

**General Board Meeting
Gateway Region USA Volleyball
DATE: August 2, 2019
Minutes**

Called to order: 6:45 pm

Attendance: Mueth, Ryan, Weber, Clauss, Palmer, Stratman, Scanio, Werner, Cusumano, Kalisiak, Price, Witherspoon, Flanigan, Morecraft, Shea, Shyu, Winters.

Additions to Agenda:

Motion to amend the agenda **Ryan/Palmer MCU**

Tribute to Donna: Motion to rename the Girls Bid Tournament in honor of Donna Mayer.

Clauss/Palmer MCU

Motion to approve that the Gateway Region will amend their tie break procedures to eliminate head to head point ratio between 3 tied teams as a criteria. **Palmer/Clauss MCU**

Motion to allow individual ages divisions for boys as long as there are a minimum of 4 teams in one division. **Ryan/Kalisiak MCU**

Presentation of Robert Lindsay Meritorious Service Awards

-Charlie Bowden

-Jennifer Holliday

-Tom McFadden

Approval of minutes – May 3, 2019

Ryan/Scanio MCU

BOARD REPORTS:

Commissioner – Mueth: We had a club director forum and a lot of clubs brought several representatives, but the meeting was not well-attended by all of the Club Directors. There is a USAV proposal to get rid of tie-breaks at Nationals, even for 4-team pools. Nobody at the club directors meeting was in favor of this proposal. For 2021, there are proposals for changing the structure to Girls Junior Nationals and Qualifiers. American and National bids would be given only at the Regional level. They are adding a bid division called “Liberty” which will be earned only at qualifiers. In 2020, Adult Nationals are in Minneapolis, Boys Nationals and Girls 18s Nationals are in Reno. Girls 11-17U Nationals will be in Dallas. USAV is also looking at dividing up divisions among 2 cities in order to provide more hotels for each event. Things are progressing with the PowerPLEX. We are planning to move our office into the new space in September. The developers project that the courts will be available March 1st but we will need to meet with them to see if that is a realistic date or if we need to book other facilities. We are moving forward with the AVCA partnership to provide more educational opportunities for coaches and athletes. Content will be available on the Education page of the website. There will be a discount option for clubs in the 2020-2021 season. We received a grant from USAV for a national player appearance. We sent in a request for Murphy Troy or Michelle Bartsch-Hackley to come to a Gateway Region event in the spring.

Associate Commissioner – Ryan: Investigated different methods for electronic reporting of tournament results. Did not find an easy way to do this on SportsEngine. Has gotten most of the equipment needed to broadcast the board meetings. Matt hopes to have the broadcasting option available for the December meeting.

Treasurer - Weber: Once we make our office move, we will work on finding a new bank where we can invest Region finances.

Secretary – Pieschel: Gathering information on hosting a USAV High Performance team next summer. HPCs are in Pittsburgh next year. Entry fee is \$1250 for players. He has gotten confirmation from Lindenwood that they will be able to use their facilities for practice and tryouts.

Jr. Coordinator – Clauss: Had a gentleman sanctioned at the Girls National Championships for verbal behavior toward a referee. He has accepted his probation and will have to retake SafeSport.

Scorer Chair – Palmer: none.

Referee Chair – Werner: Chris Kays was certified as a Junior National Referee. Jen Morecraft was certified as a Zonal Beach Referee and Dave Mahadev was certified as a Local Beach Referee.

Women’s Coordinator – Scanio: Working on sponsorships for the Adult Beach Championships

Men’s Coordinator – Stratman: working on cost of advertisement for the camps and clinics page.

Staff Reports –

Morecraft: Beach events went well, had the third largest BNQ in the nation, did not send as many kids to nationals this year due to new trickle down rule and location, working on Mock Tryout, need volunteers for October 19th.

Shyu: All events were a little better attended than last year. We had a record number of teams attend nationals at 37 total. We had more boys participate in all events. The only event that dipped in numbers was 10U Regionals. Overall membership is down. This is the first year in 25 years that we lost memberships compared to the prior season. We lost about 306 members. Prepping for the season by editing handbooks.

Winters: We did not make as much money for Spikin’ It this year as last year. We may have actually lost a little bit of money. We made more money for the beach events this year versus last year because we sold merchandise and also had an extra event.

Shea: Finished up tournament sanctioning and refunds. We will keep the same process this year for tournament sanctioning. Tournament sanctioning for 2020 will start Monday.

Education Coordinator – Boyle: None.

Beach Coordinator – Rodgers: Absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Beach Events. Motion: Begin using BracketPal for Regional Qualifying Beach Events (This will require an increased registration fee of \$20/team). The executive board has already approved to implement Bracket Pal for the Beach Regional Championships next year.
2. Spikin’ It: Feedback in St. Charles was very positive, the event grew in registrations, did not make as much money this year due to lack of sponsorships.
3. POWERPlex: We are planning to move our office into the PowerPLEX in September. The developers project that the courts will be ready March 1st.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Election Results: Keith Price, Abby Hanger, and Rebecca Witherspoon were elected for a 3-year term. About 220 ballots were submitted. We had to extend the nomination period because we did not have enough candidates. We could look at using SportsEngine or another user friendly system to vote. John Rodgers accepted the Beach Coordinator position.
2. Mock Tryouts: A mock tryout will be held Saturday, October 19th from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm at Kirkwood Community Center. We will need volunteers.
3. Club Information Nights: There will be 2 club information nights. There will be one before the boys tryouts, and one a few weeks before girls tryouts. One will be held in South County and one will be held in West County.
4. Adult Beach Championships: Working on sponsorships and advertising.
5. 2019 Meeting Dates: Meeting dates will remain the first Friday of December, March, May and August.
6. SportsEngine: discussed in Board/Staff Reports
7. Waivers G/S Regionals: Club Directors unanimously wanted to allow waived teams into G/S division of Regionals. The motion brought forward from the Executive Board is “To allow waived teams to participate in Gold/Silver Regionals if all other entry requirements are met.”

MCU

8. Gateway League counting as 2 events. The handbook states that if a league guarantees that you will play 12 sets in your own age group, the league would count as 2 events. Motion for a friendly amendment to allow any league that provides 12 sets in their own age group to count as 2 events. **Ryan/Palmer MCU**
9. Tryout season: Motion to not allow a policy that offers kids without participating in a tryout. Motion carried forward to the December meeting to create a proposal to move high school tryouts to July the week before high school dead period for the 2020-2021 season. Chris Clauss opposes.
10. Event Date Review
 - Boys HS Regionals: January 5th
 - Boys Bid Event: February 8-10
 - Girls 18s Bid: February 9
 - 10s Regionals March 21
 - Boys Regionals April 4 and 5
 - MS Girls April 4 and 5
 - HS Girls Regionals April 18 and 19
 - Girls Bid Event May 2 and 3

Meeting Dates:

December 6, 2019
March 6, 2020
May 1, 2020
August 7, 2020