

**Arizona Region of USA Volleyball
Executive Board Minutes
April 19, 2005**

Call to Order: 6:45 pm

Present: Harold Cranswick – Commissioner, Doug Kiefer – Sec/Treasurer, Peter Meyer – Official’s Division Coordinator, Justin Blake – Adult Division Coordinator, Jonathan Norris – Junior Division Coordinator. Guest: Becky Hudson

Minutes of the last meeting were read through. Motion to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2005 meeting as amended – Jonathan Norris, Doug Kiefer. Motion passes.

Officers’ Reports

Commissioner

a. Information/News

i. Wallyball –

The Region has been contacted by Joe Garcia for the purpose of discussing the promotion of the sport of wallyball in the Arizona Region.

Joe Garcia’s primary focus is to reach the junior and senior high schools and have them offer wallyball as a PE credit. They would use the racketball facilities at the schools that are going primarily unused – some even being removed to make room for other facilities. He envisions an indoor facility for wallyball with a 4 walled glass court set up with seating for 1000 spectators. He is a one man campaign for the sport of wallyball.

There is a national tournament to be held in Reno, NV in May.

ii. USA Volleyball Nationals in 2005

Nationals in 2005 will be held in Denver. If you are attending the meetings, please make sure you make your reservations early.

iii. AVP in Tempe April 22-24

Eric Hodgson has limited VIP passes and Saturday tickets available. Contact him directly to put in your request for these passes.

b. Marketing/PR Update – Eric Hodgson

The second hard copy Region newsletter in the past 7 months hit most homes around the first of April. There was obvious market penetration as we saw the AVP registration forms come in like crazy, and the questions regarding the HP program increase by 10 fold. The bottom line is people do read these and we should maybe look at making these a bi-annual

event every season to help educate and market. Seems to me selling ad space would offset the cost of production. We'll look at that in a few months.

I've been working with the AVP to a great extent again this year, and have spent a great deal of time with them this week. We are marketing their tournament even though we did NOT ask for a Region booth this year. With their former marketing person having quit the AVP, they are staffed by some younger folk who are figuring out the ropes. This has caused some trouble, but things seem to be smoother now. We will supply almost 70+ volunteers for their tournament and for our Region kids.

The website was launched in late March. Most of the feedback I've heard has been very positive. The website is easier to navigate and looks much nicer. Becky, myself and the webmaster are in communication often, and we are sorting out the problems that come up when a website is re-launched. The problems are minor and we'll have a handle on them this week as we are scheduled to meet.

In the immediate future, I will be working to put an article up on the website every 10 days or so to keep it fresh. We will be big-daddy pimpin' the Junior Beach program again, the HP program, Regionals finishes, our team's finishes at Nationals, our Beach kids at their Beach Nationals and update the Region on procedural changes for the upcoming Club season.

We will also be linking HS, college, community college and recreation ball into our website to further our wanton claim that our site be the "One stop shop" for volleyball in Arizona.

On the far horizon, working with local papers and TV and radio where applicable to feature volleyball coaches, players and teams from the Region.

Any input from this board is always given its due.

c. **Office Update** – Becky Hudson

Junior Board election is underway. Ballots have been mailed to all club directors.

Membership Requirements – do we hold up membership if a player is missing a birth certificate or a coach is missing a code of ethics? Most of these players or coaches have been participating all season even though their membership is not processed. We have a time difference in when registration comes in and when it is processed due to the volumes of materials that come in. Most of the time the tournament season has started and is well underway before it is known that there is missing materials. The repercussion of not processing membership is that it could affect the bids we have for next year.

After much discussion it was decided that we would process the memberships because it is so late in the season and they have been participating anyway. We would create a list of the missing birth certificates and send them to the club directors of the registered players. This list would be compared to next season and the players would be notified that they need a

birth certificate in order to participate next year. The Coaches Code of Ethics is required to be signed each year as it is.

