



Spikes & Serves

Winter 2007

Garden Empire Volleyball Association

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Inside this Issue

Commissioner's Corner	1
Directory	2
GEVA News & Bulletins	3
Junior Division News	4
Adult Division News	5

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Internet Surfers

GEVA's home page resides at
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USA Volleyball home page resides at
www.usavolleyball.org

Garden Empire Volleyball Assoc.



Commissioner's Corner

It's been a busy season for GEVA. Many changes were made last fall in the hope of improving the playing environment. Some worked very well and some did not.

As your Commissioner, I am very grateful for the time put in by those members who help this Region work. It is the hard work of the few that grease the wheels that makes everything go.

Web Site Update: I am sure that everyone has seen GEVA's updated web site by now. A few members did a lot of work to make it happen. If you have any suggestions please email the web editor. Remember – As we go forward more and more information will be put on the web site and less mailings will be necessary.

Registration System: GEVA decided to participate in the USAV online registration system in the hope of improving the registration process. Needless to say, it was not all it was cracked up to be. Joel (GEVA Registrar) has put a lot of time in to make it work. Thank you all for putting up with the problems that were encountered. We will be evaluating this system and doing something different for next season.

Region Growth: The Region continues to grow each year. While this is good it continues to challenge your Board in their ability to offer playing opportunities for each team. Many comments are heard concerning the need for teams to travel to play. This is especially true for the junior teams. Well, you are the Region. As a club/team your help is needed. If you do not like traveling, find a gym to hold a tournament. Try to run just one tournament next season. The Region will help to train and guide you in the process.

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Regional Calendar – Important dates

- Jan 7/8, 2007 – Junior Friendship tournament, start of Junior tournament season
- Mar 17, 2007 – entry deadline for Masters & Coed Adult Nationals
- March 29, 2007 - entry deadline for Club Adult Nationals
- April/May 2007 – Elections for Board Members during Regionals
- April 14, entry deadline for Girl's Junior Nationals & Bid tournament
- April 22/23, 2007 – Adult Regionals
- April 29/30, 2007 – Junior Girl's Regionals
- May 3/4, 2007 – Junior Girl's Regionals
- May 4, 2007 – Junior Boy's Regionals
- May 27 to June 3, 2007 – Adult Nationals, Austin, Tx
- May 26, 2007 - entry deadline Boy's Junior Nationals
- Jun 7 to Jun 10, 2007 – Girls Invitational Tournament in Atlanta, GA
- Jun 29 to Jul 8, 2007 – Girls Junior National Tournament in Minneapolis, MN
- Jul 4 to Jul 11, 2007 - Boys Junior National Tournament in Atlanta, GA
- July/Aug 2007 - Election for Commissioner at Joint Board meeting
- Sept 1, 2007 – deadline for National Newsletter articles

GEVA Bulletins

Elections:

Every year GEVA holds elections for two positions on both the Adult and Junior Boards.

This past summer elections were held. The following people were elected to their positions for a term of 3 years:

Women's BB – Marina Ciotti

Men's BB – Bart Blair

Girl's at Large – Doug Levine

Boy's at Large – Marilyn Maccio

Elections will be held for the following positions, in 2007:

Women's B Adult Bd.

Representative

Men's B Adult Bd.

Representative

New Jersey Junior Bd.

Representative

Northern

(West/Rock/Put/Dut/Org Ctys)

Junior Bd. Representative

Each Junior Club Director and Adult Team Representative of the represented area/level are eligible to vote. Ballots will be sent out in April/May 2007.

Anyone interested in running for these positions needs to contact the Commissioner before April 15, 2007.

During the 2007 summer board meeting the elected Board representatives will be voting for the Commissioner. Anyone interested in running for this position needs to contact the Junior Director before July 1, 2007.

Nationals:

Its time to start looking to the National tournaments. The deadline for Adult Nationals is the end of March. Deadline for the Junior Nationals are April 14th for the Girls and May 26th for the Boys.

Entry guidelines for all tournaments have been posted on the web site. If you have any thoughts of attending, go to the web site and review the guidelines. Do not procrastinate as the deadlines are approaching.

Officials:

Tim Countryman, GEVA Official's Chair, has led a great effort to increase the number of trained referees in GEVA. A lack of referees is one of the things that will inhibit the growth of playing opportunities for the region.

Junior Division News

Junior Director Notes:

I hope everyone has enjoyed the junior club season, so far! The feedback from players, parents, and coaches has been great. As I'm out at various tournament sites, I'm continuously impressed at the improved level of play that I see from teams at all age groups. In particular, more and more clubs are starting new teams at the youngest age groups; which bodes well for the future growth of volleyball in our region.

