

GLR Board Minutes May 1st 2016

Great Lakes Region, 745 McClintock Drive, Burr Ridge IL 60527

Welcome

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM

Board Members in attendance: Kathy Steel, Paul Ickes, Mary Kay Walsh, Dan Ames, Lorelee Smith and Amanda Craig

Staff in attendance: Angelo Iasillo, Donna Smith, Mary Malpede and Sandy Abbinanti

Legal counsel – Jennifer Settlemyer

Absent: Deb DiMatteo, Devonie McLarty and Mike Hulett

November 15, 2015 minutes were approved electronically

- Commissioner's report:

a) Reminders of the Board Of Director's duties: a) A board member must never use information gained through his/her position for personal gain and must always act in the best interest of the corporation and recuse themselves on matters dealing directly with their own club and b) act in accordance with confidentiality policies.

b) Allegations/suspensions - Executive Session:

- 12 issues with officials'
- 16 issues with coaches'
- Sanctions issued – 3 warnings, 4 probations and 1 sanction

c) Reminder – all BOD members must be USAV members. Please contact Carla Zaber, from our office to help you with the process in early September of each year.

- Membership Report: Combined full members - 15,197, Volleykids - 591
- WCPL – Adam
 - Request for an increase in admission for WCPL
 - 442 Teams- From the 18/17's Division all the way to 12's. We also split the 12's into an Elite and Club Divisions. We also split the 12 Club division into North and South after seeding dates.
 - Problems- Very few in 2016. We did not have to reschedule any matches that I can remember once the schedule was "official". Had no weather related issues that led to re-doing the schedule. Had a parent issue with food at one site but otherwise was a pretty good year on that front.

- Compliments- With very few exceptions all the people who acted as TD's for WCPL did a great job this season. I would like to thank all of them for their hard work. I want to especially thank a couple of them who go above and beyond every weekend I worked with them. Lara @ Velocity is always 100% on top of things and always keeps me in the loop on things. Al @ Adversity is always a pleasure to work with and even on days he isn't actually working for Adversity, he is quick to help me out if I have issues. There are many great people who help facilitate things for the WCPL and I am very thankful they do!!!
- Finance and Budget – Angelo, report was distributed.
- Structure – 5 BOD members make up a quorum. Commissioner emphasized that because the BOD is so small it is imperative to have enough individuals for a quorum. BOD members are asked to make their best effort to attend the meetings. The dates are scheduled each year at the May meeting.
- Junior Boys – Mike and Dan No report
- Junior Girls – Deb and Kathy

Deb - from Club Directors:

1. The scoresheet is ridiculous. Kids too young to understand. Agreed. USAV is working on a simplified version.
2. The release of WCPL schedule was February 1st it is beyond belief how late this was. It was the latest ever..... "GLPL way ahead of the region". The seeding dates are distributed in December. Can't send out the final schedule until the seeding has been completed.
3. Match warm up too long. "after first two rounds cut it down." Agreed. Motion by Executive Committee: Change the length of warmups for juniors: The warmups, after the team's first match of the day will be shortened to 4 and 4. Motion passed 6-0-0
4. Too many events cancelled last minute. "sites wait until a day before, two days before, should be penalized for displacing our teams". Agreed. There was a discussion regarding why so many tournaments were cancelled and the answer seems to be that too many tournaments are sanctioned on particular weekends. Motion by Executive Committee: For junior tournaments – teams and officials must be notified 10 days subsequent to the tournament date. Possible sanction for not adhering to the policy: loss of sanction(s) for future tournaments. Motion passed 6-0-0
5. Travel too much for WCPL, "we are switching to GLPL." Changes are being made when possible.

Deb - from tournament directors:

1. Reporting results should be eliminated from GLR it is unnecessary as not everyone doing it. Agreed, this will no longer be required. TD handbook will reflect the change.
2. Edit the regions tournament manual to include under format "3 by 4 cross formats can play games to 21 or 25, just like 5 team pools as its still 8 games". Motion by Executive Committee to allow either 21 point sets or 25 point sets for the 3 by 4 cross formats. All 5 team pools must be played on two courts. Motion passed 5-0-1

Kathy -

1. There are many club directors out there who would like to see a regional qualifier once again for the 15-18 divisions, especially for those teams not playing in the WCPL who may want to try and qualify for USA Nationals. Otherwise, their only hope is through a National Qualifier. Maybe the region can offer something similar as they currently do for the 14/13/12's? Many of the teams GLR has been sending over the past few years at the 15-18 level do not represent our region very well.

