

Minutes from the Southern Region
August 13, 2023

In attendance: Garrett Bitter, Emily Brown, Colleen Craig, Shawn Davis, Stephanie Finn, Shelby Foyer, Duane Hill, Steve Kenyon, Jim Kirkpatrick, Apple Kridakorn, James Lawson, Anthony Marshall, Brenda McIntosh, Kevin McClure, Christopher Miller, Marsha North (zoom), Mary Beth Peake, Sally Polhamus, Rose Powell, Mark Prater, Michelle Prater, David Schnieders, Scott Thompson, Bob Watson, Keith Weller

Call to Order

A quorum was present.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business

New Business

A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously: We went into Executive Session.

The budget review was presented by Jim Kirkpatrick. We would like to thank Jim for his very thorough budget reviews over the past years.

Motion #1 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously – The SRVA Board of Directors approves the creation of the \$5000 THS Tom Berkman memorial Scholarship.

Motion #2 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously – For the 2023-2024 season only, the SRVA Board of Directors approves the reinvestment of surplus funds from the 2022-2023 budget in the following manner. “Each approved SRVA Club (indoor and beach) which has a minimum of one approved team in each age and gender division that they offer registered in a minimum of two SRVA sanctioned events will receive a credit of \$500. This credit will be applied to their club account.”

Colleen suggested that this is a marketing opportunity which needs to be better publicized. We will work with our new social media coordinator to really get the word out.

Motion #3 was tabled – For the 2023-2024 season the SRVA will provide reimbursement for up to 2 Adult Coach SRVA Memberships & Background check per organization (SRVA sanctioned club or High School joining as an SRVA sanctioned club) who are involved with boys’ indoor programming.

Motion #4 was tabled – For the 2023-2024 season the SRVA will provide entry fee reimbursement for up to 2 SRVA Sanctioned indoor Boys Events per SRVA sanctioned Boys Team using the following parameters.

Motion #5 was tabled – The SRVA Board of Directors approves the movement of funds from line item 4029 (Grants Adult/Jr Development) to create the new line item 4039-5 Boys HS Grants.

NOTE: Motions #3, #4, #5 will be reworded and sent out for electronic approval following the board meeting. See page 6 of the minutes for further information.

Motion # 6 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously – For the 2023-2024 Season the SRVA Board of Directors approves the purchase of online access codes for the Silver & Gold Levels of the USAV Coaches Academy to be distributed to SRVA Coaches.

Mary Beth Peake said that she wasn't sure that the cost of the upgrade from silver to gold was worth the money with the current content available.

Steve is going to see if he can find out from USAV exactly how many of the access codes that SRVA purchased were used.

Motion #7 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously – The SRVA Board gives the elected officers of the Board the authority to determine payments of stipends, which are not to exceed the approved budget line-item amount of the annual budget and inform the Board when such payments are made.

Motion #8 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously – The SRVA Board approves the 2023 – 2024 Budget as modified.

Motion #9 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously - The SRVA Board approves the distribution in the published meeting minutes the substance of Motions 1-8 and the results of the vote on these motions.

Motion #10 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously – we come out of Executive Session.

Motion #11 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously - The SRVA Board of Directors approves the implementation of Stay to Play in conjunction with the Region Jr. Championships.

Motion #12 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously - Modify the Current SRVA Tryout policy to clarify the intent of the document.

Approved wording:

- a) Tryouts for Girls' youth and junior athletes for the next USAV season may take place at any time after the completion of the prior season's final Girls' USAV Junior National Championships (Indoor).**
- b) Once an Athlete or their Guardian has accepted a club invitation in SportsEngine that acceptance will be binding for the entirety of the current club season which begins on September 1st of each year. This is the only commitment that the Region accepts as binding for the season.**

