming.

### **Wade DuBois**

For his participation as a convention speaker, a contributor to PAVO's *iREF* program, and his desire to help others improve by being a member of the PAVO training team staff.

### **Molly Faragher**

For her enthusiastic support and contributions to successful PAVO Officials' Conventions in 2014 and 2015.

### **Ed Vesley**

For his efforts in the development of the PAVO Fundamental Scorer PowerPoint and other PAVO training programs over the past five years.

PAVO thanks each of the recipients for their hard work, dedication of time, and quest to educate and train in order to make our officiating cadre better.





**USA Volleyball.**

## WIGTON SIGNS OFF AS DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL INDOOR SCORERS; PASSES BATON TO BROCKNEY

*by Donna Wigton*

*Director of International Indoor Scorers*

After two terms covering eight years, Donna Wigton is leaving the position of Director of International Scorers and looking forward to finishing her volleyball career sitting at the table next to numerous scorers she helped to train and develop.

Becky Brockney will take over the position.

"I'm confident that her scoring technical expertise, her organizational skills, and her pleasant, calm demeanor will be valuable in her making the cadre even better," Wigton said. "I thank my predecessors: Nancy Sharpless and Ann Davenport, who started us off so well before the '84 LA Olympics with this new division; Patricia Reese, who continued building the cadre for the '96 Atlanta Olympics; and Janet Blue, who raised the bar, led by excellent example, and gave me the opportunity to serve this outstanding cadre."

In her final act, Wigton oversaw the NORCECA Women's Continental Championships in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. The event, the final one of the 2016 international season in the United States, was worked by scorers Debbie Reed, Jennifer Williams, and Rachael Stringer. Despite several challenges with regard to the coaches' tablets and printing solutions, the crew had a job "well done," Wigton said.

Before she steps away, Wigton is reminding current international scorers and international qualified

scorers to practice on the "big sheet." Blank score sheets can be found on Google by typing in "FIVB score sheet." Wigton will have some blank sheets at 2016-17 qualifiers for those who don't have resources to print the modified 6-U sheet used at the Open Championships and the High Performance Championships. Sheets also will be available for pickup at the PAVO Official's Convention in December in Columbus.

Scoring materials also are available on [www.volleyballreftraining.com](http://www.volleyballreftraining.com), then click on Resources, then Indoor Scorer Materials, then the buttons at the bottom for the manual and the power point presentation.

As she steps down, Wigton says her favorite part of the job has been the relationships she has made.

"A big thanks also to all the people from whom I have learned, and with whom I have worked to make all of us better," she said. "I have enjoyed leading this fine group, and I look forward to a few more years of working with you at the table and enjoying my volleyball family."

Donna sends a big thanks and good luck to Becky, whom she trained for many years, for taking over the position.



## SURVEY SAYS OFFICIALS WANT NEW WHITE POLO THAT IS WRINKLE AND SNAG RESISTANT

by Katy Meyer, Executive Director  
with contributions from Marcia Alterman, former Executive Director

As specs for a new white uniform polo to replace the current shirt bearing the “Certified Volleyball Official” logo move forward, officials have made it known that any new uniform top must be wrinkle-, snag- and stain-resistant.

Those were the most important attributes to be considered as the new white polo is designed, according to 1,600 PAVO and USA Volleyball members who took the Shirt Satisfaction Survey.

The PAVO/USA Volleyball Interface Committee, comprised of three representatives from each organization, will use the survey results to better direct uniform manufacturer, 2020 Brand Solutions, in the development of the new white polo. The new shirt will be available in a new fabric to “address the significant concerns of the cadre related to the existing blue and gray uniform shirts, and stay true to the reasons for creating new uniform polos in the first place,” said PAVO Executive Director Katy Meyer.

No specific date has been announced as to when the new white shirts will be available.

New blue and gray uniform tops with a contemporary logo were introduced last season to give volleyball officials an updated look and provide uniforms at an affordable price. Many have taken to the shirts. A majority of survey respondents said they have own at least one of the alternate colors. More than 78 percent of the 1,028 respondents who own an alternate color uniform polo said they have worn it more than three times, with the short-sleeved blue polo worn most often.

