

USA Volleyball State of the Beach: March 2019

Welcome to USAV Summer 2019! This newsletter marks a new beginning and a fresh outlook for volleyball officials both indoors and out. We are excited to be working with you. It's going to be a busy year on the sand!

News

USAV is currently making major changes to its internal structure, and the officials' group is changing with that movement. Integration, consistency, approachability and enthusiasm are all hallmarks of the new structure. Pati Rolf leads the Officials Development Department and is responsible for everything about rules and refereeing for *all three modalities* of our sport. Also joining the USAV officials' office is Joel Wyman, our new Officials Development Coordinator. Originally from Southern California, Joel previously worked with the USAV Coaching Education department. He will oversee referee related administrative tasks, focusing on beach volleyball.

Beach Officials Advisory Committee

A new Beach Officials Advisory Committee has been formed to work as the liaison between officials and USAV Leadership. The members of the committee are: Thang Nguyen as the Chair (LoneStar Region), Kirsten Boessneck (Palmetto), Greg Clark (Northern California), Katy McCormick-Meyer (Arizona), and Gigi Prieto (Arizona). The Advisory Committee will have monthly phone calls and would love to hear all of your ideas and concerns.

The Usual Suspects

Some familiar faces are still active in beach officials' leadership. This "working group" includes Keith Murlless, Ryan MacDowell, and Suzanne Lowry. Keith Murlless is the USAV's independent contractor and will assist the Officials Department in developing training modules, updating the latest rules and techniques, planning and implementing training camps, and assigning officials to events. If you're interested in adding your energy and skills to our program, please let us know. We're always on the lookout for fresh faces and new ideas!

New Email Address for Beach

The beach officials department can now be reached via a single email address: beachofficials@usav.org. Please use this address for your USAV beach-related correspondence and inquiries! Keith, Pati and Joel will all receive copies.

Background Material for your 2019 Season

2019 is not a rule change year in Beach Volleyball. As always, US referees should stay familiar with the Rules and Training documents posted at volleyballreftraining.com, as well as the NCAA documentation at ncaa.org/playing-rules.

FIVB's recent focus has been on defining the qualification process for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. There have been updates to clarify the details of the FIVB beach challenge system, and discussion regarding ball handling ("keep the ball flying"). Of great value to our officials are the

documents posted by the FIVB, in particular the Referee Guidelines and Beach Casebook posted at www.fivb.org/EN/BeachVolleyball/Refereeing.asp under Beach Volleyball Refereeing.

On the NCAA side, this year's rule changes have been largely administrative in nature (team uniform particulars, home/away jersey schemes, and referee stands now required).

Most of you will have received complete newsletters on these topics from both Katy Meyer (NCAA) and Keith Murlless (USAV). *If you didn't receive those emails, please let us know so that we can update your email address in our systems.*

Uniform Update

USAV is working with PAVO/NCAA to make the referee uniform guidelines as consistent and user-friendly as possible.

- The preferred, **Formal Uniform** for USA Beach Volleyball events is the short-sleeve royal blue ADIDAS polo shirt, black shorts, and a white ADIDAS ball cap.
- The **default uniform** for all beach referees (all venues) is a generic white polo, black shorts and white cap, plus plain black "rain jacket and pants" in poor weather.
- For cold weather conditions, solid white or solid black jacket, sweater, and/or vests are also allowed, and in any combination. Of course, high presentation-value matches (Championships, TV matches, etc.) may require the Formal Uniform.
- The NCAA may require the blue (indoor) "certified official" polo at the National Championship. Other specific site-hosts may provide and require sponsor-driven polos for the referees during their event. Wear what they give you!

Protection from the elements is important to all beach officials. USAV has updated its beach uniform guidelines for 2019 with an eye to these health concerns, as follows:

- *Long Sleeve (generic white) polo tops are allowed
- *White "safari-style" hats are allowed (not in Formal)
- *Black rain boots, warm caps, and/or gloves are allowed in cold weather

To ensure a professional presentation for our sport, please note the following:

- All cold weather outerwear should be black
- Long-sleeved undergarments, if worn, should not be visible (wear a L/S polo)
- Footwear (either black flops or "mostly white" tennis shoes) is mandatory at all times

Lastly, in everything except formal presentation, **match officials do not have to be identically dressed**. If one official is cold natured, or one person is more sensitive to the sun, each official can wear the uniform combination that works best for him or her.

