court connection

PRESENTED BY NORTH COUNTRY REGION VOLUME I ISSUE XIV May 8, 2020

A Note from North Country Region

LAURA BUSH, REGION COMMISSIONER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LETTER TO MEMBERSHIP

Dear Friends.

Are you missing volleyball like we are? If so, I hear you and grieve with you. As we keep following best protocols with physical distancing and prepare for the reopening of volleyball, I hope all of you have been able to take advantage of the offerings in our social media and ZOOM meetings. It has been great to connect with the volleyball community at large and share some screen time together.

May 12 is our last ZOOM meeting for this month. We plan to resume our ZOOM meet and greets, webinars, etc.. in June. The Region office is still working in May; we just need to shift our focus. For the near future, the Region office will be working through a series of meetings with USA Volleyball and the other 39 Regions of USA Volleyball. So let's save some screen time and get back online together in a few weeks.

USA Volleyball has made the decision to extend the date to not sanction events through May 22 2020 (more detailed information here). I am expecting another update from USA Volleyball SOON based on a meeting this past Thursday with Jamie Davis, USAV CEO and the 40 Regions. I beleive this update will address reopening procedures and protocols

AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN UNTIL MAY 18th! Please take the time to nominate club directors, coaches, volleyball community supporters. Don't let the frustration of a new normal get in the way of celebrating a JOB WELL DONE! Access FORMS HERE and HERE

TRYOUT UPDATE - see the 14 under tryout dates for the 2020-2021 season under the Club Director portion of Court Connection.

Stay safe and healthy! Let's keep moving forward together.

Social Media Connection

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Connect with North Country Region via social media. Daily updates and shares with the volleyball community, Olympians, online coach clinics, and FUN! It's an adventure! Come join and share your volleyball adventure.

This Just In

GET THE MOST OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP



UPDATED DAILY to connect you with upcoming events, at home workouts, volleyball skill improvement, articles, and more. Lots of fun

for a daily dose of volleyball. CLICK HERE TO **CONNECT TO THE BLOG**



College Coach Panel PART II May 12 @ 5:00 pm CDT. Presented with the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) - the College Coach Panel is to serve as an educational session for our

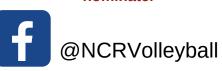
who are interested in learning more about college athletics. CLICK HERE TO **REGISTER -IT IS MEMBER BENEFIT**



NOMINATIONS OPEN to recognize and celebrate individuals in our volleyball community. Easy process to complete and an opportunity to make someone's day, week, year, or life! Make a great

memory when you take ta little time to share your appreciation of a special volleyball person in your life. Click the image above to nominate.









The Car Ride Home



A PLACE FOR VOLLEYBALL PARENTS

North Country Region's website has a section dedicated to **YOU**, the parent! With the assistance of local sports psychologists, leaders in sports, USA Volleyball and club directors, the North Country Region staff collects, updates and provides resources to better serve the entire membership.

Covid 19 Family Resources

BY USA VOLLEYBALL



Our Volleyball National Governing Body - USA Volleyball (which you are a member) has a dedicated webpage to assist players and parents. The page is updated regularly with upcoming webinars, news articles, at home activities, ways to connect, and much more. CLICK HERE TO **VIEW and BOOKMARK**

Be A Hero

BY BETH MODAFF

Our family is the antithesis of homebodies. For years, we have been go-go-go, and on the rare occasion that we are home on any given night, our house is usually filled with extra teenagers, which is my absolute favorite kind of evening. I have four kiddos - all competitive soccer players, a husband who is a high school and club soccer coach, and then me - a high school and former club volleyball coach. Our schedule is full and exciting and tiring and fun - and we love it! So, for us, the call for everything to stop and to practice social distancing is a challenge – to say the least.

A Little Background

Approximately two years ago, our then 14-year-old was noticing extreme pain in various muscles and joints, so much so that he could not even walk normally let alone compete athletically. Over the past two years, Ty has seen multiple physicians, physical therapists, been on multiple medications and even had an ambulance ride followed by a four day stay in the cardiovascular ICU just this past fall, but he is finally on a couple medications CONTINUED on PAGE 7

Is Your Club a 2020 Gold Medal Club?

BY NCR STAFF



EDINA, MN - In its second season, the Gold Medal Club recognizes clubs who have met a standard of excellence. When awarded the Gold Medal, the club is celebrated on the NCR website, able to post their Gold Medal on the club's website, social media, and newsletter. **DEADLINE MAY 31st.** Criteria is below.