Secretary/Treasurer – Doug Kiefer

Treasurer’s Report

Income:	\$38,115.30
Expenses:	\$69,352.55
Checking Account Balance – March 31	\$49,310.69
MMA Balance – March 31	\$249,347.08

Sponsor Update

Sponsors seemed pleased with the exposure we are giving them.

Negotiating with Wilson on outdoor volleyball

T-shirt sales – 12’s Region Championships showed a 30% increase in sales over last year. Goal is to put some sales staff at some of the sites of the remaining championship tournaments to increase sales at those sites - may use some of the junior refs that are available those days.

Officials Division Coordinator – Peter Meyer

Peter is overwhelmed with the day to day stuff. Officials are putting their availability on the OASIS system then not checking for their assignments and not showing up. Officials Division needs to find a solution within themselves in this.

The membership is growing at a faster rate than the officials. Officials Division needs to brainstorm ways to draw in new officials – adult and junior – to help with this shortage. This will also bring about ways to keep the officials we have from burning out.

Adult Division Coordinator – Justin Blake

There is a women’s team that has requested a waiver of the 50% rule - players must have played in at least 50% of the tournaments in order for the team to be eligible for the awards at the Region Championships. This team has one player that played in the first two tournaments and has not played since due to conflicts with her schedule. She is able to play with them at the Region Championships but could make her team ineligible if she plays. The team has consistently finished in 2nd or 3rd places in the tournaments – whether she played with them or not. They are asking that she be allowed to participate with them and the team be eligible to receive the prizes should they win the tournament. This team has entered the Open Nationals which would allow them the additional award of entry reimbursement if they were to win. Justin has asked Aspen to send in her request in writing for approval.

Junior Division Coordinator – Jonathan Norris

The Junior Board did not meet last week as scheduled. They were charged with discussing the various facility proposals and giving their recommendation to the Ex Board. They discussed through email and a few phone calls.

Two thoughts came from the discussions:

1. Regardless of the facility chosen we will have to step up the programming – 1 to 2 staff will have to be added to program and manage the programs. We currently use about 4,000 hours of court time per year – we are being asked to provide 7000-9000 hours of programming to cover our part of the facility expenses.
2. If we can put forth a good business model and can profit from our space, we can reduce the cost to clubs for practice time. If we do not benefit the clubs, this facility is just a convenience.

Committee Reports

Incident Review Committee – Still waiting for one written report from Katy Meyer’s IRC from last year. A new committee has been formed and is currently investigating one incident.

Budget Committee – no report

Old Business

- a. **Constitution Revisions** – tabled to next meeting

Several items have been mentioned. In order to deal with all of these ideas in a more efficient manner, they will all be presented and then voted on at the same time rather than taken piece meal. So far, the following ideas have been brought forth for consideration:

1. Commissioner’s Vote

Motion: Move to change Article VIII Section 2 Part C.1 to entitle the Commissioner a regular voting position on the Executive Board rather than voting only in case there is a tie (as is currently the case).

2. Spending without Board Approval

Maximum amount that can be spent without Board approval?

Motion: Move to allow for the expenditure of up to \$200 without the prior approval of the Executive Board.

3. Expenditures over \$1000

Should any expenditure over \$1000 go through a formal bid process?

Motion: Move to require that all expenditures exceeding \$1000 require a formal bid process before a purchase can be approved by the Executive Board.

b. By-Law Revisions – tabled to next meeting

Because of the reorganization of the Arizona Region, the By-laws need to be revised to reflect the changes for at least the following:

- i. Commissioner Division
- ii. Secretary/Treasurer Division
- iii. Officials Division
- iv. Adult Division
- v. Junior Division
- vi. Committees
- vii. Wages and Stipends
- viii. Advisory Board

Within each Division, the By-laws should list:

- (1) the addition of each of the paid positions within each Division
- (2) each position's respective duties and responsibilities and
- (3) an explanation of how the person is hired or appointed.