In order to facilitate the younger, developmental programs, the region has created a new, less expensive membership category for Junior Developmental play. The new membership is designed for clubs to be able to offer a very low cost introduction to club volleyball and they are restricted to only one sanctioned tournament event. I'd love to hear ideas about what we can do to encourage more elementary and middle school aged kids, both girls and boys, to play volleyball!

Speaking of boys, thanks to the efforts of Marilyn Maccio, GEVA just completed a very successful junior boy's tournament, held on 11 courts, at Queens College, on March 4th. Marilyn hopes to turn this into an annual event and may expand it to be a two day tournament, next season. We hope this turns into the premier boy's volleyball tournament in the north east!

On the girl's front, we have wrapped up the last of the three Ranking tournaments that will

determine the seeding for the Junior Olympic Bid Tournament and for the GEVA Open and Club Regional Championships. Please note that any team interested in competing for the regions bid to the Junior Olympic National Championships, this summer, needs to complete the registration process before April 14th. Please visit <http://geva.org/juniors/girls/nationalsInfo.php> for details information and instructions.

The GEVA High Performance team program has gotten off to a good start with the first Pre-Tryout Evaluation that was held in February. GEVA will be sponsoring a USA Select team, for girls born on or after January 1, 1992, to compete at the USAV National High Performance Championships, in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, this July. Please visit the website at <http://geva.org/hp> for more details and a schedule of upcoming events!

Eligibility for Regionals:

To be eligible for the Girl's Open Championship a team must have played in a minimum of 2 GEVA ranking tournaments and be ranked in the top 16 of their age division.

To be eligible for the Girl's Club Championship a team must have played in a minimum of 2 GEVA tournaments.

To be eligible for the Boy's Championship a team must have played in a minimum of 1 GEVA tournament.

Eligibility for Nationals:

To be eligible for the Girl's Junior National Championships a team must have qualified for the Open Regional Championships. To win a bid a team must have submitted their bid tournament entry and JO tournament entry to the GEVA office along with the required fees postmarked by April 14, 2007. Bids will be awarded based upon the results of the bid tournament.

To be eligible for the Boy's Junior National Championships a team must have qualified for the Regional Championships. To enter a team must have submitted their JO tournament entry to the GEVA office along with the required fees by May 26, 2007.

See the GEVA web site for entry guideline.

Adult Division News

Adult Director Notes:

Your Board Representatives (and you do know who they are, right?) have been busy during the early part of the season reviewing and updating the playing rules for the division. A number of small changes were made for this season. If any of you have ideas for next season please contact your representative.

Board of Director Changes:

In February Roman Adrianowcz requested to be replaced as the Men's B representative to the Adult Competition Committee. Roman has served on the Board in a number of positions for many years. GEVA thanks him for his service and help. Ray Schweighardt has been appointed to replace Roman for the rest of the term (until this April).

Carrine Mackey asked to be replaced as the Women's A/AA representative due to the press of professional and family life. Crystal Akens was appointed to replace her for the rest of her term.

Elections will be held for Men's and Women's B representatives during the regional timeframe.

'B' Team Movement:

The Adult Board has decided not to move any 'B' teams at the end of the season. This decision was made due to the fact that there are a fewer number of teams registered this season. The decision was made in a effort to preserve the number of teams in the division

and to provide a better playing environment.

Regional Eligibility:

Regionals will be held the weekend of April 21/22. See the GEVA web site under Adult Tournament Schedule for the details.

To be eligible to play, a team needs to play in 4 regular season GEVA tournaments at their level.

To be eligible a player needs to play in 3 regular season tournaments at their level.

A team needs to have two qualified scorekeepers on their roster by April 1 in order to play. It is the team's responsibility to make this happen. It's not a hard test, the answers are all in the rule book. Print the test off the GEVA web site. Mail it along with the required scoresheets to Karen Valko.

National Eligibility:

Teams/players need to be registered and have played in a minimum of one GEVA sanctioned tournament to be eligible for the Adult National Club tournament. For play in other divisions (Co-ed, Masters), players need only to be registered to enter.

This year, it is possible that the club tournaments may be oversubscribed. If that is the case, GEVA will determine its entrants based upon the tournament point system and date of entry.

See the GEVA web site for National entry guidelines. The deadlines as posted are a requirement for a successful entry. It is the teams' responsibility to get their entries in by the deadline.