

**Oklahoma Region Volleyball Association
Board of Directors (2015-2016) Last Meeting
Cattle Country Lodge, Stroud, OK
August 7, 2016 @ 1:00pm**

MINUTES - DRAFT

1. Call to Order

Bill Hamiter called the meeting to order at 1:23pm.

2. Roll call of Board Members/Introduction of Visitors

Members present: Jeff Boyland, Jeremy Burton, Nikki Dieball, Randy Decker, Bill Hamiter, Margo Juergens, Cindy Maggart, Edgar Miraku, Shawn McCarty, Mike Freeman, Janice Roth

Members absent: Jenny Pearson, George Freedman, Craig Ruiz, Richard Mahoney

Staff present: Libby McCarty and Jody Webber

Guest Present: Darin Thompson and Kimo Aweau

3. Setting of agenda: Set as presented

4. Review of May 7, 2016 Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from May 7, 2016 made by Edgar Miraku and second by Jeff Boyland. All approved.

REPORTS

3. Commissioner Report

Shawn McCarty, Commissioner presented report

Attended National Meetings in Orlando in May. The following items were topic points at our meetings.

- President Doug Beal announced his retirement
- The RVAA was given a third seat on the USA Volleyball BOD
- Insurance loss history is at 109% over the past 5 years. Our insurance carriers want 70% loss history or lower.
- Background Screenings – Through April 30, 2016, 34,400 individuals were screened. Over 1,400 had criminal records. 51 individuals were disqualified. This equates to .15% of those screened. There were 33 males and 18 females disqualified.
- The volleyball coverage at the Rio Olympics will be high for all platforms.
- SafeSport – The US Center for SafeSport will open in January 2017. The funding for this will come from the USOC, NGB's and donors.
- Education – The Education Department is working on an on-demand course for CAP 1.

- High School Girls Volleyball became the top girls' team sport last year surpassing basketball.
- Jon Lee was elected RVA Chair.
- National Championships for 2017 are as follows:
 - Adults – Minneapolis
 - Girls – Minneapolis
 - Boys – Columbus
 - High Performance – Ft. Lauderdale
- Donna Donaghy (Northern California Region) and Mitch Stemm (Hoosier Region) were elected to the USA Volleyball BOD.

Attended the Adult Opens in Orlando. We had three men's teams playing as well as several females playing on a North Texas Region team. The team results are as follows:

- Oklahomies – 28th in Men's B Division
- OK Dynamite – 13th in Men's B Division
- Mixed Nuts – 35th in Men's BB Division
- OK Thunder – 11th in Women's AA Division

Attended GJNC in Indianapolis. We sent 17 teams this year (a record for OKRVA). I will send complete results in spreadsheet form.

Attended BJNC in Dallas. The Kaizen Boys 18's took 50th in the Club Division.

Attended the World League Matches in Dallas. Team USA went undefeated by beating, Bulgaria, Australia, and Russia.

2017 Regional Championships

- We have the Tulsa Convention on hold for our 2017 Regional Championships. They will be held on May 5-7. We will host HP tryouts again on Friday night. The Convention Center is booked the week before. Depending on the number of teams, we may need to start some pools on Friday night or possibly move offsite. We will have to monitor the entries closely.
- Contracts for hotels are currently being negotiated.
- The Cox Center in Oklahoma is not available on the weeks we need.

UCO is hosting a Pep Rally to send off our USA Sitting Teams. The rally will be held on August 30th, at 4pm at the UCO Wellness Center. Please plan to attend and encourage others. We have sent information to our webmaster for posting and will send out an email blast as well.

Team Tulsa Volleyball is folding. To the best of my knowledge they were the oldest club in the state. I am visiting with other clubs in Tulsa about expanding their programs to make sure we have outlets for our athletes in Tulsa.

We are working on forms for the new season.

Motion made to approve Commissioner's Report made by Margo Juergens, second by Jeremy Burton

5. Beach Report

Shawn McCarty, Commissioner presented report. Several clubs offered beach programming this summer.

Oklahoma Beach Volleyball Club hosted a USAV Junior Beach Tour Stop on June 11th and 12th.