There was discussion regarding why the top teams compete at the competitor's Power League.

Motioned by Dan and seconded by Kathy: Remove 17/18 National Bids from the WCPL for the 2016-2017 USAV season and instead host a Regional Qualifier for those National bids. This issue will be revisited at the May 2017 BOD meeting. Motion passed 6-0-0

2. In regards to the 15s-18s WCPL Division: So the question is, "if they aren't playing WCPL despite having 5 bids, would it make sense to have a regional qualifier with 1 or 2 bids? Would that encourage those teams to still do USAV nationals instead of AAU's" On one hand having all 5 bids in WCPL helps WCPL. On the other hand, does it hurt USAV national participation, which may lead to a lack of a reason to register stronger older teams USAV at all? After discussion the BOD decided to keep the bids for 16s and 15s in the WCPL.
 3. Having 2 designated spots for 17s/18s 1 north & 1 south, so college coaches would know there are only 2 sites to look for prospective athletes Agreed. The WCPL, for Red division only, 17/18s will be scheduled at one central location for 2016-2017
 4. Format of the 12s WCPL is an area of concern. Only one club director from those who responded felt this to be true. Multiple coaches contacted the GLR office and said the format was "just right" for regional teams.
 5. The awarding of the BIDS/medals has been rather "unceremonious" and they would like to see a more formal recognition & perhaps a "standings board". Agreed. GLR will ask the site directors to make a more formal recognition. Standing board – all results are posted on AES.
 6. The possibility of a Region High Performance team. Not at this time. A quick poll of club directors felt that HP was attempted in the past but just led to mass recruiting by the HP coaches.
 7. Development of "Jr referees" to ref 12s/13s & 14s...they would be 17's /18s trained but paid less than full status referees. To keep down tournament costs. This will worked on in the 2016-2017 season.
 8. Add 15-16s to the MLK event with 2 divisions - Open and Club. This was offered in 2015-2016 but the division could not support itself and was dropped.
- Outdoor – Lorelee

We have four regional tournaments scheduled. The locations are reserved and paid for in advance.
June 12, June 26, July 3 and July 24

We have two USA junior beach qualifiers. Both at Montrose. The location is reserved. The set up crew is reserved. Payment is pending and invoice. Chicago parks are working on our bill and Players sport and social typically will bill me in May. July 5th and July 17th

No tournaments have been sanctioned as of this date.

The first Newsletter for 2016 will go out this month. Only USAV sanctioned tournaments may be listed.

We are not hosting a High Performance tryout. They are under new management. The new management would not set a date later than April 15th. The weather outside is not good enough and they would not agree to pay the price for an indoor facility.

Iowa will host a HP tryout in May and in information is already listed on the GLR website.

The BOD went into Executive session.

- Adults – Amanda

Dave Reid

- Holiday Luau 12/5/15 - 80 teams (40 coed, 26 men's, 14 women's)
- Winter Luau 1/23/16 - 81 teams (40 coed, 25 men's, 16 women's)
- Prairie Stone 2/28/16 - 15 teams (5 women's, 10 men's)
- Prairie Stone 3/13/16 - 4 men's teams
- Shouldn't run a tournament on St Patty's Day weekend!
- Spring Luau 4/9/16 - expecting 70-80 teams w/similar split as other two events
- Nationals Warmup 5/15/16 - expecting 15-20 men's/women's teams
- I would love to run one large adult event in a space with 20-30 courts, but I haven't been able to come up with a way to make it feasible for a 1 day event. Too expensive for the whole "juniors qualifier feel" with sport court in a convention center when it is only the 1 day. If anyone in that room has any suggestions for how I could make that happen, I'd love to discuss further!