- All teams within club are registered with North Country Region.
- Teams are listed as active in USA Volleyball Webpoint.
- All teams have accurate and valid rosters in USA Volleyball Webpoint.
- All coaches of the club have cleared the USA Volleyball approved background have completed IMPACT Certification, have completed SafeSport screen. Training, and completed officiating requirements.
- All junior members of the club have completed officiating training.

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION



ADVANCED EVENT SYSTEMS (AES) - WHAT IS IT?

North Country Region provides this member benefit for North Country Region tournament directors and USA Volleyball active clubs who register for Region sanctioned tournaments. What was once a technology platform utilized by a few tournament directors in the Region, NCR contracted with AES so that the technology is utilized by all of our clubs and tournament directors.

With a focus on SAFETY, AES works with USA Volleyball Webpoint to further validate the credentials of each member. For adults to be placed on a USA Volleyball Webpoint roster or a Region Tournament AES roster the adult must be:

- on a club that is verified as USA Volleyball active
- a current USA Volleyball member
- cleared a current USA Volleyball background screen
- completed IMPACT training
- and are current in SafeSport training

The **benefits** of utilizing this service far outweigh any concerns that a club or parents may have about adults following USA Volleyball safety guidelines.

MORE MEMBER BENEFITS

Tournament Registration System

- AES makes it easy for club directors to register their teams in numerous events - all in one place!
- When a tournament accepts registration fees online, club directors can manage their payments right from their AES account.
- Default team rosters can be created making it quick and easy to upload verified rosters directly into individual tournaments.

Tournament Management System

- AES provides tournament directors with a one-stop shop for setting up and managing their own events from start to finish.
- TDs have access to up to date information about team registrations, division capacity and fee payments – then they can easily manage that information to ensure the best operation of their event.
- AES makes it easy for TDs to communicate event information directly to participating teams.
- NCR provides the use of this AES platform at no cost to our member clubs.



Junior Club Director

HUB - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TRYOUT DATES UPDATED FOR THE 2020-2021 SEASON

At the March 29th North Country Region Board of Directors Meeting, the Board of Directors approved the following tryout polices effective September 1, 2020.

- 14 and under tryouts, no tryouts or forming of teams can occur until the last Saturday of October.
- Should a state's high school volleyball season (MN, ND, SD, or MI) be cancelled, club volleyball tryouts may occur two weeks after USA Volleyball approves event sanctioning for the Region.

EDUCATION - PAVE YOUR PATH



USA Volleyball has launched a series of education videos called *USAVed*, with a select group of USA Volleyball staff, coaches, and other experts teaching various subjects to better your game on and off the court. Pave you and your clubs path with additional educational opportunities. <u>CLICK HERE TO ACCESS</u>



Official News

Growing and Supporting Officials

Use Your Time - Start a New Career

Officiating provides an excellent opportunity to stay connected with the game of volleyball and invest in your community, as well as earn additional income, and becoming a certified North Country Region – USA Volleyball official has never been more streamlined. Now is the perfect time to get started on your USA Volleyball officiating career path by completing all of the online requirements. We would love to have you on board!

NORTH COUNTRY REGION OFFICIAL'S CHECKLIST

GET STARTED

- USAV WEBPOINT REGISTRATION
- REGISTER FOR A FULL ADULT MEMBERSHIP
- CREATE AN AES ACCOUNT TO REGISTER FOR NCR EVENTS
- SUBMIT A COMPLETED W9 TO THE NCR OFFICIALS DIRECTOR
- SUBMIT THE NCR INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR'S AGREEMENT

REQUIREMENTS

- USA VOLLEYBALL APPROVED BACKGROUND SCREEN
- COMPLETE SAFESPORT TRAINING
- OFFICIATING CERTIFICATION
 - INCLUDED WITH YOUR USAV MEMBERSHIP
- UNIFORM & EQUIPMENT
 - APPRENTICE & PROVISIONAL: PLAIN POLO SHIRT, DARK PANTS, CLEAN SHOES, WHISTLE & A TIMING DEVICE
 - REGIONAL: USAV APPROVED UNIFORM & EQUIPMENT