We had several Oklahoma teams compete in this tournament.

18U –

Mikayla Stewart/Merin McDaniel – 4th

Adanna York/Lauren Dick – 5th

Sidney Norman/Kendall Harrod – 5th

Shalane Dollins/Bailey Alleman – 7th

Lauren Boswell/Haylee Fowler – 7th

16U –

Rorianna Chartier/Merin Mcdaniel – 2nd

Taylor Hankins/Isabella Brown – 4th

Maria Kowal/Abby Davis – 5th

Serena Torres/Katherine Rogers – 5th

Serowski/Riley – 5th

14U –

Taylor Hankins/Isabella Brown – 2nd

Christin Fox/Paige Reaves – 5th

Katie Lindley/Chenoa Wheat – 5th

12U –

Sarah Lindley/Elle Mitchell – 1st

Isabella Chartier/Rylee Richardson – 3rd

Riley Robertson/Hannah Potter – 5th

Motion made to approve Beach Report made by Edgar Miraku, second by Randy Decker

6. HP Report

Shawn McCarty, Commissioner presented the report

We took 4 OKRVA (two Youth and two Select) teams to the HP Championships in Ft. Lauderdale.

- The Select Red Team (Coach Freeman) finished 8th.
- The Select White Team (Coach McCarty) finished 12th.
- The Youth Red Team (Coach Boyland) finished 9th.
- The Youth White Team (Coach Dieball) finished 14th.

Also, we had several boys play on two conglomerate teams with boys from the Lone Star and North Texas Regions. We participated with financial support for these teams.

- Our boys playing in the National Youth Division took 2nd.
- Our boys playing in the Boys Regional Division took 1st.

I personally thought all teams competed well and I was pleased with the effort by our athletes and thought our coaches did a fantastic job.

I discussed with our coaches and parents about us charging a nominal fee to the players next year and provide them with two practice shirts, a logoed backpack, and a logoed pullover. The majority of those surveyed were supportive of this. We currently provide our players with a gift (this year was an embroidered rain jacket).

We visited with USAV staff at the tournament. Tulsa is bidding on hosting upcoming HP Championships starting in 2018. We are meeting with City of Tulsa and USAV officials in Tulsa on August 21-23 to discuss bringing HP to Tulsa in future years.

If the HP programming budget is approved and we have the quality athletes come tryout, we will take 4 girls teams and 1 boys team in 2017. The HP Championships will be held in Ft. Lauderdale again next year.

I visited with several parents during the tournament. Every parent I visited with was supportive of the OKRVA HP Program. Also, I emailed all parents a survey after the event. We heard back from 6 of 39 families. The feedback I received from parents was overwhelmingly positive. I have cut and pasted the responses below.

Commissioner,

Thank you for the follow-up and request for input. My husband, Drew & I have been intending on sending you a thank you note and time had gotten away from us.

Our family and athlete, Gracie had an enjoyable and good experience. Thank you for your investment and belief in her to be a formidable representation of the best in the OKRVA.

Here is our input for the specific areas in which you requested;

- *Tryout process*
It was well organized, the court coaches moved things along, lots of touches for everyone, the information handout was helpful and we liked the tryout t-shirt design
- *Team camp*
We loved the fact that the girls were able to practice at UCO alongside the Sitting Team Olympians. In fact, we would have loved for the girls to have some interaction with the Olympians. Perhaps, box lunches could have been brought in one day and a couple of the Olympians could share their experiences and take questions. And of course, we had hoped that some of the practices would have been held in the Tulsa area. I didn't attend all of team practices but I did like what I saw, the pace of the practices, the icebreakers/team builders and what seemed like an endless supply of balls.
- *Coaches*
We were impressed and pleased with the coaching staff. Coach Drew was Gracie's coach. We appreciated his professionalism, his spunk, and his desire to bring out the best in each individual athlete. We found him to be knowledgeable, creative and uplifting.
- *Tournament experience*
My husband and I agree, the atmosphere, level of play, both to watch and compete in at the HP tournament were worth the investment of time and money.