Trish LoVerde

- I mostly run women's tournaments. I am happy with all the tournaments I have run this year.
- 11/15: 6 women's teams, 3 men's teams
- 12/13: 7 women's teams
- 12/20: 5 women's teams
- 1/3: 4 women's teams
- 1/10: 8 women's teams
- 2/21: 11 women's teams
- 3/6: 7 women's teams, 5 men's teams
 - Upcoming: 4/17, 5/1, 5/22

Dave Deuser

- # of players, 18 on final roster. 4 coaching staff.
- Arrangements for Orlando have been finalized for some time. Travel was more expensive this year because of the location. Problems... Retaining local players for

regular season events or exhibitions, because these players know they will not make our final roster and they would rather join the Badger, Lakeshore, or Iowa teams because that could be their ticket to make a PVL team for Nationals. Having a roster with the talent to actually WIN the National Championship means going outside of the Chicago area to get TOP players which has made it more difficult to field a team for local events.

- Compliments... The adidas sponsorship is AWESOME!
- Suggestions for next year..... I guess if you don't ask, you never get.... as appreciative as we are for the support that we do get from the Region... we are well aware that many other regions get very little or NOTHING, but we can always use more funds to continue building what is widely regarded as the "TOP" program in the country. We have 3 medals in 3 years of the PVL. 1 Gold and 2 Silver.
- We will do all we can to be able to put on another exhibition at the 2017 qualifier. I know it was a big hit last year. We would just rather do something VERY WELL, then put on an exhibition with mediocre talent (men's A or AA players) and run the risk of hurting the image of "Professional Volleyball" that we are trying to promote.

Melissa Vandrey

- 2016 GL Lightning Women's Update
- Tryouts
- We held a tryout of February 14th at Lyons Township H.S. Sue Keck gave us this gym space at no charge. Unfortunately only 2 girls showed up, and decided not to tryout due to the level of the PVL. I encouraged them to still tryout, that everyone, regardless of their background, gets a fair opportunity. They decided it wasn't a good opportunity for them and wasn't what they were expecting.
- Roster
- As of April 15th, the roster is set at 17 players. All players are registered and members of the Great Lakes Region, with the exception of two International players, who are from Canada. We just picked up the second player from Canada, so she is in the process of obtaining the required paperwork. This year's roster is stacked with talented players and provides depth at every position. Majority of the girls have played PVL for the past 3-5 years, with some having been in the Finals several times. There is also a core group of girls that have been on the same PVL team for the past few years, so chemistry and connections on the court, is not of concern. They bring a lot of international and professional experience as well. A realistic goal for this team would be a top 4 finish this year.
- Qualifying Tournaments
- The team played and finished 2nd in the Best of Midwest, which ended up not being a PVL Qualifying event. There were only 3 girls from our actual roster that were able to play that weekend. Our next tournament is the Lloy Ball Classic on April 23rd, which will allow us to meet the qualifying criteria (2 PVL matches). As most of the girls are still overseas, we will only have 6 of the 17 competing in this tournament. We added some local talent, so I still anticipate a strong finish. The goal is to win money that can go towards the team's budget.
- Budget
- The women's team budget was designed for a 15 person roster. So with having 17 players, there is the chance of going over the allotted budget. We are being very conscious of this, and trying to be as cost effective as possible. For example, the original

budget allotted \$400 per player for airfare to Orlando. So far, we have been able to book 8 round trip tickets at approximately \$310 per person, allowing more money to be used to cover the additional players. There are also 2 players that will be driving to Orlando, so will only need to be reimbursed for gas. We are in the process of scheduling a clinic, where we can raise additional money. Worst case scenario, the girls agreed to accept a lower amount of per diem while in Orlando, to help offset the increased expenses. With the combination of all of this, we plan on staying within the budget.

- *Update, the remaining flights have been booked. 15 of the 17 tickets cost under \$400.
- Travel
- All travel arrangements have been finalized except the two players from Canada. Those are being done in the next few days. The girls paid for their own gas and hotels for the Lloy Ball Classic.
- There was much discussion regarding the teams being over budget for this year. The general consensus is that the coaches must stay within the budgetary constraints or host tournaments, run clinics and/or do fundraisers to help subsidize the program. The BOD felt that if the programs need additional money in their budgets they must be willing to donate time to the region by possibly volunteering at the Qualifier. Motioned by Dan and seconded by Mary Kay to cover the 2015-2016 overages up to but not over \$16,000. This is a one-time only bailout only. Motion passed 5-0-1