Though the new uniforms are liked by both PAVO and USA Volleyball officials, nearly half of survey respondents claimed the new shirts snag easier than the traditional white polo. When asked to rank what features need to be included in a new white polo, 58 percent of respondents said new shirts need to be snag resistant. That was bested only by the top request that shirts are wrinkle resistant (78 percent) and followed by the third most common desire that shirts are stain resistant (51 percent). The attributes were selected from a list of 10 on the survey.

The survey also revealed a need for shirts for “bigger and taller cadre members” in terms of sleeve and overall shirt length.

“The Interface Committee is confident that the availability of extended sizes will meet a need that was not previously met.,” Meyer said.

Officials won’t have to ditch their current white tops. Earlier this year, PAVO and USA Volleyball adopted guidelines that allow referees to wear shirts with the retro “Certified Volleyball Official” logo until August 2018. Approved vendors will be able to sell the shirts until then.

Other survey highlights found that 64 percent of respondents indicated that sweat absorbency of the new, alternate-colored uniform polo is similar to or better than the traditional white uniform polo. About half said they found overall fit of the new polo to be acceptable. Approximately the same percentage of respondents indicated that they order the same size in the new, alternate color uniform polo as in the traditional white uniform polo.

With three uniform colors now available, officials need to stay abreast of criteria established by schools, conferences, regions and assignors that govern which shirt color will be worn. Hiring entities can establish their own rules, or choose to follow these guidelines established by PAVO:

- The referees’ uniform polo color should match.
- Line judges should wear the same color uniform polo; they may either wear a white uniform polo or the same color uniform polo as the referees.
- Scorers should either wear white polos or the same color polo as the referees.

Outerwear has also been a hot topic. Jackets that mimic the trim styles used on the new shirts are being considered. In the meantime, the current approved outerwear (1/4-zip fleece and polyester white jacket) are appropriate, based on specific guidelines from the hiring entity.





## Cream Rises To The Top

*by Corny Galdones*

Do you feel stuck in place, going nowhere fast as an official? Here's the likely reason. Your overall body of work doesn't stand out. To rise up in the ranks in hopes of reaching its pinnacle, you can't remain ordinary. Don't let politics, red tape, glass ceilings and other frustrating barriers hamper you. Evolve. Become the cream of the crop by addressing the following aspects of officiating.

**Priorities.** Your profession that pays the bills and your loved ones take precedence over your whistle. Ensure your life is in order. Until it is, you may have to lower your ambitions and sacrifice some goals as an official since you'll be unable to devote the time and focus needed to move forward.

**Maturity.** Regardless of how young or how old you are, the common sense and wisdom reflected in your actions influences how fast and how far you'll advance. Live it up without having to live it down. What's life if you're not enjoying it? However, those controlling your destiny or anyone else who matters won't put up with foolish or juvenile behavior. Cut out the nonsense and get your act together. Grow up.

**Networking.** Acquaint yourself socially with your associates. Who you know can make a difference. Still, who knows you and what they know about you has more impact. You have only one chance to create a lasting, first impression with anyone. Be with it but not full of it. An opinion of you could be formed not when someone first meets you but when that person first hears about you. Our officiating community is a small world with word swift to travel everywhere. Juicy news such as anything disreputable or absurd you may do never fails to be of interest. Big Brother may already know about you.

**Learning.** Be a sponge. As a self-starter not requiring much hand holding, absorb everything there is to learn about officiating. Along with attending training clinics, seminars and conventions, surf the Internet to unearth a trove of information and insight from officiating

instruction websites and discussion forums. Stay away from gossip on online sites and social media however. It's trash. Find a mentor, someone knowledgeable and highly thought of willing to take you under wing. Ask others questions and seek their advice for the more input you receive and process, the better you will be. Welcome criticism. When observed doing something substandard, suppress the natural urge to explain or differ. To benefit, hear it out. Swallow your pride, owing up to your flaws or they'll end up owning you. Learn to listen. Listen to learn. Zip your lip except to discuss ways to improve. Take notes left and right, reviewing them periodically. Has all you've taken in been taken up or are you still repeating the same mistakes? Speed up your growth. Be a quick learner.

