



REGION REF BULLETIN

WWW.BADGERVOLLEYBALL.ORG | MEMBERSHIP@BADGERVOLLEYBALL.ORG



A combination of new and experience officials came to the Brookfield Sheraton Sunday for our first in-person ref meeting of the year. Another meeting is set for Dec. 8. And an online meeting is set for Dec. 10.

Region hosts in-person ref meeting



New officials stuck around for their own in-person meeting to go over things after the full meeting adjourned.



Director of Officials Sara Voigt led the refs through membership, policies and updates.

Sign up for a ref meeting

Please take a moment to sign up for a Badger Region Officials meeting.

One will take place 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8, at the Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield, 375 South Moorland Road in Brookfield. The other will be at 7 p.m. on Dec. 10 online.

You only need to attend one date and just a reminder that this annual meeting is mandatory for all Badger Region officials. If you live far away don't worry we will also have an online option with the date and time yet to be determined.

[Click here to sign up.](#)

On-court evals

New officials are required to sign up for an on-court evaluation. To sign up for a slot, [click here](#).

Have questions? Email sara@badgervolleyball.org.

Independent contractor form

The 2024-25 independent contractor form is approved and was sent to all new and renewing Badger Region/USAV officials recently. Officials will receive the IC form and W9 through DocuSign again this year. Once membership is renewed, the Region will manually send the DocuSign to the email you used on your membership.

Have questions? Email sara@badgervolleyball.org.

USAV rules and points of emphasis

1. Login to your USAV Academy (from your Sports Engine account)
2. Click on Content Library in the left navigation bar and scroll down to US25_The Officials Academy
3. Click on it and then scroll down to the Silver Level Collection and you will find 25-051_Critical Rules and Points of Emphasis.

Line judges sought for '25 All-Star event

We are looking for line judges for USA All-Star Championships the Badger Region is hosting in Madison in 2025!

If you are interested in line judging All Star Champs July 24-27, 2025, send Sara an email at sara@badgervolleyball.org. Line judge training will be scheduled in Spring 2025 for everyone in preparation of the event (dates to be announced later).

A limited number of R1 and R2 selections will be made by at a later time.

Officials uniforms

Badger Region and USA Volleyball officials should use the website <https://vbofficialsgear.com/> for travel accessories, reffing accessories and plenty of apparel options.

Card reporting

If you issue a red card during a Badger Region-sanctioned match, please remember to record it by filling out this form on the Badger Region website. This will help us document repeat offenders and looking for other trends.



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Scoring in action

Erin Stalker, Badger Region Score Chair, runs a junior score clinic at Adversity-Wisconsin VBC on December 1. If clubs are interested in having a certified official offer score or line judge training at a practice, the Badger Region will help coordinate. Certified officials will be paid by the club for leading these training sessions.

Region testing two new rules

USA Volleyball is considering two potential rule changes for 2026, and we are able to use them this year in our region events (non Qualifiers) as a trial run to see if clubs/teams support the rule changes.

The first one is changing from 12 to 15 substitutions. This would match the current NCAA rule. USAV scoresheets with 15 subs will be available on the Badger Region website.

The second rule change is to allow a team to use 0, 1, or 2 liberos for each set

and change them at will This would match what is being used for JVA/AAU events.

If tournaments would like to use these test rules, directors should this in pre-tournament communication. This is for Badger Region approved events only.

Have feedback on the rule changes? Email Program/Communications Director Brian@badgervolleyball.org. Sharkey is a member of the Rules of the Game Commission that will vote on the rule changes at its February meeting.

Donations sought for new officials

The Badger Region wants to thank the experienced officials who have donated to the ref-starter kits being put together for new officials in Wisconsin.

Your generosity is appreciated.

That being said, the Region is continuing to collect gently used officiating items that can be used to build starter kits for new officials just starting off.



