

Region Of



USA Volleyball

DELTA REGION VOLLEYBALL

Delta Region News

Online Registration for 2009-2010 Season Is Now Available



Your 2008/09 volleyball membership will expire on October 31.

Effective immediately, you may start the application process for your 2009/2010 USAV season membership.

Applicable to all adults affiliated with a junior program: In association with your 2009/2010 season membership renewal, electronic registration now includes the electronic acceptance of the USA Volleyball Junior Club Personnel Code of Ethics. This will replace the coaches code of conduct used last season and is intended for all adults actively participating in

junior programming. Please check the Delta Region website prior to starting the renewal process for information on procedures and any additional requirements

As decided by the Delta Region Board of Directors, there will be no change in this season's membership fees. Online Individual Membership will remain at \$40.00 with online Adult Player & Adult Referee Membership (not affiliated with a Jr Volleyball Team at \$20.00. The fee for Background Screenings (to be conducted for adults only) will remain at \$17.50

To renew your membership, just go to the Delta Region Volleyball website at

www.deltavolleyball.net and click on "Renew My Membership". If you have forgotten your username or password just click on the appropriate tab and the information will be sent to your email address on file (as of last season). Credit cards will be accepted for payment of the membership fee.

You must be able to provide proof of registration prior to participating in any sanctioned event (including tryouts). So, make sure you register early!

If you need help, please contact the Delta Region Volleyball Office at (870)933-8110 during regular business hours or e-mail Joanie Williams at reg@deltavolleyball.net.



From The Commissioner...

The 2009-10 volleyball season is bringing forth quite a few changes...from new playing rules to a growing national exposure to our sport encouraged by Olympic success. It appears the sand volleyball game is finally gaining a toe-hold outside of coastal areas through the NCAA. Boys are picking up the game nationwide and our sport is becoming more racially diverse.

Here in the Delta Region states of Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee, we are still playing catch-up in many areas. Our junior girls' teams have experienced minimal success on the national stage—partially due to the lack of year-round training programs and competition from

other sports. However, I question the value of excessive training and recognize the "burnout factor" of year-round volleyball in an adolescent's life. Any thinking adult questions the wisdom of parents willing to dedicate their child to any single sport without regard for academics, music, arts or even the advantages of multi-sport participation. Unfortunately, we compete against those without such a conscience...and those with the most & best training will generally win.

I'm hoping sanity will return to the world of youth sports and recognize it as one component of the development of a young

athlete's life. The joy of teamwork, the ability to handle defeat, developing a work ethic while appreciating the social skills necessary to function within a group, dealing with priorities, how to deal with those whose goals are diametrically opposed to yours---all of the factors that make youth sports a worthwhile venture.

Here's hoping your new season is a positive one where your measurement of success appears on places other than a game scoreboard.

Commissioner Joe Williams

Inside this issue:

Libero Serving	2
Age Waivers Allowed This Season	2
New Net Violation Rule	3
Boys Allowed To Play in Girl's Divisions	3
New Levels of Officiating Certification	3
Region Membership Continues To Increase	4
Education Important to Region Coaches	5

Special points of interest:

- Libero serving will be allowed as an experiment this season in the region.
- Region will allow waivers for players to compete with their classmates.
- Players may touch parts of the net while playing a ball as long as it doesn't interfere with the opponent's play.
- Boys may compete with or against girls in 12, 11 and 10 year old divisions.
- Huge turnout for coaching clinic



Let The Libero Serve! Your Request Have Been Heard!

At the recent Delta Region Board meeting it was decided to “experiment” this upcoming season by allowing the Libero to serve in one rotation per set.

Libero serving will only be allowed in domestic region competition and will not be allowed in the Delta Region Bid Qualifier, any USAV Qualifiers and /or National Championship events.

Unfortunately, this ruling was not reached by USAV, so not all regions will be allowing the Libero to serve. Contact Tournament Directors outside the Delta Region to see if they allow Libero serving in their region prior to entering tournaments.