**Skills.** Arm yourself with tools and expertise to do well. For one, know the rules and their interpretations by heart. Bearing in mind proper skills come from proper practices, gain as much experience as possible, pursuing challenges above but not beyond your abilities instead of staying complacent and stale. Besides mechanics and techniques, sharpen your judgment IQ of ball handling to read, recognize and react to what is legal and what isn't. Determine an appropriate ruling standard comfortable not only to you but everyone else as well. Train your brain for everything to click. Your thinking should be instinctive and instant, your decisions spot on and trusted to stay consistent throughout, your presentation calm and concise. In addition, find out intuitive, effective ways of dealing at once with difficult people. Build a solid foundation such that your base skill set performs with flying colors no matter the occasion. When your big chance comes, be able to hit the ground running. Nothing less will do.

**Professionalism.** Upgrade your dignity, integrity and reliability likewise. Epitomize your outer and inner beauty, eliminating detractions in grooming, demeanor and character. How genuine a person are you? Distinguish right from wrong plus good from bad

without prompting. Display an aptitude, not an attitude. Are you high or low maintenance? Prima donna or team player? Liability or asset? Do you fulfill your commitments or fill them with excuses? Are you timely or tardy? In and out of uniform, you're forever viewed as an official representing all of us. Perpetuate being good but not good and drunk. We expect it.

**Art of Officiating.** Anyone with a handle on the rules and officiating mechanics can be an official. Going by the book, which can cause rough going, won't be enough. There's an art to officiating in what to call and what not to call, how to take charge unnoticed, and how to still stormy waters with no damage done. A correct call might not be the right call. Manage a match rather than imposing the rules. Realize where, when, why and how to apply what to whom, an acuity derived from grasping how the game is played. Immerse in the culture, understanding in depth the

latest player techniques, offensive and defensive strategies and formations, and varying nuances of plays unfolding. Watch better referees work, analyzing their decisions and how they go about their business making it look easy. Study how the players play and how the coaches coach. Adapt. Become adept on what to look for and more so, what teams are looking for from officials. Turn into an officiating artist, acquiring a fine-tuned feel of the rules that connects with players and coaches of all levels. You're holding yourself back otherwise.

Nothing will be handed to you as an official. Want it. Earn it. Make every effort in all phases of officiating to be the best referee you can be. Delude no one, especially yourself. Whether your progress is helped or hindered is all on you. Leave no doubt of how excellent you are so not a single thing can stop you from ascending all the way to the top.



## VOECK, FLEET RE-ELECTED TO PAVO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*by Dale Goodwin  
Interim Board Member*

Julie Voeck was elected to her third term as president of the Professional Association of Volleyball Officials (PAVO) and Chuck Fleet, was elected to this second term as board delegate on the PAVO Board of Directors in an online election held in September.



Voeck, of Wauwatosa, Wis., has been instrumental in overseeing the transition from founding PAVO Executive Director Marcia Alterman (1995-2015) to Katy Meyer, in January 2016. She has also overseen improvements to training programs offered to PAVO members, from expanded

spring camps to Ref School and iRef online training.

"In my next term I will focus on ensuring members continue to receive high quality training and education

through PAVO," Voeck said. "I will continue to seek input from PAVO members to enhance programming and meet member needs. I will also focus on recruiting new officials to meet the increasing need for volleyball officials."

Fleet, of Hermitage, Penn., will begin his second three-year term in January 2017.

"I want to introduce players finishing their playing careers to PAVO. The officiating ranks need younger officials, especially females, to increase our numbers," he said. "In addition, we need to mentor more of the younger officials to improve the level of officiating," he said. Board delegates are limited to two successive terms.