TRAINING

- ONLINE OFFICIATING TRAINING
- ON-COURT TRAINING
 - TRAINERS ASSIGNED BY NORTH COUNTRY REGION SCHEDULED
 - TRAINING MATCHES ARE NOT PAID
- WORK NCR USAV EVENTS RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM NATIONAL LEVEL TRAINERS
- ATTEND IN-PERSON CLINICS OFFERED BY NCR USAV

This Officials' Checklist can be found on our website at the following link: NCR Officials' Checklist

Please do not hesitate to reach out to our Official's Coordinator with any questions! Beth Modaff, NCR Official's Coordinator

Email: beth@ncrusav.org Phone: 952.831.9150 x6



REGION AWARDS - NOMINATIONS OPEN

BY NCR STAFF

The American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) and North Country Region are affiliate partners working together to grow and recognize Region coaches. The 2020 awards include Coach of the Year (each age division recognized), Club Director of the Year, Net Works Award and Innovation Award. Both the Net Works Award and the Innovation Award are NEW this season and embrace the spirit of volleyball coaches who serve others and continue to serve their teams even when volleyball activity slowed down. CLICK HERE TO NOMINATE

ROBERT L LINDSEY MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD - NOMINATE HERE

REGION FOUNDERS AWARD - NOMINATE HERE





Skills + Position Camps

These camps are designed to offer a balance of training between the general skills of the game, and training on the skills for each specific position. In addition to skill and position training, both camps will include contests ram competitio

Attacker training will focus on all aspects of attacking including approach, armswing, shot selection,

off-speed and position specific attacks. There will also be work on blocking as well.

Setter training will focus on all aspects of setting from basic footwork, form and technique to advanced concepts including attacking, deception emergency skills.



SMSU Head Coach, All-Time Winningert Head Coach

Libero training strives to create master ball-handlers.

We will cover every first contact skill from basic passing and setting form to emergency defensive skills like overhand digging, sprawls and extensions.







Intermediate Skills + Position Camp

JULY 13-16, GRADES 6-11 (Entering Full 2020) Check-in July 13, 12:30-1:30pm in RA Facility Monday 1:30-4:30pm, 6:30-9:00pm Tuesday 9:00am-noon, 2:00-5:00pm, 7:00-9:00pm Wednesday 9:00am-noon, 2:00-5:00pm, 7:00-9:00pm Thursday 9:00am-12:30pm

This camp will include a lot of work on the fundamental skills of volleyball, along with covering the foundational concepts in each position training group. It is a great camp to re-establish your basic skills while learning some positio concepts that will help you take your game to the next level. All meals included for Resident and Commuter campers.

Advanced Skills + Position Camp

JULY 17-19, GRADES 8-12 (Energing Fall 2020) Check-in July 17, 12:30-1:30 pm in RA Facility Friday 1:30-4:30pm, 6:30-9:00pm Saturday 9:00am-noon, 2:00-5:00pm, 7:00-9:00pm Sunday 9:00am-noon, 1:30-4:30pm

This camp is for experienced players who are serious about wanting to take their game to a new level. It combines a fast-paced, high-repetition review of the foundational skills of volleyball, balanced with high intensity position-specific training and plenty of competition to create an action-packed camp. All meals included for Resident and Commuter campers.

Young Mustangs

JULY 27-29, Grade 4-6 & K-3 (Energy Fall 2020) Grades 4-6: check-in July 27, 8:30am in RA Facility Monday-Wednesday 9:00am-noon Grades K-3: check-in July 27, 8:30am Monday-Wednesday 9:00-10:30am

This camp is a great opportunity for young players to get introduced to the game of volleyball. Each student will be given basic instruction geared toward their level of experience. In addition to learning the skills there will be games and competition daily.

Team Instructional

JULY 20-23, VARSITY TEAMS

A representative can check-in your team Sunday, July 19, 7:00-8:00 pm (Optional) Check-in July 20, 8:00-8:30am

Monday 9:00 am-4:30pm, evening 6:30-8:30pm Tuesday 9:00am-4:30pm, evening 6:30-8:30pm Wednesday 9:00am-4:30pm, evening 6:30-8:30pm Thursday 9:00am-2:00pm

This camp has been a huge hit with teams in the past, and coaches speak very highly of E. This variety camp includes 36 seams from around the Midwest. Teams in attendance have included multiple state tournament participants as well as State Champions. The camp includes skill and position training, team practices run by the SMSU camp staff, and scrimmage sessions during the day. The evening session has also proven to be very popular, offering two hours of additional team competition on Monday, Taesday, and Wednesday. Coaches are welcome to attend and assist in training free of charge. Help start your season on the right foot by being a part of this great camp!