Possible changes should be discussed prior to the next meeting. Any additions, deletions and/or revisions can be made at the next meeting or any time prior to the meeting.

c. Best Practices Revisions

Any changes and/or revisions to the Best Practices Manual should be sent to the Commissioner.

d. Review/Revision of IRC – tabled to next meeting

The old version of the Due Process Clause is being distributed in order to give the Board members a chance to offer input. A revised version will be presented at the next meeting. Anyone wishing to offer input on possible changes should contact the Commissioner.

e. Ad Hoc Stipend and Pay Committee – Peter Meyer

Now that a budget has been adopted for the current season, there is a need to create an Ad Hoc Committee to study and revise the stipend and pay scales used by the Region. Any recommendations of this committee would be discussed with respect to the next budget.

f. Plaques – tabled to next meeting

Motion: Move to spend no more than \$_____ to purchase two plaques (one for the Executive Board and another for the Junior Board) to record the names of all past members of the Arizona Region Boards.

g. Facilities Planning

Several organizations have approached the Arizona Region to solicit our participation in an indoor facility. The Executive Board needs to review the information and make a decision.

Six different proposals were submitted or presented to a panel of board members. The board members that were involved in the presentations included Harold Cranswick, Doug Kiefer, Justin Blake and Jonathan Norris. Doug Kiefer was present for all the presentations. Becky Hudson sat in on two presentations with Doug when no other board members were available. A spreadsheet of comparison data is attached to these minutes.

The Board considers this a very serious commitment. New positions will have to be hired to program and operate our portion of either of these facilities. The Junior Board is in agreement that this is an opportunity but they are cautious about the opportunity.

Specific discussion was limited to the top two viable proposals – Valley Sports Center and American Sports Center. All the other proposals were not deemed in the best interest of the Region.

After approximately 2 hours of discussion on the merits of both facilities a straw poll was taken. The poll was 5-0 for the Valley Sports Center.

Motion: To pursue a Letter of Intent with the Valley Sports Center including but not limited to length of lease, annual financial commitment (ie. # hours at what \$ rate), maintenance and operational expenses, office square footage.. Doug Kiefer, Peter Meyer. Motion passes unanimously.

Motion: To allocate not more than \$6000 for attorney fees dealing with the facility development. Peter Meyer, Jonathan Norris. Motion passes unanimously.

h. Office Equipment/LAN maintenance

Jerry Moews came in and took care of the problem with Doug's printer and computer. Jerry uninstalled the printer from Doug's computer and installed it on the network. There have been no other problems since then.

New Business

a. Donation to the Volleyball Hall of Fame

At the October ROD meetings, the Regions voted to support the Hall of Fame. To date, the Arizona Region has not sent in a contribution. The suggested minimum contribution was \$125. USA Volleyball will match the contributions of the Regions to \$5000.

Motion: To send \$200 in support of the Volleyball Hall of Fame – Peter Meyer, Justin Blake. Motion passes unanimously

Note: Club Cactus matched the Arizona Region donation on the spot.

Next Meeting: May 17, 6:30 pm

Announcements – Doug Kiefer, as chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, appreciates everyone's time and effort with the facility proposals

Meeting Adjourned: 9:30 pm

Minutes were recorded by Becky Hudson

Review of Decisions/Duties/Responsibilities as a result of today's meeting:

- Minutes of March 6 meeting to be amended as approved
- Those interested in attending the AVP tournament should contact Eric for any available passes or tickets
- Eric, Becky and Steve Cecil to communicate weekly about upcoming events for the website.
- Junior Board election to be completed and results distributed before the next meeting.
- Memberships with missing birth certificates or Coaches Code of Ethics should be cleared and a note sent to the club directors with the missing information informing them that these will not be processed next year until the missing info is submitted.
- Officials Division to brainstorm on ways to increase the number of officials in the Region.
- Justin Blake to reply to Team Absolute about their request to waive 50% rule and be eligible for Region Championships awards.
- Board members to submit recommendations for revisions to By-Laws, Best Practices Manual, Due Process Policy to Commissioner
- Doug to contact Scott Santerre, our attorney, in preparation for the Letter of Intent with Valley Sports Center
- Donation of \$200 to be sent in support of the Volleyball Hall of Fame
- Remove Paul Moore as an IMPACT Instructor for the Region.