- Officials – Mary

- The BOD went into Executive session.
- The officials' committee will conduct a new type of rating – A WCPL rating. The individual would be afforded a rating for no cost except membership and a background check fee. Mary and Kathy will work on this project to increase the number of juniors becoming officials. Other individuals who want to attempt the Provisional rating would be charged the same as in the past - \$100 for adults and \$50 for juniors.
- 25 candidates 18 passed
- 5 upgrades to Regional
- 1 candidate going for a Junior National patch

- Tournament Director – Dean

Tournament Director's Report May 2016

- As of April 20, 2016 the TD has issued 340 sanction for the 15-16 season. Of those 340 sanctions, the TD was requested to cancel 21.
- The only concerns brought to the TD's attention were the timeliness of the schedules provided by Sunsetters and Adversity for their tournaments.
- For the Adults, we have 18 sanctioned tournaments with only one cancellation (that was reported). There have been no issues reported regarding any adult tournament to date. We will be having another meeting of the adult reps and adult players to see how the changes this season worked out. A date has not yet been decided on.

- Evaluation Committee – Kathy

- Old Business
 - Motion # 4 Moved by Executive Committee: Revise the recruiting policy: An indoor GLR/USAV junior athlete's commitment to a club ends the day after the USAV Boys'/ Girls' Junior National Championships have finished and they remain uncommitted until they (their parents) sign a contract for the new season with a GLR junior club. Rationale- Make the same policy as the adults. Tabled until addressed by legal counsel. Motion defeated 0-5-1
 - See below for signature page that was sent to all club personnel

GLR club representatives and the GLR Board of Directors have adopted rules to create an equitable environment that promotes the athlete's well being. Club personnel may not contact individuals who are not associated with their club however salutations are allowed. Also club personnel may not send or tag specific information to an individual who is not associated with their club.

NOTE: The following definitions have been written to help everyone associated with a Junior Club in the USAV Great Lakes Region understand the terminology used in this document.

Club Personnel:

Any and all adults associated with a junior club.

All directors, coaches and other club personnel must be registered members of the GLR/USAV.

All club personnel must have taken and passed the SafeSport module.

Prospective Club Player is defined as follows:

A junior athlete who solicits information about a club either personally or through his or her parent/guardian.

A junior athlete who did not play with any USAV Junior Club in the previous season.

A junior athlete who has never played USAV Junior Club.

Committed Club Player is defined as follows:

A junior athlete who is a registered member and has played in a USAV Sanctioned event in the current season.

A junior athlete who has played with a USAV Junior Club in the previous season.

NOTE: a prospective OR committed junior athlete may solicit information from any club either personally or through his or her parent/guardian.

Marketing is defined as follows:

A legal tool of promoting a USAV Junior Club through displayed flyers/brochures, newspaper ads, or direct mailing to an entire geographic area when addressed to "occupant." Marketing may be used for camps, clinics, tryouts and/or private lessons.

No unsolicited information may be given concerning a Junior Club when holding a camp, clinic or private lesson.

Recruitment is prohibited and defined as follows:

ANY correspondence with a committed USAV Junior Club player or family member via mail, email, telephone, text message, fax, face-to-face, and/or social media. This includes but is not limited to: websites such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Myspace, and Instagram.

Policies

(changes from previous document highlighted in red and underlined)

1. Head coaches must be adults, 18 years or older, and members of the Great Lakes Region of USA Volleyball.
2. All head coaches and assistant coaches must be certified at the Impact and/or Cap Level.
3. All club personnel must submit to and pass a background screen every two seasons approved by USA volleyball and administered through the Great Lakes Region or through one of the other USAV Regions.
4. No club personnel shall allow, encourage, condone or require any behavior that threatens a player's USAV, elementary, high school, or collegiate eligibility.
5. Club personnel may market their programs.
6. Club personnel may speak to a prospective club player at any time.
7. Club personnel may not recruit a committed club player.
8. Club personnel may NOT recruit a committed club player.
9. Club personnel may communicate with a committed club player if the player or their parent/guardian initiates the contact. It is strongly recommended that Club personnel have documentations to verify that the contact was initiated by the player or parent/guardian.
10. Coaches affiliated with a USAV Junior Club program who are also in a high school setting must (unless prohibited by school policy) make available all USAV Junior Club tryout information (even when it is not their own club's information) that is sent to the school.
11. A USAV head coach or an assistant coach who is 18 years or older must be present at all competitions and practices. During organized club team travel, club personnel must be present to supervise. The coach or club personnel are responsible for the team's behavior and actions while not in the custody or jurisdiction of their parents.
12. Club Directors must inform their players and the players' parents/guardians that they risk bodily injury, including paralysis, dismemberment or death, as well as loss or damage of property while playing Junior Club volleyball.
13. Club Directors should submit the names of athletes that are not "in good standing" (for reasons other than financial arrears) to the Region.
14. Club Directors and coaches are prohibited from allowing a junior athlete to go through an "official tryout" if they are currently practicing or competing with their respective high school. The athlete may attend the tryout and fill out all necessary paperwork but may not go through any physical testing or skill evaluation.

