

Meeting Minutes

Great Plains Region – Junior Program Board

July 22, 2007
Mahoney State Park Lodge

President Greg MacLean opened the meeting at 9:05am with the introduction of the Meeting Agenda. (see attachment 1: *Agenda*)

Attendance:

Board Members:

Greg MacLean
Tony Carrow
Paul Wright
Randy Hansen
Mike Godek
Matt Bassett
Deb Grafentin

Staff Members:

Sue Mailhot
Bill Hamilton
Tad Beckman

Guests:

Debi Godek
John Spaustat

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am.

Greg noted that Scott Christensen resigned his JPB position and thus the JPB needed a new secretary. Greg suggested that the election of new secretary should take place after the new elections. In the meantime, it was suggested that a staff member would take notes for this meeting, along with the assistance of Debi Godek.

Motion to approve minutes from 8/12/06 meeting. Hansen/Grafentin - Passed

I. REPORTS

1. Review of 2007 National Championships – Sue Mailhot
 - a. Sue presented to the board a spreadsheet that lists all the teams who played in the 2007 Bid Tournaments. They are arranged by age with their respective finishes in the 2007 Junior Nationals. (see attachment 2: *Computer Rankings & Great Plains RVA 2007 Junior Girls Tournaments*). The list did not include the teams who qualified at Nationals by other means than the Regional Bid Tournament.
2. National Committee Meeting Report - Matt Bassett
 - a. Matt presented a list of motions from YJOV Competition Commission that will be presented to the YJOV Administrative Council at the October meeting. (see attachment 3: *Competition Commission Agenda*)
 - b. Motions passed at the National meetings by the National Committee:
 - i. Early registration for Qualifiers.
 - ii. Did away with the contingency state rule.
 - iii. If a team intentionally forfeits a match at a qualifier, they cannot participate at Nationals.

Staff should add the following information to the 2008 season newsletter/region information: all entries into qualifiers this year will be determined by date of entry. As soon as the qualifiers open their entry systems, teams need to enter. Teams can enter without knowing who their

current members are. Members from last year can be inputted into the system without current membership numbers. Current members can be inputted as “in progress”.

3. National Meeting Report - Sue Mailhot

- a. USAV board is restructuring from 35 voting members to 15.
 - i. The board is moving towards a more global vision, more staff driven, with input from other organizations and more emphasis on beach.
 - ii. The new board will take affect Dec 2008 time frame.
 - iii.
- b. YJOV and ROD (commissioners) will meet together in October, versus YJOV meeting in August.
 - i. The motions presented by Matt need approval by YJOV at the October meeting.
- c. AVCA has new a division, Junior Volleyball Directors Association. It is an advisory group. This group has no decision making authority within the USAV structure now. Some concerns the JVDA has are:
 - i. Qualifiers are spread out on different weekends.
 - ii. Should not have to go through the qualifiers to qualify.
 - iii. USAV wants every coach to be cap certified, minimum cost is \$450.00.
 - iv. Would like to educate coaches with a lower cost.
 - v. Region pays \$12.00 to USAV for every member. USAV wants to increase it by \$10.00.
 - vi. Club volleyball overall expenses are too high for the general player.
 1. If a team chooses to go to 2 qualifiers, parents must pay for twice as many hotel rooms, food, travel, etc. If family has a lower aged player and higher age player, the costs quadruple because qualifiers now play over 2 weekends versus one.

II. LOCAL TOURNAMENT ISSUES

1. Tryout Dates

Motion: To leave tryout dates as is – Under 14 to be held no earlier than the first Saturday in November and the 15's to 18's can be held no earlier than the first Saturday after the completion of the Nebraska State HS Volleyball Tournament. Carrow/Godek – Passed

2. National Qualifier Dates

- a. The dates are not known yet. The Qualifier Tournament Directors usually do not release the dates until after the YJOV meetings.
- b. Once the dates are known, then we can set the dates for Regional & Bid.

3. Facilities hosting tournaments

- a. It was noted that clubs mostly liked the new scheduling format, but that some care needs to still be used, so the same age divisions do not always have to play at the same facilities.
- b. Also, some gold divisions need to be combined to ensure equality for facilities that host tournaments.
- c. Some concern was noted regarding facilities used for tournaments, ie, facility rules regarding food, food prices, parent seating, results posting.
- d. Should a committee member be in on the process of awarding tournaments to facilities? Board somewhat split on this idea.
 - i. Pros – more input from committee
 - ii. Cons – facility bias, over-restriction of tournament awarding procedures
- e. All of these issues will be addressed further at the next meeting.

