

General Board Meeting
Gateway Region USA Volleyball
Date: March 7th, 2025

Additions to Agenda: Note that ‘tryout processes’ has been added to ‘New Business’. No other additions to the agenda were requested. Palmer makes motion to approve addition and finalize agenda. Wood seconds. Approved without opposition.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve December 6th, 2024 minutes by Palmer. B. Wood seconds. Approved without opposition. Meeting started at 7:00pm.

Board Reports

Commissioner – Mueth: Has had a couple of meetings with John Speraw focusing on the growth of boys' volleyball that seemed promising with his vision and current progress. Also, talks are in the early stages concerning grass initiatives for adult play. No details are ready to report on that topic at this time.

Associate Commissioner – Palmer: Nothing to report

Treasurer – Weber: (Clauss Proxy) Nothing to report

Secretary – H. Winters: (B. Winters Proxy) Nothing to report

Jr. Coordinator – Clauss: Nothing to report

Scorer Chair – B. Winters: Nothing to report

Referee Chair – Kirk: (Clauss Proxy) No rule changes mid-season concerning double, overhead contacts despite rumors flying around social medial. An email was sent out to all regional representatives to confirm that it was false information. 32 candidates for National were accepted out of 53 applicants. Jr National applications are due April 1st and the region has signed off on Jennifer Kellner and Emmory Appleberry with one more anticipated.

Men's Player Representative – Stratman: Nothing to report

Women's Player Representative – Wood: Open adult level now being offered at tournaments and we do have a team from our region planning to compete in that division. 6-7 teams from region going to Nationals.

Beach Coordinator – Rodgers: Covering in ‘Beach Events’ in ‘New Business’ by J. Mattingly

Jr. Boys Consultant – Halaz: Nothing to report

Staff Reports

Shyu: (K. Mattingly Proxy) Event reports will be covered in Old and New Business. He is currently securing locations for our grass tournaments

K. Mattingly: Registration still growing at 11,900. This is a 7.5% growth rate. Clubs are getting their responsibilities done earlier. Thank you.

J. Mattingly: Nothing to report

Huskey: Ranking system is failing because that software is becoming obsolete in 2025. Been in talks with the originator of our software and he is working on transferring our ranking algorithm to new software to build a new system for the region. This has and will continue to delay posting of the rankings on our website but, rest assured, it's top priority and will be posted just as soon as possible.

Old Business

Blocktoberfest -- Tabled

Lafata -- 299 teams. Still largest boys qualifier by 75 teams. 22 teams accepted bids to Nationals. No problems encountered at the event. Thank you to all who volunteered to help.

VLA -- VLA's event within Lafata went well. The teams that participated were happy. Tommy didn't have any notes for us on the Stallions behalf. Changes/improvements will be made for the future but, overall, it was successful event; for them and for those spectating. Meeting attendees agreed.

Gateway League/Bid Weekend -- Numbers up slightly from 203 to 209. 43 new teams only played the first 2 weekends. 41 new played in the final bid weekend held within Lafata at the convention center--taking that weekend's numbers from 199 to 207. The two match minimum for bid weekend was well received. All in all Gateway League was successful

Gateway Scholarships -- Applications are starting to roll in. We have only 3 now but the numbers always jump closer to the deadline. Emails have been sent to members with information on how to apply and we will continue to advertise on social media.

New Business

Regional Rankings -- See staff report from Huskey

10s Regionals/Boys Regionals -- 10s stayed the same in numbers and positive feedback was given from coaches. Boys' regionals numbers were up all spoke well of the event.

Girls Regionals -- All planning is moving along. Registration has not closed yet so numbers should be comparable or exceed 2024

Girls Bid -- 6 more teams, currently, than last year with a month left to register.

Beach Events -- BNQ is set for Memorial weekend and BRQ is set as well. There is a new 6 court, AVP facility being built in Edwardsville, IL that J. Mattingly checking out with Rodgers as a possible hosting site in the future.

May Executive Board Elections -- This year Clauss, B. Winters, and Weber are up for re-election in May. Palmer will be contacting each of them concerning their intentions to run again or not. If anyone else is interested in running contact Palmer.

Boys on Girls Teams Waivers -- Mueth was contacted by a concerned parent/coach after a game where boy served 9 points in a row against an all girls team in the third set. There are 6 waived teams for the 2024-25 season and 5 are in rural areas that do not have many opportunities. The team in question was the 6th team is a metropolitan team. After reviewing our currently policy that allows waived teams up to the 14U division, it was agreed that the cutoff should be moved down to 12U. Reasons included the change in balls used and net

height as well as the fact that there are more opportunities now for boys than there were just a few years ago. However, Mueth is open to evaluating players on an individual basis over the age of 12 to make a determination if they are a threat. In addition, it was suggested, if we are going to cut off waivers at 12u we also need consider not allowing boys teams to compete against girls' teams for the same reason. After discussion, it was agreed that our waiver policy should be adjusted to reflect the sport and opportunities today. Therefore, a motion will be presented for a vote in the May meeting.

Tryouts Process – Clauss has received concerns from parents that feel the process of deciding where to go and how to prepare and making a team in one weekend is too stressful for the younger age groups. So, the question was asked, is there a better process we could adopt to help reduce these stressors. After discussion we could not come up with anything new that we're not already doing to help parents and players prepare.

Motion to end meeting by Palmer. Woods seconds. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:39pm

Upcoming meeting date: May 2nd, 2025