**USA Volleyball**

by Steve Robb  
Chair, Int'l Indoor Officials Comm

## INDOOR INTERNATIONAL REFEREES REPORT

With the Olympic Games in Rio there were limited opportunities to assign referees in 2016. For USA events such as USA Cup, Open Nationals, PVL and High Performance Championships, we are still able to assign referees directly. For NORCECA events, we present our recommended nominations to NORCECA and were very successful in obtaining approval for all the recommended nominations for this past season. For FIVB events, nominations come from NORCECA Referees commission to FIVB. Fortunately, we have 4 referees that are currently being nominated for World League, Grand Prix, Olympic Qualifying events, World Club Championships, and of course, the Olympic Games. We had strong representation at each of these FIVB events this past season. For the 2016 season, 16 of 18 USA Indoor International Referees received assignments for events. We did have several of our referees receive more than one nomination. Of note, Paul Albright and Pati Rolf were selected to very important Olympic Qualification events, Ron Stahl, Kevin Cull, Paul Albright, and Pati Rolf, were assigned to World League and Grand Prix events, and Pati Rolf was selected to Referee at the Olympic Games in Rio, where she was also assigned to the Women's Gold Medal Match.

We were able to Assign:

USA Volleyball Cup - Men, USAV Open Nationals / PVL, High Performance Championships. At these events, we also assigned Head Referees, Main Court Trainers, and Trainer/Evaluators for Open / PVL and High Performance Championships

We Recommended and received Nominations for:

NORCECA Olympic Qualifiers - Men and Women, Men's Pan American Cup, FIVB Olympic Qualification Championships - Men and Women, World Grand Prix Qualification Rounds, World Grand Prix Intercontinental Rounds and Preliminary Rounds, NORCECA U-19 and U-21 Men's

Continental Championships, Senior Womens Pan American Cup, NORCECA U-18 and U-20 Women's Continental Championships, NORCECA U-23 Men's and Women's Pan American Cup

We also had very good representation at NORCECA and FIVB events as Referee Delegate and / or Referee Manager by Doug Wilson, Ken Taylor, Fred Buehler and Tom Blue.

Devonie McClarty completed her certification requirements to be confirmed as our newest Indoor International Referee.

We have 3 referees that will be retiring, due to age, within 3 years, and currently have 9 applicants to be considered for an International Referees Candidate Course. I am currently evaluating the possibility and timing of sending one or two of them to a future course. With the lack of available assignments, and yet the need to replace some in the next few years, our commission is exploring the best possible options.

There are several International referees from other countries that have moved to the United States and are, or will be seeking naturalization or citizenship. This poses quite a challenge as to how to best handle the transfer of an International referee to the United States, as that would impact our total number of referees that we are allotted. Our Indoor International Referees Commission has drafted recommended policy to address this situation and will be seeking approval and support by the Officials Administrative Council to implement such policy immediately.

In summary, we had a very successful season, with strong representation and performances by our referees at all the events they were assigned. Our training remains strong. We have future challenges to address, but also have very experienced commission members to assist me in the best decisions and direction forward for our commission.



## ROLF, APOL REMINISCE ABOUT OLYMPIC EXPERIENCE IN RIO

by Dale Goodwin  
Interim Board Member

### The Pati Rolf file

**Age:** Undisclosed.

**Place of residence:** Pewaukee, WI

**How long an international official?** Course in 1999, International official in 2003, 13 years

**What specific event(s) did you officiate?** Women's Indoor Volleyball in the Rio Olympic Games. Also, NORCECA – Men's Championships, Women's Pan American Games, Women's Olympic Qualification Tournament. FIVB – Women's U18, U20, U23 World Championships, Women's World Club Championships, Grand Prix Events, Women's World Cup, Women's World Champions,.

**What match was your final match in the Rio Olympics?** I was honored to work the Olympic Gold Medal Women's Final as the second referee with Susana Rodriguez as the first. It was the first all-women's crew in the history of the Olympics Games in any sport.