Some of the suggested things we are collecting include:

- * Line judge flags
- * Referee carrying bags
- * Yellow/Red cards
- * Officials polos (maybe you have certain colors you don't like to wear or sizes that you never fit into in your

closet)

- * Writing utensils and erasers
- * Correction tape
- * Coolers/lunch boxes
- * Ball pumps
- * Electronic whistles
- * Net-height chains

We want to make it as easy as possible for new referees to get started. To donate, you can drop off materials at your in-person officials meeting or at the Badger Region office in Pewaukee.





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Make sure you are in good standing

Some updates to Region's policy

The Badger Region board of directors approved in May 2023 an "In Good Standing" policy for all officials to be assignable, receive mentoring and be eligible for advancement moving forward.

The criteria listed below must be met on an annual basis. If a referee cannot meet these criteria, he or she may apply to the Officials Chair for a one-season waiver to become inactive, which will not be unreasonably withheld.

- * Annual USAV Full Membership
- * Annual USAV background screen
- * Annual SafeSport Training
- * Complete and submit annual Independent Contractor and W-9 forms

- * Completion of all required USAV modules assigned by Badger Region

- * Attend the Badger Region officials' pre-season meeting (in person or online) or a new referee clinic.

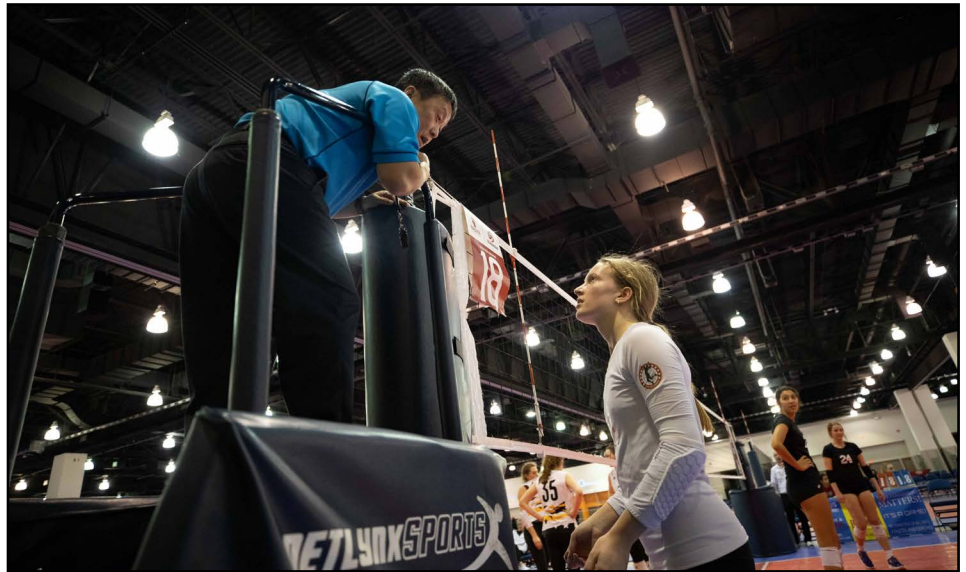
- * Conduct themselves with an appropriate level of professionalism and are not under review or hold sanctions from the Badger Region Ethics & Eligibility Committee.

- * Official has been assigned to and has or will be working two separate Badger Region-hosted events (Badger Region Championships, Badger Region Power League, Badger Region Qualifier, Dale Rhode) or WVC events or other single day-approved events. An official can also meet requirements by working in a mentoring role at two events.

- The official does not have to work both days of a two-day event.

- The two days need to be from two separate events.

If an official does not officiate or mentor (as assigned by the Badger Region Assignor) at least two Badger Region tournaments in a season, they will be considered to have been inactive for that season (and until they have officiated a tournament in a subsequent season). If an official is inactive for two successive seasons, the official will be required to repeat the certification process, beginning with clinic attendance and practical evaluation before being reinstated and officiating for the Region again. Failing to meet one or more of the following Good Standing criteria will result in "Conditional" status which will affect tournament officiating fees



and possibly eligibility to receive assignments. Conditional officials are not considered to be in good standing.

**Please note that if an official would like to run for a leadership position (board, advisory or other committee) within the Badger Region, they must be in good standing as of April 15 and must maintain that standing throughout their service.

