



From The Ladder

A new season is beginning, so as usual there are a bunch of things to talk about and go over.

First, some announcements. Congratulations to Les Deason, the newest National Official in the Chesapeake Region. Well done! Also, Rebecca Johannes has been appointed as the Assistant Referee Chair. She will help us get everything done.

Next is a review of what everyone needs to do to maintain their referee and scorekeeper certifications. If you have ANY question about what your current certifications are, you can refer to the information in the database at <http://webpoint.usavolleyball.org>. Current and past certifications are listed in your information. Remember: You cannot be a referee if you are not a scorekeeper.

SCOREKEEPING FOR REFEREES

Adults:

Adult Provisional Scorekeepers must take the scorekeeper test **THIS** year. Once you pass, you become a Regional scorekeeper. From then on you must take the test every other year. Only **NEW** adult scorekeepers must attend a clinic and get two passing evaluations at a fellowship. If your certification has lapsed, you must start the certification process over.

Juniors:

New junior scorekeepers must attend a clinic and get two passing evaluations. Returning junior scorekeepers need only get two passing evaluations before the deadline. Look at your Webpoint information to determine your status.

Everyone:

PLEASE do not wait until February to discover that you can't be made a referee because your scorekeeping certification has lapsed. The scorekeeper test will be available on the Scorekeeper section of the Officials page of the CHRVA website.

REFEREES

Online Test:

ALL referees must take the online referee test **every year**. Please note that any reference you see about a time limit in taking any test applies only to National and Junior National referees. Adult referees must take the test (FORM A) by December 31, with corrections by January 15. This deadline applies to Junior National and National referees as well (this is earlier than the deadline established by the National Office). Junior referees must take the test (FORM C) by January 15 with corrections by January 31. Instructions and the password to take the test will be posted on the Referee section of the Officials page of the CHRVA website.

CLINICS AND RATINGS

New Referee Candidates:

New adult and junior referees must attend a clinic and get TWO passing evaluations at a Fellowship or training tournament.

Adults:

For Provisional and above referees, once certified, clinic attendance is required every other year and watching the online clinic in the off year. Adult Player referees must watch the online clinic every other year and pass one evaluation during the regular season every other year.

Juniors:

Returning junior referees need ONE passing evaluation to maintain their certification. Level II junior referees need a passing ONE evaluation in both the R1 and R2 positions.

Determine your status by consulting your Webpoint record.

Junior Rating Events:

As more clubs are eager to host junior Fellowships, it is imperative that they contact the Referee Chair and or Assistant to pre-approve the officials and the process being used at their Fellowship.

RULE CHANGES

Now for the rule changes! There are some editorial changes and two changes that will affect how we play the game. You can see the new rule book now by going to

<http://usavolleyball.org/resources/officials-rules/domestic-competition-regulations>. Rule books will be available to referees and scorekeepers during the season and at clinics and Fellowships.

Jewelry:

Let me start by saying there is NO CHANGE to the jewelry rule for junior competition. Juniors are still not allowed to wear any jewelry. Jewelry covered by tape is not now, nor has it ever been allowed for anyone. Stating that a piercing is new will not get a player onto the court.

For **ADULT** play, the rule is now essentially the FIVB rule:

It is forbidden to wear hats or casts (even if padded). Braces, jewelry, prosthetic limbs or other headgear that may cause an injury or give an artificial advantage to the player must not be worn. If a brace, prosthetic limb, or headgear is used, padding, or covering may be necessary.

This change presents some interesting challenges for referees. What jewelry might cause injury? Certainly a diamond ring. The surgically implanted studs that became an issue last season are LEGAL now. What about large hoop earrings? The rule is written so that an injury to the person wearing the jewelry is included in the prohibition. Err on the side of caution. If a piece of jewelry MIGHT cause injury, require that it be removed. Don't allow play if it is not safe. Send me pictures if you are not sure and a ruling will be rendered as quickly as possible.

Libero:

Designation of liberos are now for the match, and may designate TWO of them. Only one libero may be on the court at a time and there must be a completed rally between replacements. Replacements can be completed between player and libero, libero and player, and libero for libero. Libero uniforms do

NOT have to match each other. BOTH liberos must wear a uniform that contrasts with the rest of the team.

NEWS FOR THE UNIFORMED (PAID) OFFICIALS

Arbiter:

This season, we have replaced the NOVA assigning system with Arbiter. This software will do a lot of things better for us including making it easier for us to send email reminders about assignments, find contact information for partners, and the ability to maintain an availability calendar. With the migration we would like to have everyone register as soon as possible since that roster will be the first individuals entered into Arbiter. We are also exploring how we might use Arbiter to facilitate direct deposit or Referee payment.

Referee Pay Raise:

The pay for all matches has been raised across the board by \$2.50.

National and Junior National Refs:

For our National and Junior National referees, please remember that you have a 30 hour service requirement to the region. That service can be in the form of working at Fellowships and/or teaching a clinic. There are a lot of opportunities to help build camaraderie and great officials.

REFEREE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (RDP)

Carla Bunner and Steve Burinsky will again be coordinating our Referee Development Program (RDP). The program works to improve the skills our Region's referees. If you are interested, let us know. Carla and Steve can be reached at rdp.coord@CHRVA.org.

Last season, the RDP provided opportunities for you to observe and hear commentary on the performance of referees during NCAA Division I college volleyball matches. We plan to do that again this season. If you are interested, let us know.

If you are a Regional Referee interested in obtaining a Junior National Referee rating next summer, it is imperative that you contact Carla and Steve immediately! If you have plans for a later season, now is a good time to let them know, as well.

If you are a Provisional Referee interested in obtaining a Regional Referee rating this season, please see the section on "To become certified as a Regional Referee" at <http://www.chrva.org/page/show/111342-requirements-responsibilities-and-privileges>. Also, be sure to attend an Adult Referee Clinic. The clinic schedule will be posted on the website. Upgrades are conducted in the February or March time frame, but you'll need time to prepare during the season beginning in December. Contact Carla and Steve for additional information.

Now, let's go have some fun out there!