**What was your first reaction to your call to work the Olympics?** I cried; then I called my children and husband. I was very honored and appreciative of the chance.

**Describe the detail that was involved in preparing for, getting to, and officiating at the Olympics?** I don't think it is anything one can describe. It was the most difficult thing to accomplish, to become as skilled as possible in something that is so clearly very public. My only goal the last four years has been to become the strongest referee for the teams, players and my colleagues. I believe an official belongs to a team. I worked to become the best teammate I could be. I watched the most amazing officials in the world, talked to them, learned their techniques. I remember working with Tano from Japan, he was a second referee in an Olympic Gold Medal final game. I learned more from him as second referee. He helped me very much. I watched other referees and learned what helps them

manage the game, the players and coaches, so every one of them can perform to their highest potential. This alone and the time devoted to events made the difference for me. I have been on the road for months. One time traveling to Peru to the U20 World Championships, then Japan for the World Cup, then directly back to Puerto Rico for the U18 World Championships. I was gone for two months. However this helped me to refine my skills.

This year, however has been the most important. The training we received in Japan at the Asian Qualifier as well as the Grand Prix events helped us for the Rio Games. We have a psychologist working with us as well as our supervisors supporting us to refine and enhance our skills in an attempt to become the best in the world. It was fantastic. I was very lucky.

**Talk about the nerves at various stages of your participation in the whole Olympic experience?** It was mostly a challenge for me to get rest. The schedule was grueling. I won't get into that much; just trust me it was nothing I had ever encountered before. For the first five days I was only able to sleep four or five hours. That was a challenge. However, things settled down and smoothed out. I found that everyone was much more stressed. I worked hard to be a great teammate. I tried to offer support and encouragement to others as well as have fun. Humor is important when folks are stressed and I decided the team was my priority so I worked hard to just stay present and calm. It helped me and I hope others. I also trained every day and that is critical for me, to release my energy. We also had our daily meditation and yoga sessions with our psychologist. I loved that.

**When specifically did it sink in that "Oh my God, I'm working the Olympics?"** Not so much for me, really. This did happen to me when I was a line judge in Atlanta in 1996. I remember feeling amazed at it all every day, being nervous, everything was so big. In Rio, due to all the training, I think I was very calm and it felt like home to me. As a former coach, they say that a great player is formed at the international level, or let's say at any level, by playing matches at that high level. They must put that time in. I believe that.



**What was the single best part of working your event?** Working for the teams; I love working. I find that allowing the game to be played, like water, allowing it to flow with little interruption, allowing the players to perform. That, to me, is the best. When our team does that I feel something inside, it is very strange. It has always been that way for me, ever since I was a young girl officiating in juniors.

**What was your single best highlight of the entire Olympic experience in Rio?** Working the finals with

Susana and seeing my friends after the match. That was the best.

**Anything else you want to add?** Yes, I do want to add that I would not be here without my friends and family here in the U.S. I have had such a fantastic life in officiating. I often tell outsiders that something special happens in the officiating world. We are very close, and I am lucky to be a part of this family.

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## The Dan Apol file

**Age:** 44

**Place of residence?** Born Grand Rapids, MI; Castle Rock, Colo., for 16 years

**How long an international official?** Course in 2004, certified 2007

**What specific event(s) did you officiate?** Beach Volleyball, 2012 and 2016; also Rio Paralympics

**What match was your final match in the Rio Olympics, and what position were you?** R2 for Men's Gold Medal match.

**What was your first reaction to your call to work the Olympics?** I had a good feeling I would work this one, based on the World Tour assignments for the season. For London, I was surprised, and when I found out; I wasn't allowed to tell anyone for two months.

**Describe the detail that was involved in preparing for, getting to, and officiating at the Olympics?** I worked six World Tour events in advance of the Games, and all the players and delegates are the same, so we were all very familiar with each other and relatively comfortable.