- c) Athletes may only affiliate with one indoor club during the USAV indoor club season which ends at the completion of the final USAV Girls' Junior National Championships **(Indoor)**.
- d) Requests for transfers to another indoor club will be handled in accordance with the Southern Region Athlete/Member Transfer Policy.
- e) All personal business/legal commitments made between the club and a player's family will remain the responsibility of the related parties. The Southern Region will not be responsible for enforcing private agreements. Contracts between a club and family are independent of any region obligations and policies.
- f) It is the responsibility of Tryout Hosts and Participants to be careful not to violate any high school or collegiate rules that may apply.
- g) A tryout fee no greater than \$75 may be collected during these periods
- h) All club websites must prominently post the SRVA tryout policy or a link to it entitled "Link to the SRVA Tryout Policy" where their tryout information is located.
- i) All clubs will also be required to acknowledge the SRVA rules/policies as defined in this Handbook and certify that the SRVA Tryout/Commitment policies were followed as a part of the recruiting/forming the teams being registered BEFORE any team registration can be processed further.
- j) Violations of the Tryout/Commitment policies may be subject the club and possibly any athletes involved in the violation to suspension from SRVA along with a non-refundable revocation of all team (possibly club) fees submitted.

Motion #13 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously - Remove the Beach Chair and Adult Coordinator references from the Region Handbooks.

Motion #14 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously - Remove Region Handbook Section IV.C.1.a. This was an outdated post tournament reporting requirement.

Motion #15 was made, seconded, and failed with 2 abstentions - Update Region Handbook Section X.A to remove the two tournament requirement to none.

Motion #16 was withdrawn - Remove Section X.C.3.d from the Region Handbook.
Motion #15 failing to pass made this motion invalid, so it was withdrawn.

Motion #17 – was made, seconded, and passed with one no vote - Update Region Handbook Section X.A to reflect the current bid acceptance process. By removing the reference to a \$100 penalty.

Motion #18 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously - Update Region Handbook Section X.C.1 to change the approval date listed.

1. Although teams may register to play in the SRVA Junior. Regional Indoor Championships at the opening date of **waivered indoor tournament registration, their entries won't be approved until all requirements are met**, and entry into junior Regionals is not guaranteed. The tournament entry deadline for SRVA Junior Regional Indoor Championships is four weeks prior to the tournament date.

Motion #19 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously - Update Region Handbook Section X.C.3.f - Remove the word "Regionals" and replace with "the associated Region Qualifying Event". This updated terminology includes the 18 Bid event as it is not referred to as Regionals in the handbook.

Motion #20 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously - Update Region Handbook adding new Section X.F.2.c: The tournament director or their designee may change play formats in situations where the playoff provisions necessitate modifications to allow for a reasonable playoff schedule.

Motion #21 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously - Update Region Handbook adding Section X.J.

Approved wording - X.J - Seeding of teams that have no region results and therefore no region ranking; will utilize any available ranking and result information to place those teams in an appropriate seed for these events.

Motion #22 was made, seconded, and passed with 1 abstention - Update Region Handbook adding Section X.A to include 12 and under teams that win a National bid prior to regionals and clarify that they are precluded from competing at the region championships.

Approved wording:

SRVA will reimburse the USA National entry fee for Open Bid winners, 11 National and 12 National bid winners that were received prior to the SRVA Regional Championships, these teams are precluded from participation in the associated Region Qualifying Event. The SRVA will also reimburse the USA National entry fee for the winners of the SRVA Regional Bid Divisions.

Although no action was taken, the following items were presented by Keith Weller for discussion:

Should we consider expanding the Bid divisions to a 3-session event?

- We would play the first round on Friday afternoon with the second round on Saturday.
- We would possibly play about noon on Friday and still have the older divisions back on Saturday morning and therefore avoid some prom conflicts.
- The benefit to the extra round is that it allows us to use play formats that progressively funnel the right teams into the right levels of play to better ensure that our stronger teams are playing for the region bids to nationals.
- This will allow us to use formats similar to what is used in the Qualifiers and reduce the size of the Gold playoff brackets for the Bid divisions.
- For 18 Bid this probably would not be necessary but if the size was to exceed a reasonable level for a 2 day event, we could use Challenge matches in the afternoon after a break and further reduce the size of the Gold playoff bracket.
- Concerns/Costs / Extra security / Ticketing staff / Officials are they available? / Does this increase our number of staff room nights? / Will the courts be ready in time? / How does this affect our current contracts with the GWCC? / How does this affect the current hotel contracts?

