

General Board Meeting

Gateway Region USA Volleyball

DATE: December 6th, 2024

Additions to Agenda: Motion to approve agenda by Palmer. Clauss seconds. Approved without opposition.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve August 4th, 2024 Minutes by Palmer. Clauss seconds. Approved without opposition. Meeting started at 7:08pm.

Board Reports

Commissioner – Mueth: Donation sent to Carolina Region for storm recovery support. A thank you letter was received. Nothing further to report outside of agenda.

Associate Commissioner – Palmer: Nothing to report

Treasurer – Weber: Nothing to report

Secretary – H. Winters: Nothing to report

Jr. Coordinator – Clauss: The region needs to be notified by coaches to become aware of players that are rostering at different clubs than the club that they initially signed with so that action could be taken with such documentation. Be aware that this is happening and conduct your tryouts and conversations in a way that appropriately extends offers to non-contracted players. Also, when players do not fulfill financial dues to clubs be advised that this is not a regional level issue; it is a club level issue. Suggestions to minimize or rectify this problem are to (A.) collect money up front whenever possible. (B.) Utilize contracts that clearly state a payment plan agreement and notes that failure to comply will result in loss of play. (C.) Take the issue to claims court.

Scorer Chair – B. Winters: Nothing to report

Referee Chair – Kirk: Nothing to report

Men's Player Representative – Stratman: Nothing to report

Women's Player Representative – Wood: Nothing to report

Staff Reports

Shyu: Gyms have been secured for the remainder of the season. Worked with MOVA to setup tournaments within AES and train on how to run through the scheduler software/server.

K. Mattingly: Memberships exceeding LY numbers by 300

J. Mattingly: Account balances are reflecting the growth in 2024-25 membership and event registrations.

Huskey: Referee interest is high. Applications for the mentor program are steadily rolling in since opening registration. Mentors are also showing interest in transitioning into officiating seeing that the minimum age to referee for USA is 16.

Meritorious Service Awards: Shelby Hartley presented award by J. Mattingly. Other recipients include Lauren Martin, Melissa Massey, and Keith Price. They have or will be picking up their awards in office soon.

Old Business

GS Tryouts: Region staff made several preparational social media posts leading up to tryouts per requests at the prior meeting. Staff chose the content of the educational posts. The information seemed well received considering the post interactions and shares. Thanks were given by those in attendance.

Try Volleyball: 68 participants. We received lots of positive feedback both from players and parents. Note, that a club can host this event as well and the region can help with questions. USA hoping to double numbers in its second year.

NTDP Accelerator: This is a USA ran event—not Gateway. We decided to facilitate this event so that we can help players get exposure that are getting missed. Nominations came from club leadership (if they chose to do so) as well as USA evaluators/recruiters. 58 boys and 105 girls have accepted their invitations to participate. Through this event, two college coaches have expressed interest in becoming USA evaluators for the girls and will be in attendance.

Blocktoberfest: 51 adult teams and 0 youth teams participated. VolleyballLife was used for scoring for the first time, and it was a great addition that helped in tournament management/flow.

Tournament Director Meetings: Meetings were well received with relevant content and will continue to be a requirement before tournaments will be sanctioned. Looking forward, it's been suggested that renting a private room and supplying appetizers to encourage higher attendance at the two in person meetings. There have been several individual zoom meetings with tournament

directors to help all meet the requirement this season and we would like to reduce that number next season.

Admission for Freedom event at CC: No feedback/ideas were given by coaches and club directors concerning early ticket availability for a discounted price. Since no suggestions were given on how to improve the management of this concept, the option to pre-purchase passes will not be available this year.

New Business

Lafata: 289 teams currently registered. LY 264 teams participated. This is the only USAV boy's qualifier growing while also hosting 100+ more teams than the other qualifiers.

VLA event at Lafata: The St. Louis Stallions is a first year VLA team within our region's territory. To help with exposure, Gateway will be hosting a mini 6 team tournament within the Dennis Lafata qualifier this year. We hope that this event will also help grow interest in boys' volleyball. Considering 14/15 Stallion players are Gateway Region Jr. Player alumni, discussion of a title sponsorship is in progress.

Winterfest: 105 teams scattered amongst 4 venues. This event continues to grow year after year.

Gateway League: Small growth to 210 (2 wknds) and 201 (+ bid participation) teams this year. Seeding and schedule building are in full swing.

Gateway Region scholarships: 20 applied last year for the 3 \$5,000 scholarships. A 4th recipient was added and split between the 3rd place recipient due to the quality of responses making the selection process difficult. This year 5 full scholarships will be offered. Applications are due at the end of March. Details can be found on our page and will be shared on social media.

All Star Championships Team: Halaz has begun consulting and has offered to do the legwork for a boys' team. 20 regions currently run this program, and we will be selecting our team soon. The program consists of two weeks of practice prior to tournaments where additional clinics may be available and scout exposure. In the future we will look into adding a girls' team as well.

Ref pay/tier pay: USA updated their tiered pay chart. If Gateway converts to that form of pay in hopes to encourage officials to obtain a higher referee rank, it's expected to impact tournament fees for directors. However, with the level of play displayed within the region, more referees of higher rank are needed.

Starlings Team: Ken Cruz will be running a u12 team this season. The region is excited to see Cruz take on this venture and wishes him the best of luck and growth.

HS Tryouts: Some dual coaches (HS and Club) want to move tryouts up one week and were supposed to attend the general meeting to discuss and motion. The Region sent out a message to all club directors to inform them of this topic on the agenda and to collect feedback on their stance. Upon review of the feedback received and discussion amongst those in attendance, all agreed that the currently defined date sits at the most opportune time of minimal conflict and best suits the planning and structure needs of club volleyball. No motion was made to change the date of HS tryouts. A motion was made by Clauss to leave the date definition as it stands. Weber seconds. Passed with no opposition. A motion was made by Clauss that moving the date of HS tryouts could not be discussed again for three years. Weber seconds. Passed with no opposition.

Motion to end meeting by Palmer. Clauss seconds. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

Upcoming meeting date: March 7th, 2025 and May 2nd, 2025