With this “Libero Experiment” a change in score-keeping will occur. Make sure you attend a regional or club score clinic this fall to learn the new score techniques.

USA VOLLEYBALL JUNIOR OLYMPIC AGE DEFINITION

For use during the 2009-2010 Season

Once a player participates in a club or varsity program for any university, college, community college, or junior college, he/she is ineligible to play in any regional or national JOVC qualifying and championship events.

18 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after September 1, 1991 or Players who were born on or after September 1, 1990 and a high school student in the twelfth (12th) grade or below during some part of the current academic year .

17 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after September 1, 1992

16 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after September 1, 1993

15 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after September 1, 1994

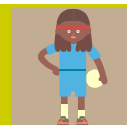
14 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after September 1, 1995

13 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after September 1, 1996

12 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after September 1, 1997

Note: These age definitions are used by domestic club programs and are NOT the same as the age definitions for the International and Domestic High Performance programs for 2010.

The classification cut-off date of the September 1 was reviewed by the USAV Youth/Junior Olympic Volleyball Division (YJOVD) prior to the USAV 2008 Annual Meetings and research justified the continuation of the cut-off date of September 1. Additional information can be found on the USA Volleyball Website. The Age Definition Policy was most recently revised by the USA Volleyball Board of Directors on January 19, 2002. Revised 07/20/09



Region to Allow Age Waivers in Regional Competition

At the recent Board of Directors meeting it was decided to grant requested waivers to players born between June 1 and August 31, to play in the lower age group only within the Delta Region. *“This has been an issue discussed in great detail over the past couple of years”* stated commissioner Joe Williams. *“We feel that this might give players who started school at a late age, a chance to play with their class-*

mates”. The Club Director must notify the Delta Region Office in writing with any request for an individual waiver.

Other Regions may not accept these waivers; it is the decision of each region. Please contact individual Tournament Directors to see if they will allow age-waived players.

PLEASE NOTE:

Teams with age waived players (registered with the region at the beginning of the season) may participate in the Delta Region Championships but will not be allowed to participate in the Delta Region Bid Qualifier, any USAV Qualifiers and/or National Championship events.

“We feel this might give players who started to school at a late age, a chance to play with their classmates.”



2010 Girls Junior National Qualifiers

2010 Adult Open Championships will be held in Phoenix May 29-June 5.

No word yet on JO Championships

Qualifier	City, State	Date
Colorado Crossroads	Denver, CO	February 27-March 1 & March 5-7
Hoosier Mideast	TBD	March 19-21 & March 26-28
Pacific Northwest	Spokane, WA	March 19-21 & March 26-28
Southern California	Anaheim, CA	March 19-21 & March 26-28
Big South	Atlanta, GA	April 2-4
Northeast	Baltimore, MD	March 27-29 & April 2-4
Lone Star Classic	Dallas, TX	April 9-10 & April 16-18
Northern Lights	Minneapolis, MN	April 16-18 & April 23-25
Far Western	Reno, NV	April 17-19 & April 23-25
Show Me	Kansas City, MO	April 24-26 & April 30-May 2



“OMG! She hit the net. Why isn’t the ref calling it?”

2009-2011 SIGNIFICANT VOLLEYBALL RULE CHANGES

Yep...that’s right. Net calls may be a thing of the past! One of the most significant changes USAV has made this season is inserting the new net rule : Here it is!

New net touch rule: **Players may touch the post, ropes, or any other object outside the antennae, including the net itself,** provided that it does not interfere with play. A player interferes with the opponent’s play by (amongst others):

- A.) Touching the top band of the net or the top 80 cm of the antenna during his/her action of playing the ball
- B.) Taking support from the net simultaneously with playing the ball
- C.) Creating an advantage over the opponent
- D.) Making actions which hinder an opponent’s legitimate attempt to play the ball.

Without a doubt it might take some time for us all to get used to the idea that touching the net is OK in most situations. So hang on to your hats and remind your relatives in the stands—it’s now legal!