My thoughts on the \$100-\$125 fee per athlete for swag are this. Why not raise the tryout fee by \$20-\$25 and have the region truly gift the items to the girls. Families are already asked to spend roughly \$2000+ to participate a small gift from the region would help cushion that blow.

I have one last suggestion. We have much older daughters who played volleyball. They are now 26 & 25. One went to an A3 camp at Rutgers University many years ago. When all was said and done we were mailed an evaluation report. I wish I could find it now, but sadly I can't. From what I can remember it had items of evaluation such as physical attributes; height, weight, standing reach, approach touch, block touch, wingspan, speed, etc., areas that she excelled in, areas to work on, what kind of teammate she was, volleyball IQ and personal notes the coaches wanted to include. It was like a combine report. As parents we found this information to be extremely useful in our decision making process, private lessons, more time with the performance trainer, etc. I realize it would mean more time spent by coaches, but would love for this tool to be implemented in the HP program.

Again, thank you for all that you do for the region, particularly with the HP program. I know so much of what you do goes unseen. We are grateful! It was an honor for Gracie to be chosen to represent the region and she would do it again if given the opportunity.

Tryouts - I think this is handled well, nothing really add here.

Team Camp - Team building should be pushed at every opportunity while at team camp.

Coaching - I realize the Coaches are busy but they should take a few minutes on the first day to introduce themselves to the parents and give them an idea on what to expect.

Tournament Experience - More info needs to be shared on what to expect at the tournament (costs, tickets, opening event) as well as a few team building moments.

I would recommend it & Kylie will be trying out again next year.

A full uniform, be it a shirt & shorts or warm up pants would be great for the team. I have no problem paying for that.

Thanks for the opportunity,

Dave Rathbun

Tryout Process: Worked well. I think Sophie was not evaluated for the Red team by mistake.

Team Camp: Excellent training that took the girls to the next level; fun for the girls; very understanding coaches that the players all loved.

Coaching: Can't say more about it. We loved the work you do.

Tournament experience: We thought the general skill level of the girls Sophie played with should have been better, to represent our state, even on a white team and were frustrated. **I believe active recruiting should go on to bring better level players to the try outs.** For example, only one girl tried out who was a member of the first and second place OKRVA Regional Finals team in 13U for 2016! That was Sophie Bufogle. There were many fine players who played in the first place Peak 13U-1 (first place) and Club One Black (second place) squads. Their involvement, with a combined team of those and other teams, would have fielded a team adequate to have made us a threat for national prominence. I do not assume Sophie Bufogle would have even made that team, but I think whoever played on such a team would have spent time and money at the tournament and not been terribly frustrated/gotten a better experience from it. After the tournament, in describing what occurred in Ft. Lauderdale to the Club One Black team parents, I got the consensus that if advanced notice, many emails with follow ups and recruiting had occurred, at least 3 more of the Club One starters, and perhaps 4 would have attended. Added to perhaps a like response from Peak girls, that would have been a very, very powerful team.

Would you recommend your daughter or others to tryout in the future? Yes

Hi Shawn!

We had a great time at the HP tournament! It really was a great experience for Merrik and Lowrey. We felt like it was a privileged to be there.

We don't have any complaints! You know we love Drew, and Nikki was a great coach. I wish Nikki could have coached her longer. The team practices were great! They would have wanted to practice more if there was time.

I think the idea of having matching warmups and backpacks is a great idea. The fee you spoke about would be fine.

The girls already want to try out for next year, so they really loved it! Thanks to you and Libby for all you do for Oklahoma volleyball!!

We love you guys! See you soon!

Beth

Hi Shawn,

Dani absolutely loved the high performance program. We felt very blessed that she was given the opportunity to play on a team, have great training, and make new friends in the process.

Here are my thoughts on the topics you ask about.

