



Digs – Winter 2016

Commissioner's Corner

Lisa DiGiacinto, Commissioner

We are all on our way to a successful indoor season.

Online clinics for referees and scorers are ready for everyone to watch. Remember, if you are going to be a scorer or referee for your team, you need to also complete the \$10 transaction for your evaluations to complete your certification. This fee covers the cost of our staff evaluating you in-person for your certification. All the clinics are free to watch and even if you aren't preparing to be a referee or scorer this season the clinics are a great resource for new rules and procedures this season.

Yes, it feels like we just started, but adult teams should start making their plans for the 2016 Adult Open Championships. Adult teams traveling to Orlando, FL for the 2016 USAV Open National Championships need to look for more information in early January. Adult Teams will need to register on the www.advancedeventsystems.com webpage and send me a copy of the official registration form. The official form and fee is sent directly to the USAV office. Adult teams that do not forward me a copy of the official registration form will not be considered for region reimbursement. For adult teams, you must play in our region tournaments in order to receive reimbursement. See the Adult webpages for more info. Remember, your team code in AES needs to match your team code in Webpoint. Senior/Master teams must also send me a copy of the form you mail directly to USAV in order to be considered for reimbursement from the region.

Juniors teams seeking to go to the 2016 USAV National Championships must adhere to the procedures listed on the Juniors webpages for CHRVA Regional Championships and USAV National Championships. Registration for USAV Junior Nationals will be available for registration in January.

This season begins the adherence of the rules for uniform shirts for everyone. If your team is utilizing the libero position, then it is very important to purchase uniforms that conform to the new rules. If you are unclear with the uniform rule, take some time to watch the referee clinic on uniforms.

Yes, the weather has turned colder, but our Juniors' staff is beginning to plan next spring and summer outdoor opportunities so keep checking our website for more info.

Good luck to all of our teams this season and may your vertical jump improve two inches higher and your focus stays on the ball.



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Adult Program So Far This Season

Julie Briggs, Adult Program Director

Happy New Year!

I am disappointed in the number of teams that have registered so far this season. We usually have quite a few more teams by now. I have spoken to several team reps who plan to get registered soon, so perhaps with the later start of the season, the teams are running behind as well.

If you are still looking for players or are a player looking for a team, visit the new [CHRVA Facebook group](#) where you can view posts from players and teams or post your own information.

Take a look at the schedule for your division. You might notice a change from prior years. For those who have never hosted a tournament, there is something called “historic weekends.” That rule meant that if a host held a tournament on a certain weekend, they got first dibs on that weekend in the future. It was a great idea 20 years ago when there were multiple tournaments on each weekend. Over time as teams and hosts have retired and new ones came on board, the schedule started to be unworkable. In some divisions, there were tournaments every weekend for three or four weekends in a row, followed by several weekends with no tournaments. All the hosts agreed that it really made no sense. As long as they got the same number of tournaments, it made sense to create a more balanced schedule. Hopefully this will make for a better playing experience for all of you.

Some other things to mark on your calendars:

- Adult Regional Championships for 2016 will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2016 at Maryland Juniors Sports Center in Jessup, MD. All divisions for both men and women will play that day.
- The USA Volleyball 2016 Adult Open National Championships will be held in Orlando, FL. The schedule has been posted on the USA Volleyball website. Hotel information will open in mid-January.

The 2016 Season Handbook is posted. Pages two and three give you quick summaries of policy and program changes and refers you the exact rule number so you can get all the details. What affects the adults directly is also posted on the adult page of the website.