Other significant USAV rule changes for this

upcoming season:

- 1.) DCR or what we call “rule books” will now only be printed every two years. So, when you get yours this season hang on to it.
- 2.) New centerline rule: Touching the opponent’s court with any part of the body above the feet is permitted provided that it does not interfere with the opponent’s play.
- 3.) A referee’s platform is required. The platform must be on a support and adjustable in height; the referee’s eye position shall be approximately 50 cm (19”) above the top of the net. It should be constructed so that it presents the least potential hazard for players. Step ladders, jump boxes and other devices not specifically designed as referee platforms shall not be used.
- 4.) Under no circumstances will a player be allowed to play while wearing a cast.
- 5.) For junior competition, both coaches sign the score sheet after the match to verify the results.
- 6.) For adult competition, it is recommended that teams warm up together at the net for 10 minutes

if both team captains agree; otherwise, each team will have five minutes separately. For consecutive warm-up periods, the team with the first service has the court first. For junior competition, when one team has exclusive use of the court, the other team must either be at its team bench or out of the playing area. Warming up with balls at the team bench or the spectator walkways is not permitted.

- 7.) If the points scored while the player is out of rotation order cannot be determined or the opponents have served, then **a point and service to the opponents** is the only penalty charged. The opponents retain any points scored.
- 8.) A time-out before the start of a set is permitted.
- 9.) Substitutions are only recognized when the sub enters the zone. There is no longer a request from the coach or captain. The actual request for substitution is the entrance of the substitute player(s) into the substitution zone, ready to play, during a regular interruption. If that is not the case, the substitution is not granted and the team is sanctioned for a delay.



Boys Allowed To Play in Girls 12 & Under Divisions

The Delta Region Board of Directors decided to continue allowing boys to play with and against girls within the region and to extend play to the 10s, 11s and 12s divisions (only the 12s division was allowed last season). Boys born on or after September 1, 1997 may play on coed teams or may form an all boys team to play in girls 12 and under competitions (the division will be dependent upon their birthday).

It is the Boards hope that this will increase the awareness of boy’s volleyball within the region and encourage local boys to become involved in the sport. The goal would be to see regional boys teams form and compete throughout the nation as our girls teams have.

Note: This definition is used by domestic club programs in the Delta Region. Boys or coed teams may play in the Delta Region Championships but will not be allowed to play in the Delta Region Bid Qualifier. .



Keith Hutchison-
Referee Chair

The Official’s Corner

Joanie Williams-
Scorekeeper Chair



The region will offer three types of OFFICIATING CLINICS this season:

- Train the Trainer Clinic:** Conducted by the region to teach Club representatives techniques and guidelines for conducting Club Clinics. Individuals that desire to teach their Club Clinics must attend this clinic to become a certified Club Trainer. Clinic dates will be announced in Mid-October.
- Club Clinic:** Conducted for the club so members can gain knowledge of the current rules. Only a Delta Region certified trainer may conduct club clinics. Club clinics will satisfy the Junior and Club Provisional portion of the certification process.
- Regional Clinic:** Conducted for candidates desiring to complete the entire process and become certified Independent Provisional and Regional Officials. Regional clinics will be given in great detail, and last significantly longer than club clinics and may include a written exam. Upon satisfactory completing the clinic the candidate will be listed as an "In-Process Official" until ratings can be completed. "In- Process" candidates may serve as officials only up to February 28, 2010, unless extended by the Delta Region Commissioner or Region Referee Chair. An individual not associated with a Club must attend a Regional Clinic and submit participant fee associated with the clinic.

With the increasing expectation of quality officials for volleyball matches, it is the recommendation of the Delta Region Board of Directors that coaches of Junior Teams accept the role of primary referee (R1) for their team. Junior Officials may serve as a secondary referee (R2). We believe that this is the best direction for us to take for the protection of the younger players and the integrity of the game. We encourage all Junior Programs to embrace this concept and participate fully as a club.

