



PREPARE FOR THE FALL SEASON BY SPRINGING INTO ACTION NOW

by Julie Voeck, President and
Donna Carter, Membership Director

The collegiate season is still several months away, but the off season is not a time to sit idle. Training is a year-round endeavor for volleyball officials and there are plenty of opportunities to stay sharp and improve your game.

Winter is busy with junior volleyball competition, which is a great way to get on-court experience.

Working junior club ball gives officials an opportunity to watch experienced referees and get feedback from other referees. Another way to get court time and gain experience is to contact a club and arrange to officiate a scrimmage.

PAVO also offers many opportunities to get ready for next season.

One way is to attend a PAVO spring camp. This spring, PAVO will offer a number of camps for officials and line judges of all levels, from beginners to veterans. Many camps provide video feedback and evaluation and allow officials to return home with a collection of video and commentary from evaluators and trainers. You can learn more about this year's camps by reading Suzanne Dodd's article in his issue of the "Official Word." There also is information on the PAVO website under the "Training" tab. Many 2017 camps are filled, but consider a future camp as a spring activity.

Colleges that hold spring tournaments or play days

often welcome referees and line judges to practice their craft in a low-stress environment. Local assignors may attend a tournament or spring play date to watch officials who are interested in working for them. Affiliated Boards may send an assignor or trainer/evaluator to work the event, providing feedback to those working the matches.

Using *iREF*®, PAVO's on-line referee education program, is a great way to prepare for the season. Late last year, PAVO rolled out its 300-level modules of *iREF*®, specifically targeted at PAVO State referees. The 24 new narrated modules complement the 100- and 200-level courses, which are intended for entry level, Apprentice, and Local referees.

The *iREF*® training modules cover a wide-range of topics for beginning referees such as "Volleyball 101", rules, mechanics and scoring. There are also plenty of topics applicable to more experienced referees such as play at the net, back-row faults and communication. Take time this spring to watch the series of *iREF*® training videos to review areas where you are seeking improvement – this training is free, as a PAVO member benefit.

Over the next few months, take time to focus on professional development activities so that you will be a step-ahead in your preparation for next season.

See you on the volleyball courts.



CRS TECHNIQUES MAY BE TWEAKED FOR 2017

NCAA RULES COMMITTEE MEETING REVIEW

by Anne Pufahl
NCAA Secretary-Rules Editor

Slight changes to the application, process, and officials' techniques related to the Challenge Review System (CRS) could be enacted for the 2017 collegiate season.

The modifications were discussed at the annual in-person meeting of the NCAA Women's Volleyball Rules Committee in January. The actual rules regarding CRS will not be changed. Specifics regarding technique tweaks, if implemented, would not affect the rules and will be discussed in future newsletters and at this summer's NCAA/PAVO rules clinics.

No new rule changes will be in effect during the 2017 season as volleyball uses a two-year rule cycle and this fall will be the second year of the cycle. But the committee had plenty to discuss.

In non-rule change years, the committee distributes a rules survey to coaches and officials, and reviews responses to consider future rule changes. A 2017 version of the rules survey will be developed, rule

interpretations will be reviewed, and discussions on future rule changes will continue.

The committee also looks a number of safety reports and data collected from athletic trainers about the type and location of injuries, to determine if that data has rule implications.

The committee is comprised of eight voting members, both coaches and administrators, who serve three-year terms on a rotating basis. There are four representatives from Division I, two from Division II, and two from Division III. It also includes several non-voting individuals in advisory roles. Besides Pufahl, Becky Oakes (NFHS), Julie Voeck (working referee) and Bill Stanley (USAV) attended this year's meeting.

Before the season begins, the committee will meet via conference call several times.

This group works very hard for the good of the game, and that work is a continuous process.



USA Volleyball.

by *Bill Thornburgh*
 Director, Indoor Referee Camps & Training

THREE REFEREE CAMPS WILL BE OFFERED BY USAV IN 2017

An introductory referee camp will take place at the Windy City National Qualifier in Chicago.