**Tryout process-I felt the tryout process was sufficient. I especially liked that the coaches took the time to observe the girls throughout the weekend in addition to the tryout. I personally felt as though Dani didn't have as strong of a tryout as she could of, having an off night, so the fact the coaches watched them play, maybe helped her a little more than just the couple hour tryout time.*

**Team Camp-I felt as if this went really well. I saw the girls go from hardly speaking on day 1, to really connecting as the days went on. For my daughter, who is somewhat quiet and shy until she gets to know you, say she wished she could play longer with her team, speaks volumes of the team bonding and comradery that group of girls experienced.*

**Coaching-The coaching was fantastic. Nikki was an awesome coach. She connected with the girls right away and gained their respect as a person and a coach. She took the time to get to know the girls and what coaching style each girl responded best to. I liked that the two teams scrimmaged a lot which I felt helped the girls bond as a team. I would have liked to have seen the two teams get to know each other a little more on a personal level.*

**Tournament experience-was great. Wonderful venue.*

I can't say enough about the overall experience. Dani's passion is volleyball. She wants to play at the college level and I feel that the HP opportunity and experience is a step in the right direction to help her achieve that goal. I especially loved seeing several of the other coaches from the 14's, take the time to observe and offer suggestions to the girls if Nikki was busy coaching another girl. I would and have already, highly recommended this program to anyone who is thinking about trying out next year. Dani will most certainly be trying out again. I like the idea of the girls wearing practice shirts and having matching back packs. I would gladly pay to have the girls look like a team, which in turn, I feel, helps them to perform more like a team.

Shawn, I think you are doing a great job! I appreciate your kindness and sincerity throughout this entire experience.

Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Darla Meisinger

(Dani's Mom)

Hi,

We just wanted to say thank you for all you do for OKRVA! The girls had a great time, minus the nerves and emotional stress 😊. Thanks again for you, your family and all the coaches.

The Lance family (Charlotte and family)

Suggestions made by board of directors to improve marketing of High Performance on OKRVA social media accounts Facebook, Twitter, Instagram.

Motion made to accept High Performance Report made by Randy Decker, second by Margo Juergens

7. Registrar Report

Libby McCarty presented report stating that the current membership for the 2015-2016 season is 3513. The total membership for 2014-2015 season was 3388. The region had 1 background screening fail for the 2015-2016.

It was discussed that information at the tryout meetings be presented that all clubs are responsible for insuring that all coaches, (head and assistant) are registered and background screened before participating in tryouts. Each club are supposed to ensure that all players are registered for the 2016-2017 season prior to attending tryouts.

Motion made to accept the Registrar report made by Jeff Boyland, second by Jeremy Burton.

8. Treasurer's Report

Margo Juergens

9. Officiating Reports

Presented by Margo Juergens. She stated that there are no new rule books for the current 2016-2017 season. For the upcoming season Margo will implement more score keeping and referee training to members.

No referee's went for the Junior National or National Referee certification for the 2015-2016 season.

Motion to approve Officiating Reports made by Edgar Miraku, second by Jeff Boyland

10. Junior/SafeSport Reports

Presented by Jody Webber – No Safe Sport related information to report for 2015-2016 Junior Reports –

Gold Map - A commercial is being aired on the Olympics being held in August, 2016. On the OKRVA website there is a link for additional information for anyone who is wanting to find out more information regarding club volleyball in Oklahoma.

STEM Program which is offered to Oklahoma public schools. For more information she suggested that each school speak with their athletic director to promote volleyball. Best Practices will be applied to High Performance Tournament next year. More information will be available at a later date.

Junior Awards – Jody stated information is sent to each region from USAV to nominate an outstanding parent or adult for their participation in the OKRVA. More information will be available and sent to each club director for the 2016-2017 season.

Motion to approve Junior/Safe Sport Reports made by Edgar Miraku, second by Randy Decker

NEW BUSINESS/MISCELLANEOUS

11. Tryout Date Parameters for 2016-2017 Motion

Shawn McCarty presented to board of directors to review prior to meeting. No motion is required to present.

A committee comprising of Randy Decker, Brittany Hendrix, Jody Webber and Shawn McCarty was created at the May 7, 2016 OKRVA Board of Directors Meeting. This committee was charged with looking at the OKRVA tryout dates parameters for the 2016-2017 season. Jenny Pearson was also added to this committee.

