



Covering the Court

The Official Volleyball Newsletter of the Arizona Region of U.S.A. Volleyball

Spring 2022

Boys to Men: Feeding the Passion to Play and Beyond

The 2022 Arizona Region's Boy's season ended on December 4th of last year with Regionals crowning champions from around the valley.

The 18's division was won by AZ Fear 18 JB, the 17's division by AZ Fear 17 KS and the 16's by AZ Fear 16 TS. The 15's division saw Rush 15 Red take the gold and Aspire 14 Groot took down the 14's title.

Boy's participation in our Region, for over 30 years now, has grown exponentially with the game. This post COVID year however, the division blew up with a 43% increase, putting our boy's playing population just under 1000. But even more exciting is that the country's growth topped 76% with almost 8000 more guys joining the ranks of club volleyball.

Arizona is tied for the 5th most Boy's players in USA Volleyball's 40 Regions for the 21-22 season.

The promise of scholarships are at the end of the rainbow in the girl's game and this continually fuels it's growth, it's costs and it's maladies. Currently in Arizona, there are 19 colleges and universities offering athletic, academic, merit-based and needs-based scholarship and recruiting opportunities for women. Four of these are Division I Universities that can offer 12 scholarships a year.

For the men, the landscape is much more stark. Just 6 schools offer Men's volleyball in Arizona, and only 1 of those is a Division I program. That lone Division I can offer scholarships as well. But the number is quite different from the women's dozen.

4.5!

These 4.5 scholarships are usually spread amongst several players on the team. NAIA schools can offer more scholarships, up to 8 but often have to balance these with budgetary restraints.

Add to this that there are 8 colleges in Arizona offering beach volleyball and the scholarships that go with them and it's not hard to see the discrepancy in opportunities of men v. women in our sport after high school.

Those that have been around the game for a while, you hear the familiar trope of why boy's don't play volleyball. "It's a girls sport."

And yet take a team out to watch a high level college men's match and you will start to see minds bend. The speed, the ferocity, the athleticism and the passion are dripping from the walls. These young men play for the love of the sport, not the end of the rainbow. For nearly all of them, there is no pot of gold.

Several high profile coaches and former players have developed organizations to help grow the men's game and pre COVID, got some traction with programs being added at all college levels. Fingers are crossed that those efforts continue to bear fruit.

How can we work together to get more opportunities for boys to play this great sport? What can we do together?

Is there a boy's Club operating around you? If not, could you start one? Contact the Region office and we can help you get started.

If your high school has a girl's program but not a boy's, find out why. Parent's, get on the phone and contact your Athletic Directors to ask why your son is not afforded the same opportunities as your daughter, a chilling reversal of historical norms in our country for centuries.

In the Fall, the City of Mesa wants to test out a boy's High School sand league. If successful, this could help convince the AIA to make boy's beach volleyball a High School sport going forward. Would your High School be open to trying the sport out for boy's on a 'club' basis to start? Again, how can we help?

With limited teams, resources and a narrow player pool, the U.S. Men's team has won 3 Olympic golds and two bronze medals, gathering hardware in half the Olympics they have played in. The U.S.A. women won their first Olympic gold in Tokyo in August despite having the second biggest player pool on the planet. This isn't a knock on the women, it's just that hard to win an Olympic gold medal.

If you have other ideas that can help get more boy's playing, please contact us; outreach@azregionvolleyball.org. Help us help your sons and brothers and Dads to get on the court and enjoy the sport they already love so much.

Pre Tournament Meetings Need Your Attention By Lisa Naughton

I'm not sure how many of you are aware of this, but before all tournaments hosted by the AZ Region, there is a Coaches/Parent meeting held. The purpose of this meeting is for the site director to state the rules of the facility as well as an introduction of the Lead Official for the day, and an overview of the court rules and play formats.

Due to the limited amount of space available we ask that each team is represented by a coach on staff and one parent representative. **The job of the parent representative is to go back to their parent group and share the information that was provided.** This is important because each facility will have its own set of rules that need to be followed in order to avoid any team penalties that day.