4. Teams 'playing up'

- a. There was a lengthy discussion about teams not playing in their designated age group. It was noted that teams play up for different reasons, but we should prohibit a team from playing in whatever age division they want.
5. Local teams playing in the President's Day tournament
 - a. There was a lengthy discussion of why local teams were not allowed to play in the President's Day tournament. Tournament Director Tony Carrow noted that local teams were not purposely shut out, but that most of them did not sign up by the deadline. It was noted that the opening date to sign up in October is too soon for most local teams as most teams are not formed until after tryouts in November. And it would be difficult to sign up when you weren't sure who was going to be on a specific team.
 - b. Offering other local Gold tournaments on Presidents Day would allow the local teams a place to play if they were not successful in entering the Presidents Day tournament.

III. HANDBOOK

It was noted that a new region handbook should be issued with all the new updates from the past couple of years. Sue stated the office staff has already begun work on updating the handbook

Motion: The office staff should complete most updates on handbook by Sept 1 and email the changes to the board. The board will reply with further suggestions or changes back to the office by Oct 1. Carrow/Godek - passed

At this time, the vice-president suspended the meeting so a broader discussion could be held on other items of interest. It was noted that motions could be brought forward, but a vote could not be taken at this time.

IV. FUTURE JPB MEETINGS

It was noted that more matters could be discussed in a shorter period of time if the JPB met more often. And since all members have busier lives, it would be helpful if meeting dates were known much further in advance.

The board discussed the idea of meeting 3 times a year:

1. Summer: 2nd week in August: Discuss budget, action items, USAV issues, upcoming events, elect members.
2. Winter: last Sunday in October before season starts, review tournament schedule,
3. Spring: Weekend of Regional: General membership meeting; to be held in conjunction with Regional tournament.

Additional items to be considered at the next board meeting: determine terms of office, election procedures, etc.

It was decided that an additional meeting should be held this season to hold JPB elections and finalize other matters. The JPB will meet again on Sunday, August 12th at Mahoney State Park, starting at 9:00 am.

V. TOURNAMENT ENTRY SYSTEM

Last year the board voted to use Sign-Up-To-Play as a tournament entry system, but after numerous conversations with Adam Beamer of SUTP, the Region was unable to use the system because the system would need additional programming to suit the region needs. The system only allowed for an all-or-nothing approach on who had access to the tournaments. Either the staff would have access to all of the tournament entries or all tournament directors

would have access to all tournaments. After consultation with Greg MacLean, it was decided that the region was unable to use the program at that time.

Additional discussion was held regarding the Heart of America Region's tournament entry system. It was noted that the system is integrated with their database. After further discussion, Tony Carrow said he would contact Heart of America within the next week to see if we could acquire their on-line tournament entry system. If so, the Region could incorporate it into our system before the season starts.

The board agreed that an on-line tournament entry system was top priority.

VI. RANKING SYSTEM

Greg presented a spreadsheet with data regarding a ranking system using the Boyd Nation algorithms. (see attachment 4: *Boyd Nation Rating System*). This system is used by the Gateway Region and acquires the necessary data directly from their database. Greg had numerous conversations with Donna Mayer of the Gateway Region and it was finally determined that the Gateway Region would be able to provide us with a template where we could insert our team names and team codes and we should be able to use the system this year.

Greg also presented a spreadsheet data that shows the Great Plains seedings after they were inputted into the Gateway Region system. (see attachment 5: *Seedings Results Spreadsheet*). An additional spreadsheet was provided by Tad to note the differences in the seedings for the Bid tournament as ranked by the Gateway Region system, the rankings as compiled by the JPB and the final standings after the Bid tournament.

It was determined that the Gateway ranking system would be implemented when received.

Matt Bassett left the meeting at 12:00 pm.

There was Lunch break at 12:19 and the meeting resumed at 12:27 pm.

VII. TEAMS PLAYING UP

The board discussed the aspect of teams playing up at tournaments to increase the team's level of play to help them compete at Junior Nationals. Some were concerned that when a 16's team goes to a Gold tournament, they end up playing all 15's or 14's teams. The board discussed the option of having more criteria for Gold teams to enter in Gold tournaments.