Boys Camp

JULY 27-28, Grades 5-12 (Entering Full 2020) Check-in July 27, 1:45pm in RA Facility Monday-Tuesday 2:00-4:00pm

This camp is in its third year! This is a great opportunity for boys to learn more about the game of Volleyball. We are looking forward to growing the game for boys in the area!

ONLINE REGISTRATION

To register online or learn more, visit: www.SMSUvolleyballcamps.com

For additional information: Tyler.Boddy@SMSU.edu, 507-537-7383 Terry.Culhane@SMSU.edu, 507-537-7125

REGISTRATION FORM

Camper's Name			
Age Grade (entering Fall 2020)			
Address			
City			
State Zip			
* Please print clearly as your confirmation will be sent via email.			
Ernall (reprint')			
Phone			
Parent(s)			
T-shirt size: (Circle one)			
Adult Stree (Gr. 7 and up): S M I. XI.			
Sizes for Young Mustangs Campon ONLY (Gr. K-6):			
YS YM YL S M L XL			
Position: S OH MB DS RS			
Roommate Preference:			
2 campers to a room, 4 campers to a suite.			
SELECT YOUR CAMP(S)! Full Payment Deposit*			
Young Mustangs I (Gc. 4-6) July 27-29580			
Young Mustangs II (Gr. K-3) July 27-29530			
Int. Skills & Position, July 13-16, Resident\$345\$100			
Int. Skills & Position, July 15-16, Commuter\$285\$100			
Advanced Skills & Position Camp			
July 17-19, Resident51255100 Advanced Skills & Position Camp			
July 17-19, Commuter\$280\$100			
Boys Camp (Gr. 5-12) July 27-28			
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID (all camps): 5			
If you pay the deposit new, you may pay the balance on the first day of camp.			

Make Check Payable to: SMSU Volleyball Camp SEND TO: SMSU Volleyball Camps us Services, Southwest Minnesota State Univ 1501 State Street, Marshall, MN 56258

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Date Receiveds	Chedit-	Amount



FORTIFYING BRANDS • EMPOWERING PEOPLE



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A PLACE FOR VOLLEYBALL PARENTS

Be A Hero

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

that allow him to function normally and even compete again, despite being diagnosed with a form of arthritis called ankylosing spondylitis – which will be a lifelong issue for him.

While we are extremely thankful that Ty's medications allow him to pretty much function like a normal 16-year-Old, they also significantly suppress his immune system. In regular circumstances, Ty has been strictly instructed by his pediatric rheumatologist to be aware and distance himself from people who are sick with any normal cough, cold, or flu. Although his medications do not cause him to be more likely to become sick, if he is infected, he will be much sicker and experience more severe symptoms than his peers. We know this to be true, as just this past January, Ty came down with just a normal cold – barely a low grade fever with a cough and runny nose – and he was literally wiped out on the couch or in bed and out of school for an entire week – he wouldn't even pick up a video game controller! We could see that his physician was correct – he has a compromised immune system, and he needs to be careful.

Along Comes COVID 19

As a coach, I preach to my players to, "Be Brave!", and although we take seriously the need to be vigilant in regards to Ty's health, we certainly choose not to live in fear. Yet, I feel that we would be amiss if we did not do our due diligence to practice the selflessness that we try to instill in our own children and those we have had the privilege to coach in order to provide the safest environment for not only Ty but for all of the vulnerable community members right where we are.

Sadly, I cannot even count the number of times over the past week that I have read phrases like, "most of us will be just fine" or "just people who are already have health issues are at risk". That "most" doesn't include our Ty because he is part of the "just" – he, along with many others, are at significant risk of experiencing debilitating effects from the COVID 19 virus.

It can be tricky because Ty looks healthy. In fact, if you saw him, you would never know that his immune system is not functioning at full capacity, which likely puts him at even higher risk, as anyone who is not feeling well wouldn't realize that by interacting with him they could significantly impact his life.

Being fully transparent, if and when I focus on all these health issues and what ifs, fear can creep in – the ramifications of the unknown can be frightening.