If you are interested in hosting a tournament, we are still looking for hosts for the three “Just4Fun” tourneys during the regular season and post-season tournaments. [Please contact](#)

[me](#). The details for both are:

“Just4Fun” and Post Season Tournaments

We all like official tournament play that comes when playing USAV-sanctioned volleyball, but we also like to play just for the fun of it. CHRVA has put together a “Just4Fun” program. This is open to Adults and Juniors (Juniors must follow all rules associated with playing on a Junior team). We plan to sprinkle two or three into the regular season schedule. The host will choose the format, apply for a sanction, and then collect the money and set the pools through SportsCommander. Here is what will make it fun:

- You will not be required to use a Webpoint roster. You can play with any number of other players from other teams including outside your club or even outside the Region. The only roster requirement is that ALL players must be USAV members in good standing and be able to show membership at check in.
- No certified refs or scorers will be required. All matches, including playoffs, will be self-officiated
- No uniform requirements, but any rules in regards to hats, casts, or wearing anything that could injure the player or another will not be allowed. (Safety first!)
- Mixed levels of play are allowed
- Formats could include:
 - Regular men’s and women’s sixes
 - Co-ed sixes
 - Reverse co-ed sixes
 - Fours of any variety

Have a happy, injury-free, and winning 2016 playing season, but most of all, HAVE FUN!

Adult Program Staff

WAA/A Coordinator	Joan Ryan	joan.ryan@chrva.org
WBB/B Coordinator	Karen Love	karen.love@chrva.org
Men’s Coordinator	Julie Briggs	julie.briggs@chrva.org
Director	Julie Briggs	julie.briggs@chrva.org
SportsCommander	Support	support@sportscommander.com

Any one of us are happy to answer any questions or help you out.



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Juniors Update

Dado Singer, Director, Junior Programs

The Juniors Programs continue to grow throughout the Chesapeake Region. More than 6000 Junior players have registered to play in the 2015-2016 season and we have close to 100 clubs fielding teams. There will be about 300 tournaments including our Regional Championships this year.

The Boys' Regional Championships will be held on March 6. USAV Boys' Junior National Championships will be in Dallas, TX, between June 28 and July 6.

Girls' 18s Regional Championships will be held on March 13. This is earlier than other girls' age groups due to the fact that Open, National, and USA Divisions of the 18s Girls' Junior National Championships will be earlier than the other age groups and the American Division of Girls' 18s. Those National Championships will be held from April 29-May 1 in Milwaukee, WI.

The Girls' Regional Championships will be held in several local venues on the weekends April 9-10 and April 23-24 at Discovery Sports Center in Boyds, MD; Maryland Juniors Sports Center in Jessup, MD; and Virginia Volleyball Center in Sterling, VA. Open level championships are returning to a single-day format in response to feedback from our member clubs. USAV Girls' Junior National Championships will be held in Indianapolis, IN, from June 24-July 3.

Don't let the cold weather and short days get you down. Think Beach! Outdoor High Performance tryouts will be May 15. CHRVA will host two Junior Beach Tour stops this year. Join us in Ocean City, MD the weekends of June 4-5 and June 18-19.

**Clarification: Boys' regionals will be held at VVC, Girls will be at MD Juniors, Discovery and CCBC in Catonsville, MD. Email dado.singer@chrva.org if you need additional information.*



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Call for Board of Directors Nominations for the 2016 Election

Ryan Hollm, Nomination and Elections Chairman

Help shape the direction of CHRVA!

The CHRVA Nominations Committee is seeking nominations for members interested in serving on the CHRVA Board of Directors from May 2016 to May 2018. Members of the CHRVA Board of Directors are stewards of the Region and responsible for reflecting and championing the views and interests of all of our members. The Board is responsible for the fiscal health of the organization and provides leadership toward a common mission and vision.

Now is your opportunity to help choose the future leaders within CHRVA. Our Region deserves the best leaders and we need your input to make that happen!

The deadline to nominate yourself or someone else is February 29, 2016. [Please send all nominations to me.](#)

Nominees must be CHRVA members in good standing. Each nominee must provide a bio including volleyball background; regional activities as a player, coach, official, staff, or other capacity; and a brief description about how he or she would use his or her skills to help the Board of Directors and the Region.

Seven individuals will be elected by CHRVA members during the April 2016 election.

Thank you for taking an active role in the nomination process. We hope you will use this opportunity to make your voice heard.