Here is a sample of what is covered in the Pre-Tournament Meeting:

A. Instructions on where and where not to park to avoid being towed. Unfortunately, with our Region numbers growing there are more people requiring places to park. It is necessary for you to follow signs to avoid being towed. Some of our facilities are located in industrial areas and neighboring businesses run weekend operations. We should never assume it's okay to park in neighboring lots.

B. Facility Rules- Vary from place to place however.....

- **Food and drink other than water is never allowed in**

any of our facilities. A team will receive a 13 point penalty if a player, coach, parent, sibling etc. is caught breaking this rule.

- **Pack it in and pack it out** is required by all facilities when it comes to team camp trash. We do not pay facilities for extra trash service.
- Alcohol is PROHIBITED at all Junior USAV Events. This does include facilities that sell it. Please refrain during the event.
- NO Cooking is allowed in team camp areas. Please bring food that is already prepared if your team host's a team camp.
- Parent behavior is addressed

C. Team Camp Rules, expectations and where they are allowed

D. Introduction of Lead Official who will cover court rules and what is required of the score and ref teams

If you are interested in attending one of these meetings please reach out to your coach and let them know.

Lisa Naughton

AZ Region Site Director

2022 Adult Volleyball Season Underway

By Ron Pelham

The Arizona Region Adult season is off and running. It's never too late to put a team together and get in the action. Download and fill out the Individual Adult Tournament Entry Form located on the Region website under the handbook link. The dates for the remaining tournaments are: March 6th, March 20th, May 1st and May 15th.

USA Adult Nationals will be held in sunny Orlando May 27th-June 1st. Registration is open and you can register at <https://usavolleyball.org/event/2022-usav-open-national-championship/>. You can find the schedule with the costs and divisions for the USAV Adult Championships at <https://usavolleyball.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/22-OPENS-Play-Schedule-2.pdf>.

Finally, the Region will be taking a women's team to compete in the Arizona Spring Tournament on March 26th. If interested in this opportunity or anything having to do with Adult volleyball in Arizona, contact me at pelham2@yahoo.com.

Ron Pelham

Adult Division Coordinator



Help Us Grow Para Volley in Arizona: Indoor AND Beach

With the recent success of the USA Women's Sitting team winning Paralympic golds and two of the team from Arizona, interest has started to grow in



Sitting volleyball in the Region.

Cave Creek's Lora Webster has won back to back gold medals with the women's sitting team, adding to her two silvers and bronze medal. Lora is shooting for her 6th Paralympics in Paris in 2024. In addition, Tucson's Whitney Dosty won a gold medal in her first Paralympics this year in Tokyo.

The Desert Challenge Games, sponsored by Arizona Disabled Sports (Arizonadisabledsports.com) will host a Sitting Volleyball exhibition during their events May 18-22 at Mesa Community College. Information and registration is available on their website. These international games feature paralympic athletes from around the world in track and field, shooting, swimming, archery and other sports.

Also being introduced to U.S. audiences in Para Beach Volleyball which is a three person team of players with disabilities that fit into the criteria set forth by World ParaVolley. Programming is available in the west valley this year.

If you are interested in sitting volleyball with a group or with your standing team as a fun diversion from a normal practice, contact Outreach@azregionvolleyball.org and let us help.

2022 Sanja Tomasevic Volleyball Camps

Sign up at:
sanjatomasevicvolleyballcamps.com

For more information contact:
Ryan Leary at ryan.leary.1@asu.edu



Sanja Tomasevic Volleyball Camps is open to any and all entrants are limited only by number, age, grade, and/or gender. This Camp is not affiliated with or sponsored by ASU. Sun Devil and the Pitchfork are registered trademarks of, and are used with the permission of, the Arizona Board of Regents.



David Rubio Volleyball Camps



Please join us for our 30th year of Summer Camp at the University of Arizona. Camps are available from 1st grade through seniors in high school.

The menu of camps include: Mini Camp I and II, Serve and Pass Camp, Advanced/Intermediate All Skills Camp, Position Camp, Elite Camp and Team Camp.