**Talk about the nerves at various stages of your participation in the whole Olympic experience?** We had a sports psychologist work with us at two events prior, and at the Games, and he helped with relaxation techniques, and even some yoga. I really

enjoyed that. For Beach, it was the fifth event ever that we used the challenge system, and we had a few road bumps that caused some nervous times. I stayed away from the real big problems luckily, so things went pretty well for me.

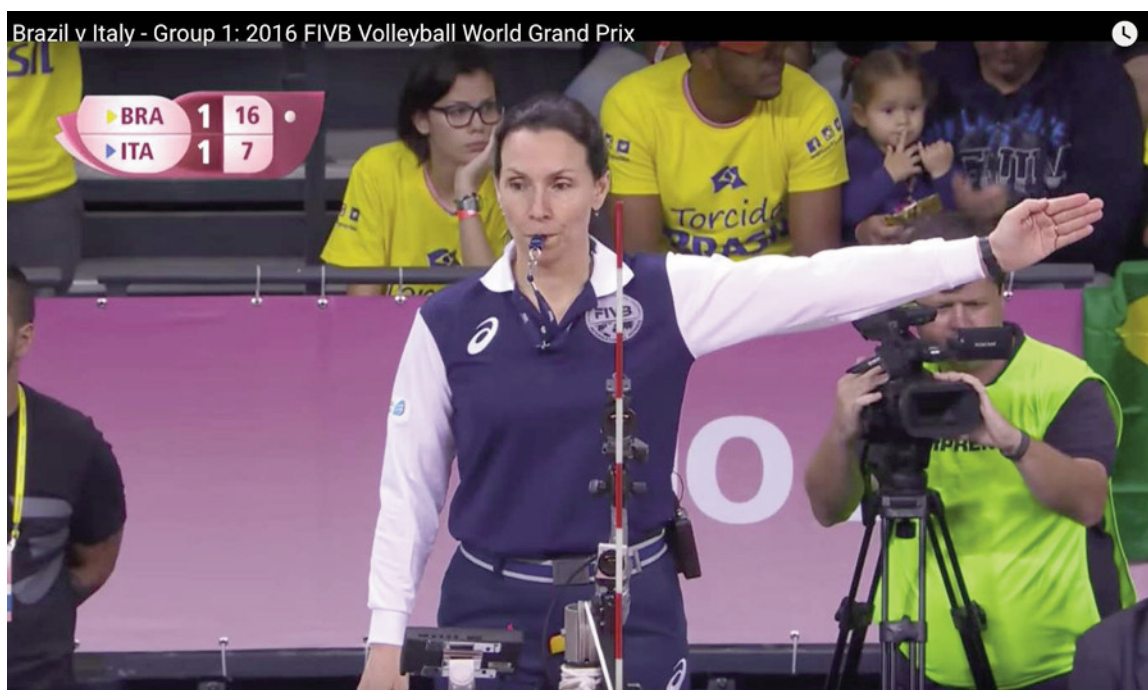
**When specifically did it sink in that "Oh my God, I'm working the Olympics?"** During the summer, I was so busy with the events leading up to this that time really went by fast. I guess in Croatia early in July, I realized that I had two weeks at home before I left, and it really hit me that this was going to happen. It was a Major Series event, and the last big one before the games, with the pressure at its highest.

**What was the single best part of working your event?** It was not one event, mostly, it was the whole event. Working together with 15 close referee friends, in one of the most beautiful places on earth is something that will never be forgotten.

**What was your single best highlight of the entire Olympic experience in Rio?** For sure the final match, listening to the Brazilian National Anthem sang by 12,000 Brazilian fans, and to see the emotion and the drive for sport that those people have was an unforgettable moment.

**Anything else you want to add?** Really, for me, it was an honor, not only to represent my country, but to represent my U.S. volleyball family. Only one referee gets picked for beach from each country, so I felt especially proud to represent all of us, who have worked together for so long, and learned from each other.





Pati Rolf  
Brazil v Italy - Group 1 - 2016 FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix



Dan Apol  
2016 Olympic Games - Rio

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