Below are a couple of significant changes made to the region’s Official’s Guidebook this season:

- 1.) Different levels of officiating certification are now available. The region will offer certification for Junior Officials, Club Provisional Officials, Independent Provisional Officials and Regional Officials. Please review each certification requirement outlined online in the 2009/2010 Official’s Guidebook.
- 2.) Effective immediately, all Junior and Club Provisional officials will keep their certification for **two years**. Yea! That means you only have to attend a clinic, take a test and be graded every two years. So learn all you can this year and you will be sitting pretty next season. Independent Officials and Regional Officials will continue to update every season by attending a region-sponsored clinic. .

Membership Continues to Increase In The Delta Region

The Delta Region saw a significant 15% increase in memberships for the 2009 Season. This is the sixth year in a row that the region has shown an increase. Total individual membership reached 2376; for a total of 27 Junior Clubs and 194 teams. Here are the 10 largest clubs based on the number of members registered:

1. Memphis Metro: 274
2. Ozark Juniors: 266
3. Fort Smith Juniors: 243
4. Fatchmo Volley: 231
5. Memphis Juniors: 227
6. Arkansas Juniors: 148
7. Little Rock Juniors: 143
8. Delta Force: 130
9. Club Net: 79
10. Rock City Juniors: 70

The region had 2 Adult Men's teams register in 2009:
John Brown University and Central Mississippi.



A solid 16% increase was also found in the
Independent Referee category



Meritorious Service Awards Announced

The Robert Lindsay Meritorious Service Award is presented each year to recognize individuals in each USA Volleyball region who have made significant contributions to volleyball at the local, national or international level.

The Delta Region recipients for the 2008-2009 Season are:

- Katie Gramlich- Arkansas Jrs
- Nicole Cirillo- Ozark Juniors
- Cathy Merrick- Benton VBC
- Ramona Bennett- Fatchmo
- Scott Lindberg- Little Rock Jrs.

Congratulations to each of you. Thank you for all you do for volleyball in the Delta Region!



Delta Board of Directors Chosen in Recent Election

Recent elections were held for the three open positions of Delta Region Board of Directors and for Commissioner. Six candidates were nominated for the open slots. Re-elected to serve for the next three years to the Board are (in alphabetical order):

Jenny Kirk – Ozark Juniors

Samantha Lambert – Memphis Juniors

Juraj Okolicany – Memphis Metro

The election was very close, with 78% of the registered teams voting. This is one of our largest turnouts, another example of the growing interests in our region and of the desire to promote quality volleyball.

Joe Williams was the only nominated candidate for the Delta Region Commissioner position, and was re-elected by acclamation.

"The election was very close, with 78% of registered teams voting"

The re-elected Board took office at the annual Delta Region Board of Directors meeting held August 22 in Jonesboro. They joined existing Executive Board members: Brad Schultz, Fred Gramlich and James Collins.

Congratulations to all that were nominated and to the three that were elected.



Fred Gramlich



Joe Williams
Commissioner



Juraj Okolicany
Vice Commissioner



James Collins



Samantha Lambert



Jenny Kirk



Brad Schultz

Meet Your Delta Region Board of Directors

Coaching Education Important to Region Coaches



When it was decided to host a second coach CAP Clinic in the region, it was uncertain how many coaches might be interested in attending. We *did* just have a coaching clinic two years ago with 66 in attendance.

Well, forget those doubts—on the weekend of December 6, 2008, Delta Region coaches came out in the masses. With over 75 area coaches in attendance, this was, without a doubt, USA Volleyball's largest CAP (Coaching Accreditation Program) Clinic in history.

"The extremely large turnout proves the dedication and love of the sport of youth volleyball in the Delta Region" stated commissioner Joe Williams.

Coaches from almost every Delta Region club was represented.

Throughout the weekend, each coach received on-court and in-classroom hands-on training by four of the most knowledgeable and successful coaches in USA



Volleyball history. Led by Diana Cole (CAP Director with USAV), CAP cadre

included Penny Lucas White (Head Coach for Air Force Academy), Ruth Lawanson (Asst Coach at Air Force Academy) and Cecile Reynaud (former Florida State Head Coach).