Below are new additions

15. Open Gym sessions are allowed; HOWEVER,
 - They may not be conducted while the athletes are involved in their high school season.
 - There is no coaching or instruction in the skills and techniques of volleyball at any time.
 - Participation must be voluntary and is not required directly or indirectly for membership on a team.
 - May not be a pre-try out, an evaluation, an observation, an appraisal, or assessment or anything that could possibly be construed as a try-out.
16. Club Directors/Coaches must inform players and their parent(s)/guardian(s) of the USA Volleyball/Great Lakes Region transfer Policy. This policy prohibits a player from transferring to another club once that player has participated in a sanctioned USAV event.

Rare exceptions to the transfer policy:

 - A Club Director's written release.
 - The athlete's safety or well being is in question.
 - If a player's commitment in a season has been completed.

Limitations to transfer Policies:

Girls- Once a player appears on a roster for a National Qualifier, that player may not participate in any other National Qualifier or the Girls Junior National Championship with another club.

Boys- Once a player appears on a roster for a Bid Event (Qualifier) and that team qualifies for the Boys Junior National Championship (BJNC) that player may not participate in any other Bid Event (Qualifier) or BJNC with another club.

Violations of these policies may result in sanctions against the individual (club personnel) and/or the specific Junior Club.

- Handbook Changes:
 Motion #6 Moved by Executive Committee as an Addition to the GLR Handbook
 Open Gym Limitations
 1. May not be conducted while the athletes are involved in their high school season.
 2. May only be open to team members from the previous season.
 3. There is no coaching or instruction in the skills and techniques in volleyball at any time.
 4. Participation must be voluntary and is not required directly or indirectly for membership on a team.
 5. May not be a pre-try out, an evaluation, an observation, an appraisal, an assessment or anything that could possibly be construed as a try-out.
 Motion passed with the exclusion of #2
 6-0-0

Discussion included the thought about dropping the recruiting policies but that was quickly dismissed. Our lawyer, Jennifer Settlemeyer, reinforced the idea that our junior athletes must be protected.

- New Business –
 - Fund a sitting team: Although this is a good idea, we need to wait until there is an expressed interest in the program.
 - Staff should examine different terminology for individuals attempting to recruit who are not necessarily on staff.
 - Club personnel was added to the terminology.
 - Next meeting dates: November 13th, 2016 and May 7th, 2017 The May 7th 2017 is a tentative date and could be changed based on the date for the 2016-2017 Junior Nationals 18s' division.
- Adjourn – Motioned by Dan and seconded by Lorelee. Passed 6-0-0

Welcome

Qualifier March 25-27, 2016

- Updates- Sandy
 - a. Number of teams – 812, 550 from outside the Great Lakes Region
 - b. Players: girls ages 10-18 with over 12,500 each day participating each day
 - c. Over 1,626 coaches and 175 officials
 - d. Total spectators: 43,552 for the 3 day event. Actual count: Friday – 14,355 , Saturday – 15,256, Sunday – 13,941
 - e. Total spectators, teams, officials, staff, athletic trainers and security for the three day event: 81,067
 - f. Over 21,000 hotel room nights, over 6,000 on peak nights sold
 - g. 124 courts used in South and West Halls at McCormick Place

- h. 3251 matches played
- i. Upcoming dates: April 14-16, 2017 and March 30- April 1, 2018
- j. Finance report – Angelo
- k. Executive session
- l. Motion to adjourn by Lorelee and seconded by Kathy passed 5-0-1

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Malpede 5/2/16