Please visit our website at www.davidrubiovolleyballcamp.com for more information and details. Call/Text Amanda Rubio with any questions.
520-818-8668

Davidrubiovolleyballcamp.com

Arizona Junior Beach Program Reaches 21st Season in the Sun

The Arizona Region's Junior Beach Program bumps into its 21st season, offering up affordable beach doubles out at Victory Lanes in North Phoenix Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays for all ages.

The Region's Beach page will have the entry form which is still just \$20 to join and \$10 per tournaments. Prices that have not risen since the program's inception. The page will also have the calendar which lists the specific dates for which age groups can play.

You can always play up into an older age group, but you cannot play down into a younger one, just like indoor.

The program runs from early May to the end of July. The focus of the Jr. Beach program is an opportunity for our athletes to learn the sand game in a fun, affordable and predominantly coach less envi-

ronment.

The program has seen many of our Region's finest players learn the game on their own and use that knowledge and retention to further their indoor careers as well. Alumni include Tokyo Olympian Sarah Sponcil and professional Beach standout Betsi Flint.

We encourage you to come out and give it a try. You may struggle at first, but the game will win you over.

Parents, sit back and enjoy the casual atmosphere that surrounds these fine athletes

and the program. You can register using your SafeSport account or by going to the Region website at www.azregionvolleyball.org and click on programs and then beach. Both the schedule and flyer are live.

With other questions, contact Outreach@azregionvolleyball.org.

The flyer is a vertical rectangular graphic with a purple background. It features two images of volleyball players in purple jerseys. The player on the left is jumping to hit a ball, while the player on the right is in a ready position. The text is centered and reads:

GCU VOLLEYBALL

2022 ELITE CAMP

The GCU Volleyball Elite Camp exposes campers of all positions to both the fundamentals and advanced techniques of the game. This camp is designed to elevate skills such as passing, setting, hitting, serving and defense. Each camper will have the opportunity to compete, learn and have fun.

JULY 8 - JULY 10

CANYON ACTIVITY CENTER

*For athletes entering grades 7-12 | Cost: \$300
Camp Includes: t-shirt, lunch, dinner and snacks*

Register at gcuvolleyballcamps.com

Questions? Contact gcuvcballcamps@gmail.com

Per NCAA rules, all sports camps and clinics conducted by Grand Canyon University are open to any and all entrants and enrollment is only limited based on age, grade level, gender, or number of restriction as specified by each camp. GCU, while reserving its lawful rights in light of its Christian mission, is committed to maintaining an academic environment that is free from unlawful discrimination. Further detail on GCU's non-discrimination policies can be found at gcu.edu/office113 ©2022 Grand Canyon University

From the Commish: Directors, Coaches and Parents: A Word of Caution

The pandemic is still with us but we have been fortunate. The Arizona Region volleyball season is up and running. In many ways, the Region feels very much like it did prior to the pandemic. Unfortunately, that also means some of the issues we saw prior to the pandemic have returned.

Invariably, the Region staff gets phone calls and they are asked, “What are you going to do about . . . ?” In many cases, the staff provides answers but, in cases of bad behavior, matters must be referred to the Region Ethics and Compliance Officer (ECO). (And, as a side note, our ECO investigates every signed written complaint he receives.)

Here’s the problem and it is one that every Club Director, coach, parent and spectator needs to contemplate. The number of times when the Region is faced with bad behavior is increasing and, if it doesn’t stop, the Region will be forced to seriously consider some remedies that will impact everyone and not just those who are causing the problems.

Three very clear examples come to mind.

1. We have had far too many instances of an adult (both coaches and spectators) who seem to feel they have a right to yell at, criticize and humiliate young players who are training as either refs, scorekeepers and/or line judges. These are juniors folks – not professionals. They are learning and they will make mistakes just as anyone would when they are learning. They deserve patience and understanding, not raised voices and intimidation.