Attendees were taught cutting-edge information in the areas of skill development, tactical systems, conditioning, motor learning, mental training and much more. This knowledge coupled with hands-on coaching experience helps to create a quality coach.

Note: December 1, 2009 is the deadline for coaches to complete all necessary steps of certification in order to receive clinic fee reimbursement.





DELTA REGION VOLLEYBALL

1102 Laurelwood Court
Jonesboro, AR 72401

Phone: 870-933-8110
Fax: 870-933-8110
E-mail: reg@deltavolleyball.net



We're on the Web

www.deltavolleyball.net

When you join the Delta Region Volleyball Association (RVA), you become a registrant of USA Volleyball (USAV), just like the players on the 2008 Beijing Games gold and silver medal winning USA Volleyball teams. Based in Colorado Springs, Colo., USA Volleyball is the National Governing Body (NGB) of the sport, serving the lifetime sport of volleyball at all ages and levels, through its 40 RVAs and other affiliated members.

What Are The Benefits to Joining USA Volleyball?

- Subscription to *Volleyball USA*, our quarterly magazine, for all qualifying registrants Electronic, bi-monthly newsletter "Rotations" for all registrants
- Opportunity to play in USA Volleyball sanctioned competitions open only to USAV RVA members
- Age group competition for Junior Olympic Volleyball - 18, 17, 16, 15, 14, 13, and 12 & under, Youth (3-11 years old), 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 & over, and/or Open/Club AA, A, BB, and B skill levels
- Ability to qualify for USA Jr. Olympic Volleyball National Championships and the USA Open Volleyball Championships.
- Eligibility to tryout and participate in USA Volleyball Delta Region and National volleyball camps
- Secondary Sports Accident for those with primary insurance and Primary Sports Accident insurance (with \$1,000 deductible) for those registrants without health insurance during USAV/Delta Region sanctioned events
- General Liability insurance - covering all USAV/Delta Region sanctioned activities (Sept. 1-Oct. 31 cycle)
- Discounted USAV Coaching Accreditation Program (CAP) Training and Courses
- Opportunity to coach and officiate in Jr. Olympic Volleyball and Adult competitions - with national background checking for all Jr. Olympic Volleyball coaches and officials.



So You Want to be a Better Spectator

John Kessel, USA Volleyball Director, Membership Development and Disabled Programs

Far more than the winning and losing are the lessons learned in process of tournament play. To quote Socrates, "I believe that we cannot live better than in seeking to become still better than we are." The sport of volleyball is unique in its core cooperative nature and its strength in building character. The ability to cooperate is far more important to human survival than the ability to compete. Success is a journey, not a destination. Winning and losing are temporary, but friendships last forever, is a Chinese proverb of great truth. We ask that your role from the sidelines and stands match that which we are developing through our coaching education programs and training

Rule Number 1. Keep POSITIVE support, encouragement, cheerleading and general hollering and yelling to a MAXIMUM on the sidelines. When players are working hard, they need and deserve everyone's best POSITIVE encouragement and support. They need to know you are there. Most teams have a tough enough time developing a sense of teamwork and achievement as they are also developing their own individual experience and skill. They DO NOT need to hear YOUR anxiety piled on top of their own when the game is going poorly.

Rule Number 2. Just one word on criticizing players, coaches or referees. DON'T.

Publicly criticizing players on your team can really hurt morale. They will already have an excellent idea, from all the practicing they have already done, as to their errors. They do NOT need reminders from their families, friends and other spectators. The players for the other team are also doing their best and in truth are probably no more aggressive than the players on your team. Criticism is simply poor sportsmanship and leads to unnecessary bad feelings on and off the playing area. The unfortunate spectacle of a supposed adult shouting insults at a child or other adult is disgusting. Volleyball is a game, not a war. When the opponents make a great play, give them positive encouragement too. The referees are making judgment calls on each and every contact, and will err at times, though far fewer than the best player on the team you are cheering for. Referees may make mistakes, but they never make a bad call in their heart. The referee might ignore you, but also has the right to ask you to leave the playing area. Either situation is at best distracting from the most important thing going on, the player's competition.