- Location | McCormick Place | Chicago, IL 60616
- Arrival and pre-tournament meeting on April 13, 2017 at 7:00pm
- Camp competition day on April 14
- Departure on April 16 (at end of competition) – Campers are encouraged to stay and referee for the remainder of the event
- Campers that stay to referee will receive hotel room and per diem
- Campers only coming to Chicago for the camp will be responsible for their own hotel accommodations

The first of two Premier referee camps will take place at the National Collegiate Volleyball Federation (NCVF) tournament in Kansas City.

- Location | Bartle Hall Convention Center | Kansas City, MO 64105
- Arrival and pre-tournament meeting on April 12, 2017 at 7:00pm
- Camp competition days on April 13-14
- Departure on April 15 (at end of competition)
 Those campers recommended to referee on the final day will receive matches for pay on day 3
- Campers are included in hotel accommodations and daily meals

The second Premier referee camp will take place at the Girls Junior National Championships (GJNC) in Minneapolis. This will be a three-day camp prior to the Junior National Referee Candidates rating session.

- Location | Minneapolis Convention Center | Minneapolis, MN 55403
- Arrival and pre-tournament meeting on June 27, 2017
- Camp competition days from June 28-30
- Departure from camp after 7pm on June 30th (or attend JN candidate meeting later in the evening)

The registration fee for each of the two USAV Premier Training Camps is \$275.

Priority for campers at the NCVF camp will be given to any USAV national-level referee, as we anticipate that most campers will be candidates in Columbus.

All applicants for the GJNC training camp must have at minimum, a USAV Regional certification with Referee Chair recommendation, as we anticipate that most campers will be either existing Junior National referees, Junior National candidates in Minneapolis, or looking to upgrade to a Junior National certification in the future. Those applicants who will be Junior National Referee candidates in Minneapolis do not need a Referee Chair recommendation.

Note:

- NCVF Campers will be responsible for their own travel costs. Meals and lodging expenses will be paid for during this two-day camp
- GJNC Campers will be responsible for their own travel costs, meals, and lodging expenses during this three-day camp

Based on the criteria above, acceptance for each camp is on a first-paid basis, so be sure to submit registration and fees in a timely manner. Prior attendance at a 2017 USAV National Referee Clinic, either in person or online, and successful completion of the 2017 examination are requirements for camp applicants.

General camp structure of Premier Camps:

- Campers will attend a classroom session the evening before the camp begins
- Campers will have evaluations as both first and second referee on competition days
- Campers will be debriefed, have the opportunity to discuss the matches, and ask questions of the USAV National Trainers
- Campers will have the opportunity to participate in other duties (line judging, scoring, observations, etc...)



2017 PAVO OFFICIALS' CAMPS OFFER A SERIES OF FIRSTS

by Suzanne Dodd
Director of Officials Training-Camps

For the first time in history, PAVO will offer referee camps at PAC-12 and SEC institutions and a camp that runs Saturday night and Sunday as opposed to typical Friday-Saturday format.

And a history-making moment; the Collegiate Referee Camp March 31-April 1 at the University of Southern California filled on the first day of registration, a feat PAVO has never achieved in the past.

These 'firsts' are important indicators of how the PAVO camp program continues to evolve to meet the needs of our membership by offering camps at tournaments with a high level of play, in geographically diverse areas, throughout the limited spring playing season. They show that conference coordinators support the mission of the camp program by connecting us with potential tournament hosts. And the programs that host camps at their tournaments realize the benefit in supporting officials training and development.

Each of the nine camps on the 2017 schedule offer a classroom session along with multiple officiating assignments. Unique, educational content includes an emphasis on new techniques, center line faults, and plays that look ugly, but may not be illegal. Most camps will include video review. Camps also include experienced evaluators who provide specific feedback to referees and line judges.

Camps are not rating sessions. They are on-court officiating opportunities in a low-pressure atmosphere, conducive to learning and fun, making new friends, and becoming a better official.