Let’s be clear – we need officials and, like the rest of the country, we need more than we have. Our young players could be a tremendous source of future officials for upcoming generations if we manage them right. To treat these young people as if they are adult professional referees is unfair and will do nothing to help “Grow the Game.” In fact, this rude and disrespectful treatment is how we lose young men and women both as players and potential officials. Why on earth would a young adult want to continue to participate in volleyball when they get yelled at in front of their teammates, friends and family? *The Region is asking nicely, PLEASE refrain from behavior that is detrimental to the players, the game, and the Region.*

2. Sadly, another growing trend is for spectators to engage each other at Region events. Since this is not part of the match, it puts additional pressure on both the officials and the Site Directors. Neither of these groups has extra time on their hands to police the spectators. Parents, relatives and friends are encouraged to support their loved ones on the court. However, it is inappropriate to engage in behaviors that are mean-spirited and anything but supportive. Yelling at your own child or distracting an opponent is hardly the kind of behavior that the Region wants our members to learn or engage in. *PLEASE show respect for the players, the officials and each other.*

3. Finally, the team camps are a MAJOR concern for every facility owner. The Region has a “Pack it in, Pack it out” policy but every Site Director reports that they have to deal with overflowing garbage cans and dumpsters, piles of trash and leftover food and drink at many team camps at the end of every tournament day. Whether the camps are used primarily for players or adults, the result is still the same. When you ignore guidelines and leave a mess, you are disrespecting the facility owners and the Region who provide you with these opportunities to participate and/or watch. You are giving your club, your team and the Region a bad reputation in the eyes of the facility owners. The Region is asking everyone to remember: we are GUESTS at each site. The owners of these facilities don’t want a mess left and the Site Directors shouldn’t have to pick up after teams. Site Directors have been at the facility since 6 or 7 in the morning and often don’t leave until 8, 9 or 10 at night.



Paying Site Directors to stay and clean up someone else's mess will increase costs for teams, could result in some Site Directors quitting (and we desperately need knowledgeable Site Directors) but worst of all – if this continues, some facility owners could refuse to let the Region use their facility for future tournament sites. A little common courtesy on the part of the people who bring the food and equipment would go a long way toward helping the Region keep costs down and, more importantly, help the Region continue to have access to nice facilities. Unless the Region is told otherwise, the garbage cans and dumpsters are for the facility owner's use, NOT for our members and spectators. *PLEASE remember to take home everything (and that includes trash) with you. In other words, "PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT."*

So far, Site Directors, Officials and the Region Staff have tried their best to deal with these situations and we need to appreciate their efforts and thank them. However, they cannot be everywhere and jump into these situations the moment they begin. It is important for everyone to realize that we all have a responsibility to help remedy these situations before everyone pays a price for the bad behavior of a few individuals.

The Region Board will continue to monitor these situations through the rest of the season and decide how to deal with them. For the time being, the Board would like to take a positive approach and believe that our members and spectators want to continue to enjoy watching their friends and relatives play volleyball in a safe, pleasant and low-cost atmosphere.

However, everyone should be aware that if the current trends continue, the Board will have to take action. Although there are a number of options available, one or more of them could result in higher prices to participate, limited numbers of spectators, the elimination of team camps entirely and/or paid security personnel to remove people who create a disturbance. The Board would prefer not to implement any of these ideas but their decisions will depend on how coaches and spectators treat the players, officials and each other as well as how teams clean up their tournament camp sites.

Please help keep the tournament season an enjoyable experience for everyone. To sum it up, *the Region is asking everyone to show common courtesy, patience and respect for each other and for the property.*

From the court,

Harold W. Cranswick

Commissioner, Arizona Region of USA Volleyball

Teachable Moments Are Upon Us All: Junior Committee's Cindy Kirk

The 2022 season is well on the road. It is a well-oiled machine that may run on its own until it doesn't. The Junior Committee is interested in the ways that we can improve the club season within each aspect of its community.

Our season has been filled with some growing pains as we have gotten back into the gym to watch our players play and the time we spent last season watching many of the matches on live streaming. Now that we have put our cameras in the way of players and the stress it causes or the impolite way we have treated each other because we have forgotten that every aspect of our time on the court is not just about us.

We are expressing ourselves in interesting ways. Let's remember why we have devoted our time on and off the court. It's about the way our players, parents, coaches, directors, and officials are growing

together to live out our strength on the court. We have so much to offer this generation of players. We may be missing those opportunities by our behavior.