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Pan American Deaf Volleyball Regional Qualifiers Coming to Washington, DC

Hundreds of elite deaf volleyball players will come to Washington, DC July 1-16, 2016 for two international competitions. USA Deaf Volleyball, in conjunction with USA Volleyball, the Chesapeake Region Volleyball Association, and Gallaudet University, will host the Pan American Deaf Volleyball Regional Qualifiers for North, Central, and South American teams from July 1-4, 2016, followed by the World Deaf Volleyball Championships from July 5-16, 2016.

These two international events will take place on the Northeast Washington campus of [Gallaudet University](#), the world's only liberal arts university for students who are deaf and hard of hearing. The competition venue will be the University's Field House, and athletes and staff will be housed in residence halls.

Both men's and women's teams will participate in these events, which are considered tune-ups for the Deaflympics, scheduled for July 2017 in Samsun, Turkey. Registration is currently underway; as of November 2015, Turkey, Iran, Kenya, Mali, Ukraine, and the United States have committed to the World Championships.

Patrick O'Brien of Bowie, MD is chair for both competitions, and also will serve as technical director for the Pan Am Volleyball Qualifiers. Catherine Schelvis from the Netherlands is technical director for the World Deaf Volleyball Championships. Schelvis conducted a site visit and inspection in September. O'Brien has assembled an organizing committee, which has met twice this fall. The events will have a robust social media presence, and key matches will be live-streamed.

O'Brien welcomes potential sponsors and volunteers. He can be contacted at pobrien@usdeafsports.org or 240-206-6134. [Visit the website today!](#)



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Sitting Volleyball Update

Dixie Collins, Former US Men's Sitting Team Coach

Five of CHRVA's referees were rewarded by officiating at the annual Wounded Warrior Games – Sitting Volleyball Tournament held at the Pentagon November 19, 2015. Chris Cant, Ed Tucholski, Rebecca Johannes, George Hayn, and Elliot Blake, USAV Sitting Volleyball Coordinator, and I represented CHRVA during these games.

USA Volleyball's John Kessel came in from Colorado to be the play-by-play color analyst.

Sitting volleyball is played sitting on the floor with a lower net and smaller court. Two additions to the rules of volleyball are that teams are allowed to block or attack a served ball and the player playing the ball must have some part of their buttocks in contact with the floor.



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American University and Howard University Represent at NCAA Division I Tournament

Two Division I volleyball university programs located in the Chesapeake Region earned at-large bids to the 2015 Division I NCAA Tournament this season.

The American University (AU) volleyball team swept No. 22 Kentucky (26-24, 25-17, 25-21) in first round action at Ohio State on December 4. The Eagles controlled the match the entire way, upsetting the SEC powerhouse Wildcats. AU eventually fell to Ohio State in the second round ending their season with a 17th place tie in the NCAA tournament.

American volleyball earned its way into the NCAA tournament with their 13th Patriot League Championship title in 15 years and a perfect 18-0 Patriot League record. 2015 proved historic as the team swept every major award including Coach of the Year, Player of the Year, Freshman of the Year, Setter of the Year, and Libero of the Year. The Eagles end their season with a 28-7 record.

The Howard University women's team received their first ever bid to the NCAA tournament with a 3-0 sweep of Bethune-Cookman in the MEAC Championships. The Bisons' season came to an end with a 3-0 loss to Penn State in the NCAA Tournament first round match. Howard ended their season with an 18-14 record.

Congratulations to American Coach Barry Goldberg (Patriot League Coach of the Year) and Howard Coach Shaun Kupferberg (Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Coach of the Year) on your outstanding seasons!





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Players Recognized by MIAA for Outstanding Performance

Congratulations to the following Time Out VBC club members recognized by the MIAA for their outstanding performance in the 2015 volleyball season.

- Nathan Bosse (outside hitter - Calvert Hall)
- Zack Eckel (setter - Archbishop Spalding)
- Alex Harmon (middle - Loyola Blakefield)
- Jacob Rombach (libero - Archbishop Spalding)
- Joey Staab (outside hitter -Loyola Blakefield)

These players led their respective schools in successful seasons and represent one-third of the players selected by the MIAA as All Conference selections. These players will be leading the Time Out Boys 18s team in the upcoming 2016 USA Volleyball season.