



DELTA REGION NEWS



FEBRUARY, 2019

In This Issue

- Meet Delta's Rising Star Junior Officials
- Volleyball ~ Not Just for Girls
- Coaches & Refs Attend Clinics

[CLICK ON THE BELOW LINKS FOR JUNIOR INFO](#)

[EVENT SCHEDULE-CHECK OFTEN FOR CHANGES](#)

[LOGIN TO MEMBER ACCOUNT](#)

[WANT TO TRYOUT FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE?](#)

[PARENTS PAGE FULL OF IMPORTANT INFO](#)

[CLICK ON THE BELOW LINKS FOR COACH/CLUB DIRECTOR INFO](#)

[KEY ARTICLES FOR CLUB DIRECTORS](#)

[DID YOU KNOW FOR COACHES](#)

[CLICK ON THE BELOW LINKS FOR OFFICIATING INFO](#)

[BECOMING A JUNIOR CLUB OFFICIAL](#)

Coach tells you to get your certifications? Then click here for step-by-step instructions.

[HOW TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL OFFICIAL](#)

Info that can help your career as a volleyball official is a fun & rewarding experience

[CLICK HERE FOR DELTA MEMBER HANDBOOK](#)

The Handbook is not only a guide for operating a club, it will assist you with your understanding of the Region as a whole and your rights as a member.



Joe Williams

From the Commissioner...

Two points for this article:

- 1) Most coaches like to talk about the quality of their team—how they are family, how they do things together. They consider their team to be a class act. Better than average.
- 2) Few coaches like to talk about a simple truth: Their players are the messiest on the planet. It's as if everything they were taught from kindergarten through today has been forgotten. Matches are over and the bench looks like a garbage dump. The score table is littered with drinks and trash. Classy Much?

When the match begins, being a class act goes out the window. Players moan when a "touch" call isn't made. They roll their eyes at unfavorable line calls. Parents yell at scorers when a millisecond passes before the scoreboard is flipped. Coaches scream over missed nets & center line calls, then act disgusted when a player misses a serve. Parents try to "save" seats courtside, even though their team is currently officiating and is off the next match. If this is a family, it's pretty dysfunctional.

Whether a player, coach or parent, one of the hardest things to do is to be quiet when a poor game decision affects your team. As a coach for over 30 years with 1,000+ matches, I never won an argument with an official—never got a call changed—never got that point added to the scoreboard. I finally realized it came down to: Let One Point Be One Point. If I reacted to a bad call, it often carried over to the next play and cost us two points or more. Once I quit reacting, the players calmed down. Once they quit reacting, the parents began to let it go.

Make a decision today for your team to be unique. Be the team that picks up courtside trash. Be the club that is known to be courteous to their opponents while playing hard. Offer a seat to an older spectator. Parents can talk to parents on the opponent's team—it's not like we hate each other. All of us are spending countless hours in the gym and love the game, our players and their teams. There's no reason to be adversarial. Play hard, and then leave it on the court. Stay classy in the Delta Region. It starts with you.



JUNIOR RISING STAR OFFICIAL

- Do you consider yourself one of the best Junior Officials in the Delta Region?
- Do you actually look forward to your team's work assignment at a tournament?
- Maybe you would like to work as a paid official when you are old enough?

You are exactly the athlete that the Delta Region wants to encourage and recognize!

Just like outstanding volleyball players are recognized through the High Performance programs, we want deserving Junior Officials in the Delta Region to receive their own recognition. Through the Delta Region Rising Star Official's Program, junior players who excel as a Referee, Scorer or Line Judge will be awarded the highest honor for a Junior official; **RISING STAR OFFICIAL.**

Chosen by just a few key officials in the Delta Region, players who receive the honor will be awarded a special lanyard and badge court-side immediately following a match. Only individuals who display strong knowledge of the rules of the game and demonstrate good officiating techniques will be considered for such an honor.

The goal of the Delta Region Rising Star Program is to encourage athletes that play the game today to want to become the Officials of Tomorrow!

MEET DELTA'S RISING STARS



Delta's first Rising Star award was recently presented to Cameron Humphries who plays for Coqui Volleyball 14s out of Jackson, Ms.

Since the start of the season we have awarded four additional Rising Star awards ~ congrats to all!

Emma Cobb: Twin Lakes Juniors 14s out of Mountain Home, AR ~ Rising Star Scorer



Kolbee Hulsey: Jackson Juniors 16s out of Jackson, TN ~ Rising Star Scorer

Anna Besta: Memphis Volleyball Academy 16 Pink out of Memphis, TN ~ Rising Star Scorer



Peyton Townsend: 501 Volley 16 Purple ~ Rising Star R2

ARE YOU THE NEXT RISING STAR OFFICIAL?

VOLLEYBALL ~ Not Just for Girls... Boys' Volleyball grows across the nation & the Delta Region!

Memphis Juniors 14s



This season we have 4 all-boys teams registered in the region; Ozark 181, Ozark 161, Ozark 121 & Memphis Juniors 141. The region also has 15 coed teams playing in the 13u divisions! USA Volleyball has seen tremendous growth in boys over the past couple of years-somewhat due to more colleges starting to offer men's programs & scholarships becoming more available.