Help us to take advantage of teachable moments. Start each tournament day looking for an opportunity to grow in the volleyball community.

If you have some ideas of making our region the best opportunity for our players feel free to share your ideas with me at any moment.



Cindy Kirk

Junior Division Coordinator
AZ Region of USA Volleyball
Ckirk514@gmail.com

SafeSport: Bullying Needs Your Attention By Cindy Kirk

The following two quotes from stopbullying.com website help me to deal with two issues for SafeSport these days.

“When adults respond quickly and consistently to bullying behavior, they send the message that it is not acceptable. Research shows this can stop bullying behavior over time.”

and

“Parents, school staff, and other adults in the community can help kids prevent bullying by talking about it, building a safe school environment, and creating a community-wide bullying prevention strategy.”



I find our young players are having trouble in two areas.

1. Face to face interactions with the volleyball community
2. Treating people online with dignity.

One of the reasons these two areas are stressful for our community is we are getting back to normal. We have forgotten how to treat each other. The other reason is now that we are getting back to normal, we don't want to take ownership of our behavior or thoughts. We are online with an attitude that wants to say things without taking responsibility for the consequences of those words. When we are in front of people our words, if offensive, are misunderstood. The facial expressions that others portray help us to understand how our words can hurt others. But when we are online, we don't see the harm our words can cause, so we don't care about others when we type them in social media.

Our response needs to be immediate. Sending the message that some posts are not acceptable. If that means we delete that person from our contacts or we stay away from posting ourselves. The second strategy then would be to help our players to create a safe volleyball community by talking about the situation. I am available for any club that needs someone to talk about the tough topics. I will be addressing a few clubs in the month of March about social media with 12 and under teams. I can do the same for your club as well.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Cindy Kirk

SafeSport Officer

AZ Region of USA Volleyball



Desert Open NQ for USA National Beach Tour April/May



The Arizona Region will once again host a National Qualifier for the USA National Beach Tour in late April and early May for boys and girls 12's to 18's.

The USA National Beach Tour is a joint effort between USA Volleyball and the 40 regions across the US. This tour is a merger of the Junior Beach Tour (JBT) and the American Beach Tour (ABT) and is the "officially sanctioned beach tour of USA Volleyball." **Arizona's BNQ dates are Sunday, April 24th for the 12U and 16U and the following Sunday, May 1 for the 14U and 18U boys and girls. The tournament will be held at Victory Lanes Sports Complex in North Phoenix.**

To register for the NQ or for more information on the tour itself and the other NQ's around the country, go to their website at www.nationalbeachtour.com.

Relevant Region Blogs for Coaches and Parents Available

The Arizona Region produces two blogs for our membership free to all.

The Arizona Sidelines Coaching Blog
(arizonasidelines.blogspot.com)

touches on issues of training, ethics and culture and the world of coaching from different perspectives. Recently Arizona Sidelines looked at the success of professional programs using positive coaching as the stepping stone to Championship success.

The Court of Parent Opinion Blog
(courtopinion.blogspot.com)

deals with Parent's thoughts, concerns and at times, behavior. The Court of Parent Opinion recently focused on how sports Parents can be economically inundated with claims and promises that don't deliver.

If you have any suggestions, e mail
oureach@azregionvolleyball.org

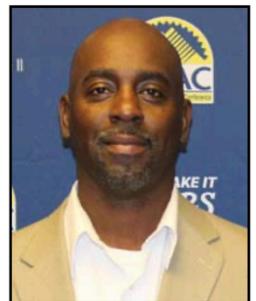
AZHP: Arizona High Performance 2022 Information By Ron Pelham

The 2022 All-Star Championship will be held in Tulsa Oklahoma July 19th-23rd. All athletes will compete with their Region Programs. USA Volleyball will only offer Training Programs prior to the competition and a series of evaluation sites throughout the year.

The Arizona Region is looking to field 6 teams to compete: 4 Girls teams and 2 Boys teams for the Tulsa event.

Teams will be based on tryout participation and level of competitiveness through a series of tryouts at the Arizona Region facility, located at 7100 W. Erie St. in Chandler.

