



## **From the Ladder**

*Bryan Strong, Referee Chair*

College and high school seasons are starting so it must be time to start thinking about the USAV season again. As usual there some things we all need to know and be reminded about.

First, congratulations to Rebecca Ruiz Johannes as the newest National Official in the Chesapeake Region. Well done!

## **Rulebooks and Region Specific Rules**

We have a new Domestic Competition Regulations (DCR) book this year and it will be good for the next two years. [You can download it for free.](#) There are some rule changes but nothing significant. Some of you may have heard about Rule 9.2.4 which concerns serving and double contacts with finger action. That change will **NOT** be made for the coming season. Most of the other rule changes involve inserting the Libero Serve language that was not there before.

We do have some Region specific rules modifications:

- **Adult competition:**
  - Shorts, spandex, and sweat pants are not part of the uniform and therefore do not need to match.
  - Visible undershirts and sports bras are not part of the uniform and do not have to match from player to player.
  - Jewelry is allowed as specified in the rule book. All referees should be aware of jewelry that might be a hazard to the player, teammates or opponents and take action if something might cause a hazard.
- **Juniors competition:**
  - A 6-foot step-in line will be allowed for 12 and under competition. The line is used only for serve and ignored for the rest of the rally.
  - During work assignments, a **rostered adult** must be at the scorer's table. This person is there to help, assist, and protect the work team and that cannot be done from a lawn chair somewhere on the sidelines.
  - The rule for jewelry in Regional junior competition is as written in the DCR. No tape covering new piercings. No excuses about being unable to remove something.

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## Libero Uniforms

One other note about libero uniforms: Please remember to make checking the libero uniform one of the things you do before every match, both the number and the color. I saw a Juniors team at a Regional event last season wearing black uniforms and the libero in dark purple. Not legal! What did the team say? "We've been wearing these uniforms all season!" The requirement is contrasting colors: Light and dark. There should be no questions or excuses whatsoever. Put the libero in International Orange! You want the libero to pass the ball anyway, right?

## Maintaining Your Certification

**ALL** referee certifications **expire on October 31** every year.

Maintaining everyone's certification records seems to be where I spend most of my time so I'm going to start with that. [Please look at your WebPoint record](#) to review your status as referee, scorer, and your background clearance (the background clearance is required only if you will be refereeing Junior matches and tournaments). If you have any questions about what your current certifications are, please look in Webpoint first. Current and past certifications are listed in your information.

Remember: You cannot be a referee if you are not also a scorekeeper. [Be sure to read the article from Dixie Collins.](#) The scoresheet is being changed again this year. **All referees and scorers will be required to watch the scoring clinic again.** If this is your year to take your scoring test, don't forget! Having a lapsed scorer certification is the number one reason referees don't have their referee certifications renewed.

Regional, Junior National, and National Referees and National Scorers are required to give back to the program by spending at least one full day or two half days rating referee candidates at the Fellowships in November and early December. [Contact me immediately with your availability.](#) You are also required to work Regional Championships. They will be held April 5-6, April 12-13, and April 26-27. [Contact Tracy Shadle,](#) assistant referee assignor, with your preferred dates.

I had a terrible time last year keeping up with all the updates to records and I'm hoping that the changes that have been made will help with that. We will be using the Learning Management System (LMS) but you will access it directly from WebPoint. (No separate login like last year.) We should not have to watch the same clinics more than once. For me, the completion and scores of each clinic and test will be displayed in WebPoint automatically so I won't have to consult three different databases five times to determine the status of each of the 1000 plus referees we have in the Region. [Please contact me](#) if you think your certifications are in error.

[See the Referee Requirements page on our website](#) for all the requirements to maintain your certifications.

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## Getting Certified

[See the Referee Requirements page on our website](#) for all the requirements to become a new referee and/or scorer.

Please remember that ALL referees must take the online referee test every year.

- Time limits about taking any test apply only to National and Junior National referees.
- Adult Player Referees must take the test (FORM A) by December 15 with corrections by January 15.
- The above deadlines apply 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 on how to access the LMS and what to take will be posted [on the Referee page of our website](#) when they become available.
- Take the Scorer's clinic. Read the article by Dixie Collins for more information

## 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 online.](#) Rule books will be available to referees and scorekeepers during the season and at clinics and Fellowships.

## Referee Development Program

The Referee Development Program (RDP) will continue to be run by Carla Bunner and Steve Burinsky. The program works to improve the skills our Region's referees. If you are interested, [contact Carla and Steve.](#)

The RDP also provides 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.](#)

## Upgrading Your Referee or Scorer Status

[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."](#) Also, be sure to attend an Adult Referee Clinic. 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.](#)

[Contact Dixie Collins](#) if you are interested in upgrading your scoring status to National.

See you on the court!