Advanced Camps are highly competitive and intended for the referees interested in breaking into the top tier conferences or to prepare officials pursuing a PAVO National rating. The cost is \$300 for PAVO members; \$330 for non-members

Collegiate Camps are intended to strengthen the knowledge and skills of a referee already officiating at any division of women's collegiate competition. The cost is \$260 for PAVO members; \$285 for non-members.

Referee Camps are intended to provide educational and on-court experience for referees looking to build their foundation of officiating skills. The cost is \$175 for PAVO members and non-members.

Scholarships are available. Details are listed at pavo.org/Training/Training-Camps.

As this article goes to print, there are still a few camp spots left. Just go to the PAVO E-store to register.

PAVO OFFICIALS' CAMP SCHEDULE
(<http://pavo.org/Training/Training-Camps>)

- FEB. 24-25 **Collegiate Referee Camp** in Tampa, FL at the University of South Florida.
Division I Collegiate Tournament
- MAR. 24-25 **Referee Training Camp** in Ypsilanti, MI at Eastern Michigan University.
Division I, II, and NAIA Collegiate Tournament
- MAR. 31- APR. 1 **Collegiate Referee Camp** in Los Angeles, CA at the University of Southern California
Division I and II Collegiate Tournament
- MAR. 31- APR. 1 **Advanced Line Judge Camp** in Los Angeles, CA at the University of Southern California
Division I and II Collegiate Tournament
- APR. 1-2 **Referee Training Camp** in Atlanta, GA at Georgia Tech
Division I Collegiate Tournament
- APR. 7-8 **Referee Training Camp** in Albany, NY at University of Albany
Division I and II Collegiate Tournament
- APR. 7-8 **Advanced Referee Camp** in Houston, TX at Houston FAST
Division I Collegiate Showcase
- APR. 7-8 **Advanced Line Judge Camp** in Houston, TX at Houston FAST
Division I Collegiate Showcase
- APR. 21-22 **Collegiate Referee Camp** in Knoxville, TN at the University of Tennessee
Division I Collegiate Tournament



USA Volleyball.

by USA Volleyball

USA VOLLEYBALL HIRES JAMIE DAVIS

USA Volleyball has announced the hiring of sports media, marketing and business executive Jamie Davis as the chief executive officer of the sport's national governing body, effective immediately.

Davis becomes the seventh CEO of USA Volleyball, and the first to come from outside the existing USA Volleyball lay leadership.

"I am pleased to welcome Jamie Davis to lead USA Volleyball into new areas of business that will strengthen our 40 Regional Volleyball Associations, support the competitive excellence of our national teams, and continue to support our development in all areas of beach, indoor and sitting volleyball in the United States," USA Volleyball Board of Directors Chair Lori Okimura said. "We are embarking on a period of unlimited potential for USA Volleyball in reshaping the business of our sport and taking full advantage of the resources that Jamie brings to the table that will help us reach the next level."

"I am thrilled to be joining USA Volleyball and believe the organization is at a very exciting point in its

development," Davis said. "I look forward to working with the board, the United States Olympic Committee, the 40 Regional Volleyball Associations, athletes, coaches, officials and sponsors as well as the international volleyball community to grow the participation and popularity of this sport in America. I am convinced that together we will continue to accelerate the momentum of USA Volleyball and bring the sport to new heights on the world stage."

Davis' vast business and media pedigree includes founding his own company, Jomandrew Sports and Entertainment, LLC, as his latest entrepreneur endeavor after leading Fanatics, the world's largest online retailer of officially licensed sports merchandise. Earlier in his career, Davis served as president of television network Versus (now rebranded as NBC Sports Network), along with several roles within News Corporation such as president of China and managing director of ESPN STAR Sports. His entry into the television world started with CBS Sports as its finance manager before joining the launch team of Fox Sports and serving as its vice president of finance.



MY HUMBLE JOURNEY TO BEING A PAVO NATIONAL OFFICIAL

*by Chuck Fleet
Board Delegate*

Failure is not final, just ask Scott Burnett who got the thumbs down twice before he earned his National PAVO patch.