Motion #23 was brought from committee so no second is required and passed with 1 opposed and 2 abstentions - New Boys High School Grant - For the 2023-2024 season, the SRVA will provide a boys grant to promote the growth of boys' high school volleyball. Each school can request a maximum of a \$1,000 grant for the year. Grants would be awarded using the following parameters:

- One grant per school.
- Max of \$1,000, even if a school has more than 1 boys' team.
- Hybrid teams not eligible
- Must be grades 8 - 12, and participating on a high school team
- Open to both public and private schools
- New and existing boys' programs are eligible
- School may apply but are not guaranteed until approved by the Boys Regional Grant Committee

Process would be as follows:

- Grant applications available Nov 1 and must be submitted by Feb 1 for consideration
- Information Submitted to the Boys Regional Grant Committee (see additional motion)
 - Feb. 1st - Commitment form with W-9 for either school or school athletic booster club due (checks will not be sent to individuals)
 - March 1st - Student Roster, Match Schedule must be submitted
 - April 1st – submit scores throughout season, team picture, and a statement about your season
- Distribution of grant funds will be Feb. 15th (\$500) and April 15th (\$500). Funds will be distributed to the school or athletic booster club (no individuals) Create Boys Grant Line item to fund this initiative.

Motion #24: was brought from committee so no second is required and passed unanimously - Boys Regional Growth Coordinator. The SRVA Board of Directors approves the creation of the following position. Boys Growth Coordinators. There will be a coordinator per state, one for Alabama, one for Georgia and one for Tennessee. They will receive a suggested stipend of \$300 - \$500 each.

Commissioner's Report

Steve was not successful in his bid for RVAA Rep to the USAV Board, however, he plans to run again in 2024. All stipends for the 2022-23 season have been distributed. We will be sending out RFP's for both the 18's bid tournament and the beach regional championships. The dates for the 2024 SRVA Regional Championships are 5/4 and 5/5/24 at the GWCC. We have filled the social media position – Tracy Stevens and we are very excited to see the social media presence of the SRVA grow in the coming weeks and months.

Other Reports

The Registrar, Officials Chair, Beach Chair, Junior Chair, and HP program reports were presented.

Colleen gave an update on the new Atlanta professional team, the Atlanta Vibe. It was announced in conjunction with the recent AVP tournament in Atlanta.

Bob Watson handed out copies of the SRVA Board of Directors job description that he put together for new Board members.

Both Jim Kirkpatrick (Vice President) and Brenda McIntosh (Secretary) will be stepping down from the Board at the end of this Season. Those **current board** members interested in running for either position let us know as these positions will be voted on in the January meeting.

The next Board meeting will be 1/7/24 in Atlanta.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to adjourn.

The following reworded motions were sent out for review on 8/14/23 and approved electronically 8/15/23.

Motion #3 – For the 2023-2024 season the SRVA will provide reimbursement for up to 2 Adult Coach SRVA Memberships & Background check per SRVA sanctioned club who are involved with boys' indoor programming.

Motion #4 – For the 2023-2024 season the SRVA will provide entry fee reimbursement for up to 2 SRVA Sanctioned indoor Boys Events per SRVA sanctioned Boys Team using the following parameters.

- Each SRVA sanctioned club may request a maximum of two Boys Grant Fund entry fee reimbursements per indoor SRVA event that they participate in.
- The Boys Grant Fund entry fee reimbursement will not exceed \$250 per SRVA sanctioned boys team per event.
- Each SRVA sanctioned boys team is eligible for a maximum of two Boys Grant Fund entry fee reimbursements for the 2023-2024 season.
- The Boys Grant Fund entry fee reimbursement total for the 2023-2024 season will not exceed \$1000 per SRVA sanctioned club.
- Each SRVA sanctioned club will fill out and submit the online entry fee reimbursement request form prior to the end of the indoor season.

Motion #3 – The SRVA Board of Directors approves the movement of funds from line item 4029 (Grants Adult/Jr Development) to create the new line item 4039-5 Boys HS Grants. The SRVA Board of Directors also approves additional support to meet the budget requested by the Boys Working Group to fund this initiative.