Have you ever thought about starting a boys' team?

THIS IS THE TIME TO DO IT ~ this spring the Delta Region will be hosting Boys Showcase Events throughout the region. Why not put together a boys' team to play in one of the events? Did I mention it is free?

THE BOYS SHOWCASE WILL COST YOU & the Players NOTHING! IT'S FREE!!!



The Delta Region received a grant this year to use on Boys programming.

The region will pay for uniform shirts for any team participating in the Showcase!

The region will cover the cost of hosting an event!

It will not cost you anything and it will not cost the boys anything! Hey...we would even let you have the gate money if you want to host one of the events!

All we need is for someone to step up and put together a team for these events.

Right now we have a Boys Showcase planned for Jonesboro in which local high school coaches are helping to organize and train the male athletes. Several of the

teams entering the event are described as high school rivals. That should be a fun night!

We would love to bring the Showcase to your area. If you can get four or more teams together—we will give them an event to be proud of! Just contact the region office for additional information.

Did I mention junior female players ages 15u can be a coach for a boys' team in the Showcase event...



How cool would that be?

There are always brothers (*and some boyfriends*) hanging out at the gyms—turn these guys into volleyball players for at least one night. It could be fun for everyone involved!

If you have an interest in putting together a Boys' team for the Showcase contact Joanie at reg@deltavolleyball.net.



Ozark Juniors 12s



Ozark Juniors 16s

DELTA REGION HIGH PERFORMANCE



As the Delta Region High Performance Program enters its 15th year, a new HP Director has been announced. "I am pleased to announce that Justin Dee, head coach for Belhaven University in Jackson, MS, has been selected as the Delta Region High Performance Director for 2019," states Joe Williams, Delta Region Commissioner. "Coach Dee has been an integral part of the success of the Delta Region HP program since its beginning in 2004. His knowledge and expertise will bring a new level of excitement for the program."

The Delta Region High Performance Program is designed for players who have been identified as having the potential to travel up the USA Volleyball Athlete Pipeline as their careers progress and is a regional branch of USA Volleyball's National HP Program. Each year 80 of the top athletes from the Delta Region are chosen to attend a two-day training camp that includes sustained athlete training that is consistent with USAV National criteria and standards. The Delta Region HP Camp is operated to provide junior athletes with high-level training and skill development with some of the top coaches in the region and country. The invitation-only camp will be held June 1-June 2.

Throughout the season, female athletes, ages 12-16, are given an opportunity to try-out for one of the 80 spots offered for the invitation-only camp. Only those that receive invitations through the tryout process may attend the camp. The region strives to keep the number of athletes on one court to a minimum. The number chosen per age group will be determined by the quality and quantity of the athletes trying out. Until the tryout process is completed we are not sure of the exact number for each age group. Last year's camp included 87 athletes plus 32 college and elite-level coaches working the camp. That's an impressive player-to-coach ratio.

Four tryouts are already on the Delta Region calendar: March 1 Southaven, MS; March 15 Little Rock, AR; March 29 Fayetteville, AR; and April 26 in Fort Smith, AR. (*with more to come-we hope*). If your club has an interest in hosting a HP tryout contact Justin Dee at jdee@belhaven.edu



PARENTS ~ Want to Become an Official?

Do you get bored all day just sitting in the gym during an event? I know it's great when your kid is playing—but what about during the times they have officiating duties? Ever thought about becoming an Official? Many teams in the Delta Region have parents who become referees and scorekeepers for their club which takes a little pressure off the players. If you are interested, the Delta

Region has a special membership for parents of players for only \$27 called a Chaperone membership.

With this Chaperone membership you can be added to the team roster which will allow you to call lines, keep score or even referee. I'm sure the team's coach would appreciate the help.

Just [CLICK HERE](#) to become a member, choosing the Chaperone category. You will need to undergo a background screening every two years at a cost of \$18.00, become certified to officiate and take the FREE SafeSport training course—because we want to keep our young athletes safe. Talk with your team coach for additional instructions and join USA Volleyball and the Delta Region today!

Dedicated Site Just for Junior Players



USA Volleyball.

USA Volleyball's website has a dedicated page full of info just for junior athletes. If you have ever asked the question, "**How can I hit harder?**" you should read the article found on the site by John Kessel, USAV Director of Sports Development as he suggests how to speed up your swing.

There are many topics just for junior players like: "Training Without a Net or Friends"...*What????* "Thoughts on Setting or Defense", "You Will Be a Better Player if you Coach" and many more!

Just [CLICK HERE](#) to enter a world full of information...**Just for Junior Players!**

Joe Thomas Memorial Coaching Clinic held December 9



Do you ever wonder what your coaches do on their off their day off? About 100 of Delta Region's finest coaches gave up their day on December 8 in Conway to learn more about our sport—in spite of snow and ice. Coaches were able to learn one-on-one with some of the top college coaches in the region like Jason Watson/ University of Arkansas; Sean Burdette/University of Memphis; and Justin Dee/ Belhaven University. The clinic was name after Delta Region Coach Joe Thomas (Jonesboro) who passed away in 2018 after 32 years of junior coaching. We're already making plans for the 2019 clinic ~ if you didn't get to make it this time, come next year. It is FREE for all Delta Coaches! You WILL have a good time & learn a little more about our sport!