Ranking the teams when they play up was discussed with different scenarios for and against. The standard for the Regional championships has always been noted that it is an age division championship, thus teams are not allowed to play up. A more understandable change in wording will be presented to the board for approval when the changes are made to the handbook.

VIII. BID TOURNAMENT

Possible options to change the bid tournament format were discussed.

- A. Have a two day format
 - 1. Does not necessarily mean two consecutive days.
 - 2. If there are 8 or less teams entered, only a one format is needed.
 - 3. If 9 or more teams entered, a two day format is required.
- B. Limit the teams to 8 Gold teams with more criteria for the final 8 entries.
- C. Increase the entry fee to accommodate for the extra expenses in running a 2 day tournament

To be voted on at the next meeting: Propose that the bid tournament is open to all teams, who fulfill the entry requirements. The format will be held over two days. If there are less than 8 teams, only a one day format will be used. If there are 9 or more teams, the first day will reduce

the number of teams to 8, who will play in double elimination format on the second day. Days do not need to be consecutive. Third and fourth place will be played out.

The following information should be included in the 2008 season newsletter/region information:

- Give region teams information regarding the ranking system and its benefits.
- Suggest all teams play a minimum of 2 tournaments within their own age division.
- Keep region policy regarding playing in your own division at regionals. Rewrite for clarification.

USAV Junior Nationals:

It was noted that the season is too long, high school coaches are not in favor of the long season, players do not want to be in the gym by the time they get to summer team camps. Close to 50 percent of high schools were still in school in June. USAV wants to wait until all high schools in the nation are out of school before holding the Junior Nationals. Thus, Junior Nationals is usually very late in the summer, end of June. College coaches can talk to kids after July 1.

IX. RECRUITING

There were some recruiting issues noted, but the Regional Commissioner was not informed about all of these. Commissioner Mailhot commented that if we don't hear about the issue then we can't do anything. All issues need to be resolved at the time and cannot wait until the end of the season for notification.

To be voted on at the next meeting: Propose to change the recruiting policy to read: Club personnel cannot initiate contact with an athlete outside of their club at any school event or school venue. Rationale: This policy would include middle schools as well as high schools.

To be voted on at the next meeting: Propose to adopt HOA Region's policy regarding a no-contact list.

Staff should add a contact phone number to the website to advise contact for anyone who has a recruiting issue.

X. TRYOUTS

There was a concern that players should have more options and have a chance to tryout for several different clubs. However, this was a problem several years ago with teams and clubs folding because a player would verbally commit after a tryout with club A, and then go to a tryout and commit to club B. Club A was then left with a shortage of players and were forced to dissolve the team. Then all of the players from club A were left with no team.

An option was presented to rotate the times each year for a given age. But this could result in the club with the earliest time to acquire all the top players or even all the players of in that age. The region could have an open tryout after all tryouts were completed, and all players, coaches and clubs would attend to pickup players who didn't get picked or couldn't make some tryouts. The Iowa region has 2 options for players wanting to switch clubs:

- A. The player can buy out of their commitment to a club
- B. The player can appeal to the Junior Board

To be voted on at the next meeting: Create a new policy regarding the letter of intent; how player can get released and how disputes should be arbitrated.

(Note: the staff commented that problems with the letter of intent should follow the region due process policy. But the due process policy needs to be updated.)

XI. PRESIDENT'S DAY TOURNAMENT

After a lengthy discussion about local teams not being able to enter the President's Day tournament because the tournament is full as it has a very early opening entry date, it was decided that:

- A. The Region will contact all clubs via the annual Club Directors Packet, and let them know how to enter Presidents Day, and publish the procedure on the website.
- B. Club director's can pre-build a SUTP or TIVA roster from last year's members to prepare team entries for October entry into qualifiers. A team can change their roster after tryouts.

XII. BY-LAWS

It was noted that the region by-laws need some updating. The updates need to be determined and approved by the Region Board of Directors. However, the JPB needs to develop an administrative manual (soon) to establish its own procedures. Work will begin on this manual at the next meeting.

XIII. BUDGET

It is customary for the JPB to develop their budget at this fall meeting. The budget will be discussed more thoroughly at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned 4:08

Minutes submitted by Bill Hamilton.