Tryouts will be held May 20th-22nd and High Performance training will be on July 11th and 15th. The teams selected will be travelling from July 17-24th.



For more information, contact Ron Pelham at Azhp@azregionvolleyball.org or 520 661-4695.

Ron Pelham

High Performance Coordinator
Arizona Region of USA Volleyball



NAU VOLLEYBALL 2022

SUMMER CAMP



**ALL-SKILLS
CAMP**



**TEAM
CAMP**



**ADVANCED
CAMP**

**FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA
ROLLE ACTIVITY CENTER &
NEW STUDENT-ATHLETE HIGH PERFORMANCE CENTER**

TO REGISTER VISIT: WWW.NAUVBCAMP.COM

JEN'S TOP 10

TOP 10 THINGS I ❤️ ABOUT THE 2022 SEASON

Submitted by Jen Barber | AZ Region Social Media Coordinator

- 10 Opportunity. For the child who wants to get out and play with their friends to the teens who dream of playing at the next level, our AZ Region of USA Volleyball Commissioner Harold Cranswick leads a phenomenal region in providing opportunities and experiences for kids of all backgrounds. I cannot thank him enough for all he does for the AZ Region!
- 9 COACHES! The AZ Region is so fortunate to have so many coaches who go above and beyond for their teams. They spend precious personal time showing up for the kids at practice and tourneys and will not be forgotten for their generosity and love of the game!
- 8 Parent friends. I've made so many friends in the past 12 years of club. Whether the kids are on the same team or rivals, it's the awesome parents I love running into at games!
- 7 Grab your sunglasses and sunscreen! The junior boys and girls beach volleyball program kicks up some sand starting in May! Tourneys run all summer and it's laid-back fun!!
- 6 Junior refs program led by the one and only Earl Capps! Wow! I had no idea the region offered job opportunities to teens who are about to age out of club. What a great way to stay involved in the game they love! We need game officials... so this is a win-win! Check out what Kyla Chavez, who grew up through the junior ref program, has to say about the benefits of referring on our website's "Officials" page.
- 5 The Outreach Program run by Eric Hodgson. Did you know you can support the program when you shop at AmazonSmile? Choose "Arizona Region USA Volleyball" before you shop.
- 4 The entire AZ Region staff - including Becky Hudson, Lisa Naughton and Cindy Kirk. The people behind the scenes don't get enough credit for managing schedules and tourneys. I truly admire all they do to keep the teams safely on the courts and in play!
- 3 Parents who go the extra mile and live stream the games for those who can't be there in person. The moms and dads, grandparents, fans and friends near and far who tune in to watch the games are always so grateful.
- 2 This actually ties for 1st place. It's Ron Pelham's High Performance program for boys and girls. Follow #AZHP to register for tryouts!
- 1 Volleyball Scorekeeper. Lance Johnson has created the best tool for volleyball parents! Get real-time scores and rankings on game days!! Save www.vbscorekeeper.com to your mobile device.



#AZVOLLEYBALLMOM



FOLLOW THE ARIZONA REGION OF USA VOLLEYBALL
WWW.AZREGIONVOLLEYBALL.ORG



ALEXA CRUZ #17

VANESSA RAMIREZ

GABBY ROMERO



LEGACY OF LOVE MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

In honor of Alexa Cruz and her injured teammates; Vanessa Ramirez and Gabby Romero. All proceeds from this tournament will benefit the Tragedy Relief Fund for their families.

#VenomStrong #WeAreOne

APRIL 2-3, 2022 AT BELL BANK PARK



\$299 FOR 5 MATCH GUARANTEE
FOUR AGE DIVISIONS:

11U/12U
13U/14U
15U/16U
17U/18U

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS
MARCH 25TH

REGISTER HERE:



CONTACT
GEHRIGS@LEGACYSPORTSUSA.COM
DEITRECP@LEGACYSPORTSUSA.COM
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please show your support of the AZ volleyball community in this time of need. Legacy Sports USA and USA Volleyball Arizona Region are in partnership to host this memorial tournament event in support of these families.