A good coach improves the player's game. A great coach improves their life!



COACH DID YOU KNOW?

Coaches can print their own rosters just by logging into their member account.

Coaches should carry copies of the team roster and a 2019 Incident Report Form with them to all events, along with each player's Medical Release Form.

Junior teams must have a certified R1 ADULT on their team roster (*might have to be you-coach*).

An adult from the team roster must be **actively present** during the team's officiating assignment.



All kids need is a little help, a little hope, and someone who believes in them.

DELTA REGION OFFICIALS

The Delta Region Officials also spent their FREE time to prepare for the season. Over 35 Delta Region Referees attended the USA Volleyball National & Advancement Clinics held in Jonesboro, AR on January 5. Our own Rachael Stringer represented USAV as the clinician for the event. The clinics focused on enhancing referee skills and improving their performance in every match they work. Referees spent the morning in classrooms and the afternoon officiating matches where they were critique.

The Delta Region Officials Division continues to grow. We now have 7 National/Junior Nationals Referees, along with 18 Regional Refs and several who are Provisional and first year.

Thanks to the dedicated men and women Officials who also love the sport of volleyball!



SERVICE AWARD PRESENTED TO DELTA REGION REFEREE

At the National Referee Clinic held on Saturday January 5th in Jonesboro, Arkansas, the Delta Region was proud to present Bettye Francis with the Robert L. Lindsay Meritorious Service Award for the 2018 volleyball season. The award is presented to individuals who show outstanding participation, motivation and other services in the promotion of volleyball.



Beginning her 14th year as an Official in the Delta Region, Betty resides in North Little Rock, Arkansas. When you see her in the gym tell her congrats ~ For a Well Deserved Honor!

Did You Know ~ only individuals on the team roster are allowed to be courtside to shag balls and to help officiate? So, don't get mad if the Ref tells you to leave the court—it's a rule!



Did You Know ~ an adult on the team roster must work alongside their team during their officiating duties. No more just sitting there playing with your phone.

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THESE DELTA NATIONAL REFS— THEY HAVE THE RISING STAR AWARDS!



2018 DELTA REGION AWARD RECEIPTS



JOE THOMAS WINS NATIONAL AWARD~ COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (May 23, 2018) – The 73rd Annual Dorothy C. Boyce Awards and Recognition Banquet held on May 23, 2018 recognized 17 volleyball legends and rising stars at the Omni Hotel in Dallas. The Boyce Banquet is the signature event during the USA Volleyball Annual Meetings. Receiving the national award for USA Volleyball Junior Service was Delta Region’s own, Joe Thomas.

Joe Thomas was a pioneer in northeast Arkansas volleyball and the Delta Region when he began coaching with Arkansas Juniors in 1984. For many years he was the lone African-American coach in the Delta Region. Joe dedicated his adult life to volleyball having coached thousands of young girls in club and high school; coaching with Arkansas Juniors for over 31 years with several trips to Nationals; serving as a line judge for ASU volleyball games, and officiating club and high school volleyball matches. Unfortunately, things fell apart for Joe T (as he was called) in 2016 when on Super Bowl Sunday he awoke and realized he couldn’t see. His long-term struggle with diabetes finally got the best of him and took his eyesight. Over the next two years Joe T struggled to stay alive. He had numerous heart attacks, and suffered from kidney failure-resulting in having to have his right leg amputated. Through it all, Joe T was committed to the sport and wanted to be in the gym anytime he could just to hear the whistles blow and the balls being hit. But the struggle became too much, with just a few days prior to his 57th birthday, Joe T passed from this world. Known as the “Gentle Giant”, Joe T is missed by many in the volleyball community. His commitment to volleyball and the families involved was legendary. *"We are proud that Joe received this award before he passed. This gave us another opportunity to tell him how special he was and how his commitment to the sport was known nationwide."* states Joe Williams, Delta Region Commissioner.

Robert L. Lindsay Meritorious Award Winners for 2018

The region service award was named in the honor of Robert L. Lindsay, the eighth president of USA Volleyball, 1981-1984, and a former regional commissioner, who was instrumental in the success of the national-team-in-residence program in the 1980’s. This program set a new standard for all National Governing Bodies in the United States.

Nominated by members of the region, this award recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to volleyball at the local, regional and national levels through USA Volleyball.

Congrats to the following Delta Region members who received the 2018 Award:

- Leaven Eubank – Ozark Juniors
- Eric & Robin Everson- 501 Volley
- Bettye Francis- Delta Official
- Sara Mitchell- Conway Juniors
- Tonya Werner- Little Rock Juniors



Nominations will be solicited soon for the five 2019 awards—watch your email!

For a list of former Delta Region recipients just [CLICK HERE](#).