



## ***IS THERE A VOLLEYBALL LIFE AFTER 50?***

***Denny "The Grouch" Moore***

***Absolutely!!!!***

Right now the only USAV sanctioned tournaments are put on by the Adult group within the Chesapeake Regional Volleyball Association, CHRVA. These tournaments are divided by skill level rather than by age. In a recent survey done by CHRVA on how to improve the volleyball play in the area, one of the statistical criteria was the age of the responder. In the four brackets between 24 and 54 years, there was an even breakdown of the groups at 23% each, with the 55+ group at 7+%, clearly a drop off of the "older" participants. What is needed is an organized continuum of age specific tournaments in CHRVA area. They would be a lot less expensive than the tournaments that you are used to. Going to the extreme, no certified officials, the entrance fees could be in the \$100 range. With that being said, one could ask the question, "Where are the other older players in this area?"

As of mid 2011 there were 185 players registered in the over 50 age bracket in this area. Many of these players are involved in "pickup" ball in areas such as Annapolis, Elkridge, Catonsville, Rockville, Silver Spring, Parkville, and Potomac. They form teams to compete at the National USAV, Senior Olympics, and Huntsman's Games, all national venues. Even without a local venue to play regularly as a team, there have been many successes of the teams thus formed, e.g. Zilla, Harrisburg Divers, Frederick, and MAC. At the National Senior Olympics in Houston this year MAC had enough good players in the 70+ bracket to send two teams, wherein they ended up playing each other for the Gold and Silver medals. There are definitely enough players in the area. They just need a good organized venue to flourish.

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