Burnett, a member of the Southwestern Ohio Board of Officials, said getting his National patch was the “pinnacle goal” as a collegiate official and something he knew he could achieve.

“Throughout my three attempts at ‘the patch’ I felt very confident and strong when I was the R1. In retrospect, I was woefully lacking in all other areas of the rating process,” he said.

But he kept pressing on, helped and encouraged by fantastic mentors, phenomenal officiating friends who strive to be the best, and a professional group of candid raters.

In his first two tries, Burnett said he learned many valuable lessons and that refereeing a collegiate match is more than just administering a match as the first referee.

“As an R2 you have to be able to effectively communicate with coaches, support staff, and your partner; all of which you have never worked with before,” Burnett said. “I did not know how to address coaches in tense situations, did not take my time in making sure subs and scores were administered correctly, and was not the best partner I could have been to my R1. I was able to take all of these self-critiquing failures, capitalize on them by learning from my mistakes, and asking for another chance to continue my journey.”

Last September, Burnett put it all together and passed his rating at Marquette University in Milwaukee. He credits many of his officiating friends in Ohio for making that happen, including Chuck Fleet, Tom Joseph, Brian Hemelgarn, Tony Slone, Nathan Mahaven, Terry Miller, Steve Dibacco, and countless others.

What turned things around? “I focused on being the best partner I could to those I worked with throughout the rating process,” Burnett said. “I found the fundamental approach to effectively communicating with coaches is to know the rules you are being challenged on. As an R2, this allowed me to confidently explain to an ‘excited’ coach the reason I made the call I made.”

Looking and acting professional off the court helped, too.

As in any rating or match, success does not come without challenge, something Burnett said he experienced at Marquette. The key, he said, was to not let the challenges paralyze him and to keep moving forward.

“The professional group of candid raters I had was able to assess my ability to successfully overcome those iniquities in my officiating style that challenged me earlier,” he said. “I am sincerely grateful and thankful to those who have been there with me on my humble journey to being a PAVO National Referee.”



DOTSON JOINS PAVO BOARD, THREE OTHERS REAPPOINTED

*by Julie Voeck
President*

Tammy Dotson was appointed as an interim director while Anne Pufahl, Joan Powell and Jung Park were re-appointed as board members at its December meeting.

Pufahl and Powell will fill three-year terms as co-directors of the NCAA/PAVO Officials' Training and Clinics during "a time of transition in the NCAA National Coordinator position," said PAVO President Julie Voeck.

In her role of interim director, Dotson fills the spot formerly held by Dale Goodwin. She is a member of the Northern Illinois Board of Officials and holds a PAVO State referee certification. In addition to officiating in her home state, Dotson serves as an observer for the Big Ten Conference at Northwestern.

She will attend her first board meeting in March and serve a 1-year term.

"Tammy brings a wealth of experience not only as a referee, but also in the areas of finance, accounting, human resources and administrative management," Voeck said.

Outside of volleyball, Dotson serves as treasurer at Gateway Construction Company.

PAVO appoints an interim board member when the president is re-elected and there is no board member serving as president-elect or past-president.

Park agreed to continue in the role of finance director.



USA Volleyball.

by Bill Thornburgh

TRAINING OTHERS... TRAINING YOUR FUTURE!

At both the local and national-levels, qualified trainers are needed to provide the most up-to-date information and techniques to referees. Do you currently train at the regional level and have interest in fine-tuning your knowledge and skills? Do you desire to one day become a member of the National Training Team (NTT)?

The NTT is open to hosting 'shadow' trainers during USAV referee camps to help build a more knowledgeable cadre, both at the regional and national levels. In essence, the shadow training experience is a train the trainer event where you learn how to evaluate a match, identify areas of concern for referees as both an R1/R2, and conduct a productive post-match debriefing.

This experience will give you the necessary educational tools to take back to your region and may provide future opportunities to earn a spot on the NTT. If you meet the criteria below and are interested in shadowing the NTT, please contact Bill Thornburgh – Director, Indoor National Officials Camp Development, wthornbu@yahoo.com.