A New Normal

Fear can be paralyzing if we allow it to be, or it can motivate us to action. We choose the latter and refuse to allow fear or the unknown to halt our purpose here on this earth. Rather, we are motivated to be proactive, make changes, and learn to be selfless for the good of others. Here is a practical list of what that looks like right now in our home:



The Car Ride Home



A PLACE FOR VOLLEYBALL PARENTS

Be A Hero

CONTINUED

- Rather than flirting with exposure, we took Ty and his siblings who are still at home out of school early.
- We have been practicing social distancing religiously and are simply staying home unless absolutely necessary. I have been working from home and leave only to visit the grocery store. My husband is now working from home as well. We have not allowed any friends to come and visit, and we have not allowed our kids to socialize outside the home with any of their friends, despite several invitations to do so.
- We are washing our hands a lot and daily sanitizing the most touched surfaces such as door knobs, faucets, and with teenagers, of course, the refrigerator door handle.
- Every day, we complete some chores and/or a project around the house together.
- We are playing lots of board and card games and are making our way through our large stack of 1000 piece puzzles. The kids enjoy interacting and playing video games with their friends online.
- We are selecting new TV series to watch and are enjoying spending time watching movies new and the classics and eating lots of fresh popcorn together.
- We are trying to spend some time outside every day, although weather in Minnesota doesn't always cooperate!
- Meal time has been fantastic! The kids have really taken this on themselves, and all sorts of new recipes have already been tried along with some of our traditional favorites. So far, everything has been delicious, and we are definitely going to have to ramp up our exercising to make sure our clothes make it through this quarantine!
- Exercise time as a family is a must. This is not something we have ever really done, as we all usually have our own trainings to attend, so we are still figuring out exactly what this looks like but know it needs to be a priority for health and mental well-being.
- FaceTime is awesome, especially for our kiddos and their friends. Seeing and talking to our friends and family, even virtually, lifts our spirits!
- We attend events and gatherings virtually as much as possible. We even went to church together in our living room in our pajamas last weekend!
- Together we look for a way to serve and help others each day. It may be as simple as a FaceTime call to a grandparent, buying some gift cards from our local establishments to help them at this time, or writing a note to someone. Even though we are here with just our family, the importance of keeping our focus on others has to be at the forefront.
- Over the course of the next couple of weeks, our kids, including our college student, will begin online/virtual school. We look forward to navigating this unique opportunity to learn and grow together.
- We spend time praying individually and as a family. Faith is an important part of our life and helps sustain us and give us peace and hope in, not only this, but all of life's circumstances.

What I Miss

I miss watching my own kids and my players compete. I miss car rides to practice. I miss playing volleyball. I miss sitting at a volleyball tournament all weekend. I miss my coworkers. I miss going to my church. I



The Car Ride Home



A PLACE FOR VOLLEYBALL PARENTS

Be A Hero

CONTINUED

miss meeting my friends for coffee. I miss our front door opening and teenagers filing into our house. I miss being able to go to Target whenever I want for no particular reason to just wander around aimlessly. I miss eating out as a family. I miss going to the movie theater and sitting in a comfy chair with a huge refillable bowl of popcorn. I miss high fives, handshakes, and hugs.

But all of these things that I miss pale in comparison to the loss that is felt by the families of the people who have already lost their battle as a result of this pandemic or the families of those who are still battling.

And so, even though I would much rather be socializing and allowing my children to socialize at will, together we choose the welfare and needs of others above our own convenience and wants. We choose to wait patiently for the opportunity to be back on the courts and fields and in the coffee shops and churches again – and it will be worth the wait if we have positively impacted the lives of others.

I am not writing this to try to tell you what to do – in fact, research shows that wouldn't work anyways. I simply hope that next time you hear or read about the marginalized and vulnerable among us that you will remember that those people have names – one of them is named Ty – and I would earnestly plead with you, as one parent to another, to please keep your family at home unless absolutely necessary for the time being. I know it's not convenient, and I know your teenagers might not understand, but we would be so incredibly grateful if you would take on this selfless act for the good of others – these are the kind of heroes this Momma is looking for right now!



Pro-Volleyball League!

BY USA VOLLEYBALL

Athletes Unlimited, in partnership with USA Volleyball, will launch the only U.S.-based women's indoor volleyball pro league beginning February 2021. Jordan Larson and Foluke Akinradewo have signed with the league.

Read full story - **CLICK HERE**