New Initiatives

The Department is actively investigating new ideas to help recruit, educate, employ, and retain officials for all three modalities: sitting, indoor and beach. Here in the beach group, we are working to:

- Identify new officials and increase recruitment efforts
- Reduce entry-costs and administrative difficulties for new officials
- Improve RVA outreach to increase cooperation and opportunity at grass root levels
- Increase online at-home module-based training through VRT
 - New training modules to include court management and e-scoring!
 - Offer “new rules, points of emphasis and officiating techniques” quizzes online
- Increase visibility and accessibility of:
 - Camp and clinic opportunities
 - High performance events, leading to “international development pipeline”
 - Professional (work) opportunities
- Improve accessibility and opportunity for all officials nationwide
- Implement online registration for training events and working assignments
- Offer more/better surveys for improved feedback from member officials
- Improve technological support (tablets, radios, etc.) for hosted events
- Improve support from Member Services Division:
 - Membership, mandatory course work, lifetime match count reporting
 - Event enrollment and eventual payroll
- Increased consistency of referee management across all three disciplines

Opportunities

Opportunities to work as a beach official continue to grow, particularly if you live in the warmer climates of the U.S. We see continued expansion of Collegiate Beach Volleyball, and where there are scholarships, juniors club programs follow closely behind. The professional beach tours are energetically adding juniors scheduling. Junior beach events are expanding through almost the entire calendar year, and many hire beach referees and monitors.

Both the domestic professional beach tours and the FIVB are hosting events in the US in 2019. These events are looking to hire line judges and scorers, which will provide an excellent way to “earn your spurs” in the professional ranks. If you are interested in working these FIVB events, please contact us at the email address listed above, or by utilizing our Beach Availability [Survey](#).

If you are a currently a certified Zonal or National Beach Volleyball official, you are eligible to officiate NCAA Collegiate Beach Volleyball. A list of assignors and their basic geographic area served is available [here](#), under “Beach Volleyball Officiating Assignors.” Please reach out to specific assignors if you are interested in assignments at their schools. All officials interested in working for USAV beach events should contact the Officials Department (beachofficials@usav.org) or the specific Region hosting the event.

Here are some upcoming USAV Beach Training Opportunities:

National Beach Official Camp and Evaluation event:

- **USAV Beach Pairs Championships, May 8th-11th, Los Angeles, CA**

Zonal/Local Camp and Evaluation events:

- **Boys' National Qualifier - St. Louis Memorial Day Weekend, May 24th-27th**
- **USAV NBT Championships, July 18-23, Los Angeles, CA**
- **USAV Beach HP Championships, July 29-31, Los Angeles, CA**

More information will be provided on VRT.com shortly, along with registration links. For now, send an email regarding your interest to beachofficials@usav.org.

How to Get Involved

If you are interested in becoming certified as a Beach Volleyball Official, please go to VRT.com for the most up-to-date camp info and training modules. Our introductory letter and “how to get involved” checklist can be found [here](#).

New this year: registration for both training events and professional (work) opportunities will be managed online, through VRT.com and the USAV Webpoint system.

Thanks

We'd like to offer our THANKS to the many volleyball people who have worked to make the USAV family so strong. We thank PAVO and the NCAA for their cooperation in volleyball administration. Also, we're excited to see the commitment and enthusiasm from USAV (Officials, Events, Payroll and Membership departments). We are very thankful for the far-reaching support offered by our primary sponsor, Adidas. Let's have our “eyes wide open” for the challenges that we face as we prepare to host the Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 2028. With enthusiasm and coordinated effort, we eagerly look forward to the challenge.

Your Challenge

What can you do to make the best of your opportunities with USAV Beach Volleyball? Work to stay current! Focus on your membership requirements and deadlines. Stay current with your background screens and your SafeSport training (SafeSport coursework now required every two years). Find a mentor, work with them, and implement what they offer. And of course, stay involved! There's nothing better for an official than to get up on the ladder, and no better place than out on the sand... so get out there!

We'll see you on the sand!

Pati Rolf, Director Officials Development
Joel Wyman, Coordinator Officials Development
Keith Murlless, The Beach Team