You must:

- Be a National referee in good standing (for a minimum of 3 years)
- Be a member in good standing in your region
- Have experience with training in your region
- Have a recommendation from your Region referee chair



CHECKLIST FOR OFFICIALS AND LINE JUDGES, HOW ARE YOU DOING?

by Mike Paull
PAVO official and line judge

Is this the year you plan to start your career as a line judge or to solidify your status in one of the top Division I conferences? Maybe you want to break into one of those conferences or get your PAVO National line judge or referee certification.

Whatever your goals, one thing is certain. Action will improve your chances for success.

To that end, here is a checklist to use to get ready for the fall 2017 collegiate season on top of attending spring and summer preseason clinics.

1. **Assigning websites** – Most assigners have already sent out notices indicating they will start the assignment process soon. Get your availability calendar up to date.
2. **Uniforms** – Inspect them carefully. Check for pilling on the shirt, especially in the badge area where the Velcro included on the backs of some badges may have damaged it. Look at the seams on your pants. Make sure the black belt is not deformed, and your white shoes are still glowing. Try everything on to ensure it still fits, and buy new items as necessary. Don't wait to order shirts.
3. **Physicals** – A number of conferences require annual physicals. Given the more active nature of the line judge position, it is likely that many conferences will also require physicals for line judges, too. Contact your assigners to see if this is a requirement. Again, schedule this well in advance.
4. **Eye exams** – This should go without saying, but let's say it anyway. Get your eyes checked. If you use corrective lenses, make sure your prescription is up to date.
5. **Personal fitness** – Low, active mechanics are what the NCAA is looking for so be sure to be in shape. Remember that New Year's resolution? A fitness regimen should include a significant amount of cardio as well as plenty of stretching and range-of-motion exercises. Remember that the fifth set is where it all gets decided and it's imperative that you are as active and accurate then as you are way back in the first set.
6. **NCAA/PAVO literature** – Stay abreast of the latest in techniques and tips to succeed. Both the PAVO website and the NCAA Central Hub offer good information for line judges. Talk to people about where and when the local clinics will be. Make sure you are ahead of the game when it comes to preseason preparation.
7. **Goals** – Write them down. Find mentors who can help make them happen. GO FOR IT.

Keep looking ahead as it's never too early to put your plans into effect. Remember, just when you think you have all your ducks in a row, one of those little suckers starts to wander off.



USA Volleyball.

*by Becky Brockney
Director, International Indoor Scorers*

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

Scorers qualified on the international score sheet will have a couple of opportunities to improve on their skills. The main events will be the USAV Open National Championships, High Performance Championships, and any PVL match.

To get ready, scorers should be practicing on the FIVB score sheet at local tournaments so you are ready to receive assignments if you are attending these tournaments.

The FIVB score sheet can be downloaded at http://www.fivb.org/EN/Refereeing-Rules/Documents/FIVB_VB_Scoresheet_2013_updated2.pdf Scorers should also review the instructional PowerPoint presentation and current USA-International Scorer Manual on VRT (https://volleyballreftraining.com/certifications_indoor_officials.php)

National scorers who want to become qualified on the international sheet should do the same by following the procedures listed above to learn the score sheet. It is very helpful to try it out on a live match.

The steps to become qualified are on the VRT website under the certification tab and then under the International Indoor Scorer section.

Attendance at the International Rating and Training Commission clinic, usually given on the day before the USA Volleyball Open National Championships begin is required. The day and time will be announced at a later time. At the meeting, candidates will fill out a short application form.

There is no fee, but the candidates are required to print out and bring their own manual. The current one on the VRT website is for 2013 – 2016. We will be updating this and let you know when the new one is available. During the Opens, candidates will need to score a minimum of two practice matches on an Open or PVL match. One match will be completed on the FIVB sheet and one on the experimental 6-U sheet. Both sheets must be turned in for review.

I look forward to working with you all this summer.

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