The committee is bringing forth the following motion:

The tryout dates for the 2016-2017 season, are as follows:

11's/12's

- Tryout start no earlier than Friday, September 30th.
- Signing Date is no earlier than Saturday, October 8th

13's/14's

- Tryouts start no earlier than Friday, October 14th.
- Signing Date is no earlier than Saturday, October 22nd

15's-18's

- Tryouts start no earlier than Friday, October 28th.
- Signing date is no earlier than Saturday, November 5th.

Discussion was what sanctions if tryouts were prior to dates approved? Same committee established for Tryout Dates will meet to discuss and present to board of directors at the next scheduled meeting.

Motion to approve Tryout Data Parameters Reports made by Randy Decker, second Edgar Miraku,

12. Rankings Tournaments Motion

Shawn McCarty presented to board of directors to review prior to meeting. No motion is required to present.

13. Waivered Players in Regionals Motion

A committee comprising of Jeff Boyland, Mike Freeman, Nikki Dieball, and Shawn McCarty was created at the May 7, 2016 OKRVA Board of Directors Meeting. This committee was charged with creating a policy for waivered players participating in the OKRVA Regional Championships and reporting back to BOD at the August 7, 2016 meeting.

The committee is bringing forward the following motion:

Effective for the 2016-2017 season, the following Waivered Players Participating in OKRVA Regionals Championships policy shall be implemented:

- A Waiver Request Form will be created by the Region. Completion of this form will be required for all clubs asking for a waiver(s). This form will include:
 - Player name, Membership Number, Date of Birth, Player's team from last year (if applicable).
 - Number of teams club has in this age division and if there are multiple teams in this age division, for what particular team the wavier is being asked.
 - Explanation of why waiver(s) is being requested.
 - List of all other players on the proposed team to include the teams that all players played on last season.
 - Explanation to clubs that if the wavier is approved, the Region reserves the right to move the team up a division if deemed necessary by the Region.
 - Explanation to teams with waivered players that monthly team results are required to be provided to the region by the last day of January, February and March. Failure to provide these results will preclude teams from participating in the OKRVA Regional Championships.
 - Language that states "Upon review of results from March, the Region ~~will~~ could determine what age group the team will be eligible for at the OKRVA Regional Championships. Teams will be notified the first week of April what age division they will be placed in the Regional Championships." One this determination is made by the Region, this team and all players (waivered or

not) will be eligible for all matches for the duration of the OKRVA Regional Championships.

Shawn McCarty made motion to amend the wording that is struck through in above stated motion, second by Nikki Dieball. Motion to approve with the modifications all approved.

14. Transfer of Players Motion

A committee comprising of Nikki Dieball, Jody Webber, Dick Mahoney and Shawn McCarty was created at the May 7, 2016 OKRVA Board of Directors Meeting. This committee was charged with looking at the OKRVA transfer policy and reporting back to BOD at the August 7, 2016 meeting.

The committee is bringing for the following motion:

Effective for the 2016-2017 season, the following Player Transfer Policy shall be implemented:

Transfer request up to November 14th will be approved by the region office without release from original club.

Transfer requests between November 15th and December 31st have to be presented the Commissioner.

- The Commissioner will refer the request to a 3-person Transfer Request Committee. This Committee will be set up by the Commissioner. Committee members will be replaced if the transfer request involves their club.
- The player will need to have proof of release from the original club.
- This Committee will have the power to approve or deny the transfer request.
- If the Committee doesn't approve the request, the player can appeal to the BOD (or Exec. Committee if between meetings).
- If the Committee approves the transfer, the Registrar will move the player.

Transfer request on or after January 1st will require proof of release from original club as well as approval by BOD or Executive Committee.

Motion to approve all approved.

15. Election of BOD Members (Five 3-year terms)

Board of director members up for re-election Nikki Dieball, Margo Juergens, Dick Mahoney, Edgar Miraku, Jenny Pearson

Nominations from the floor and or nominating committee presented: Kimo Aweau, Daren Thompson, Ed Raschen, Sheera Sirola

Results of election of board members: Nikki Dieball, Margo Juergens, Dick Mahoney, Edgar Miraku, Jenny Pearson

16. Adjournment
Bill Hamiter adjourned meeting at 3:45pm.