



Adult Program Changes for the 2012 Season

***Adult Program Director
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Starting last spring with the Adult Program Survey, the Board and Staff, with a lot of significant assistance from the Adult Program Task Force, laid out a relatively long list of changes for the 2012 season. I'd like to thank the following for spending a big chunk of this summer discussing and debating various suggestions, then creating and tweaking those ideas: Joan Ryan, Mike McKinney, Eric Mills, Eric Martin, Tia Storey, Matt Moake, Karen Love, Shereen Hall, Courtney Kennedy, and Bree Seeger.

Rule Change from the National Office—Jewelry

The National Office changed the rules on wearing jewelry. This rule pertains to adult players ONLY (meaning that if there are any Junior players on your adult roster, they must continue to follow the old jewelry rules). Adults may wear jewelry as long as your jewelry does not hurt another person. For example if you keep your class ring on and give your teammate a bloody nose, you will be required to remove that ring. Frankly I have a fear of heavy rings and rings with stones, bracelets, and watches. Necklaces and earrings are more likely to hurt you, rather than someone else. Hats, casts, and unpadded braces are still not allowed. Scarves, kerchiefs, and bandanas are allowed as long as they stay on your head.

New Online Tournament Entry System

This system allows online payment through Paypal and it will eliminate all paperwork. Hosts will submit their requests through the system and once they are approved, the coordinators will make them available to the team reps for entry. The hosts can choose to receive just checks or either Paypal or checks and you choose how you want to pay, and then you can attach your Webpoint roster to your entry as well. The system tracks the date and time when you submitted your entry and its status throughout the process. The coordinators can post the pools and all the other documents on the site so that the hosts can download them for tournament day. The system is still in development. Once it's ready to go, a users guide will be posted in various places on the CHRVA website.

Please note: The system will NOT be ready in time for the Fellowship season. For this fall we will still be using paper invites, checks, and the Postal Service.

Evening Referee and Scorekeeping Clinics

We apologize that we cannot offer online clinics this season. However, in addition to the weekend clinics, we are adding evening clinics for new referees and scorekeepers. You cannot do both on the same evening, but you should be able to mix and match the dates on the schedule in order to get your clinic requirements in.

The schedule will be posted on the Officials page of the website within the next couple of weeks.

Please note: There is now a charge of \$5 for each clinics. You will receive your rule book at the scorekeeper clinic, and for those advancing to the referee clinic, at the conclusion you will receive your referee equipment.

Open Gym Nites

There will be at least two CHRVA Open Gym Nites in October. One will be held on Tuesday, October 18 at the Virginia Volleyball Center and the other on Tuesday, October 25 at Maryland Juniors Volleyball Center. We hope to schedule a third one but don't have anything set up as of this publication date.

There will be courts available for both men and women. This is an opportunity for you and your teammates to try out new players, meet new people, and for the new people to meet other volleyball players interested in USAV. There is no cost, but you **MUST** be a CHRVA member in good standing in order to attend. Your 2011 membership doesn't expire until October 31. You can use that to attend if you are not yet sure what you will do for the coming season. If you want to bring someone new to CHRVA (or returning to our region), have those people register online using the either the full membership or the partial Pre-season Adult membership, which is good now through the last Fellowship. Everyone will be asked to bring a copy of the membership "card." That can be printed off of Webpoint. Contact the Registrar at registrar@chrva.org if you aren't sure how to do that.

Team Registration

The team registration form will be slightly different and much easier for you. Instead of emailing it to Barb, you send it to me. I will be creating the team numbers and then forwarding it to Barb with a note to you. Just don't forget to send it to me. No team number will create problems for you when you try to enter tournaments.

Cost Cutting Measures

Some cost cutting measures have been approved by the Board that will hopefully lower the cost of tournaments, or at least offset the pay raise for the uniformed referees (they haven't had one in more than 15 years), online entry system fees, and inflation.

- Five-team pools are no longer required to run two sets (games) to 25 points. The host has the choice of staying with 25, or in order to shorten the day by a couple of hours, have the sets end at 21 points.
- The requirement for providing new balls has been dropped. Hosts may provide used balls in good condition or require the teams to agree on team balls. Any balls used must be USAV-approved, leather (composite leather is actually faux), and in good condition. In situations where the teams cannot agree on a ball for the match, the referee will select the ball. The Region gives the Head Ref the right to reject both balls if they do not fit the criteria.
- Teams who have a certified referee(s) on their roster have the right to choose to provide the up ref for both work assignments. When doing so, they will get a discount on the entry fee. This will be part of the entry process. There will be rules on deadlines for withdrawing or making changes, and refunds when appropriate. This will all be outlined in detail in the users guide.

Clubbing and Borrowing Rules Expanded

A team is no longer limited to the number of borrowed players. You may now borrow an unlimited number of players from other teams in your club as long as those teams are registered at a lower or lateral level (no borrowing from upper level teams).

When an Adult team is reduced to five or six players and is not able to borrow from within its club or is not a member of a club, that team may borrow one or two players only from the same level or lower team(s) and only if those players will be the sixth and/or seventh players for that day. These players MUST be CHRVA members in good standing and they must wear the team jersey.

Teams borrowing players from outside of their club may only earn points toward the Regional Championships if a minimum of five (5) players from the team's roster are playing.

"Adult Split" On Again for 2012 Season

Since the number of teams in some divisions have become increasingly unequal, the Adult Tournament Committee (myself and the division coordinators) decided that we needed to implement the "split" this season. All tournaments from the first weekend through January 23 will be: WAA/A; WBB/B; MG/S; or MS/B. The teams will be evaluated during that week and then notified which division they have become for the rest of the season.

More information on all of these changes will be available on the website and/or in the users guide within the next few weeks. Please stay tuned. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or your division coordinators.

We all hope that these changes bring you many enjoyable playing opportunities. Have fun!

Julie