Good standing for advancement

To be considered for advancement AND in good standing in the Badger Region, the referee must meet the criteria outlined below. If a referee cannot meet these criteria they will not be eligible for advancement.

**Please note if an official was not in good standing the previous season, they cannot apply for advancement the following season due to the timing of regional camp acceptance and the regional advancement training process. An official must be in good standing the season before they apply for advancement the following season.

- * Annual USAV Full Membership
- * Annual USAV background screen
- * Annual Safe Sport Training
- * Complete and submitted annual IC/W 9 forms
- * Complete and submit annual Independent Contractor and W-9 forms

- * Official has been assigned to and has or will be working two separate Badger Region-hosted events (Badger Region Championships, Badger

Region Power League, Badger Region Qualifier, Dale Rhode) or WVC events or other single day-approved events. An official can also meet requirements by working in a mentoring role at two events.

- * Maintain certification as a USAV Scorer.

- * Attend the Badger Region officials' pre-season meeting (in person or online) or a new referee clinic.

- * Conduct themselves with an appropriate level of professionalism and are not under review or hold sanctions from the Badger Region Ethics & Eligibility Committee.

Rationale

- * Important in order to prevent officials from just using the region to become certified and not officiate region events.

- * Perception is that our officials pool increases but the number of "assignable officials" does not.

- * Help the region retain officials to use in region events

- * Officials mentoring can only be scheduled for those officials working Badger Region sanctioned events. Mentors can be scheduled for officials during these events to help make those officials better. All mentors are scheduled by the officials assignor and paid for by Badger Region. Our goal is to make our region officials better and help them towards advancement.

- * This is common in most regions and helps unify policies region to region.

Questions? Email sara@badgervolleyball.org.



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Badger Region advancement protocol

The purpose of advancement through officiating ranks is important as it offers recognition and reward for the hard work that officials put in throughout their careers. As the interest in advancement grows, so does the evaluation pressure and process to pass through both the regional and USA Volleyball (USAV) National processes. Badger Region has developed the following procedures and criteria in order to help prepare officials to become successful in passing their evaluations.

Officials must be In Good Standing, per the approved policy, the season prior to their request for advancement the following season. For a copy of the In Good Standing policy, please visit the Badger Region website or contact the region official's chair or board rep.

Junior National & National Candidates:

This process is handled by USAV, but Badger Region is asked to provide input on candidates. Based on the number of candidates accepted per region by USAV, the region budget allows for two reimbursements of \$500 per candidate upon successful advancement per season to recognize and reward. Please note that the official must be in good standing to be considered for advancement.

If there are more than two candidates per season seeking advancement, the region will form an advisory committee composed of the ref chair, ref liaison and other interested parties to make a decision on the ranking of candidates that will be given to USAV. Junior National and National Ad-



vancement Applications are available on the USAV website and all questions should be directed to USAV. Additional information about the process and timeline is as follows:

- * The final decision on selection and advancement is made by USAV

- * To decide the ranking of a candidate, the Region takes many factors into consideration including good standing status, dedication to region events, interactions with other officials, ability to manage calendar, etc.

- * The Region will confirm receipt of a candidate's application and will copy the candidate on the submission to USA Volleyball, per their process.

- * The Region will send completed applications, regional ranking and all other information to USAV as requested by their process.

Regional Candidates:

This process is handled within the Badger Region and will be an application process for the 2024-25 season. The Region will form a Regional Advancement Committee composed of interested parties, including but not limited to Regional, Junior National and

National officials within the Region as well as the Region Liaison to USAV and the Badger Region Ref Chair. The committee will select up to eight (8) candidates for Regional advancement per season, as outlined by the process below:

- * An application form will be live on the Badger Region website on October 1st and will be included in subsequent Ref Bulletins. Interested officials have until 11:59pm CT on Dec. 31 to apply as an "interested in advancement" candidate. Candidates must be available for the 2025 Regional Advancement Camp January 11th and 12th and the 2025 advancement weekend of April 5-6 at the Badger Region Power League to be considered.

- * Mentors will be assigned to all interested candidates seeking advancement in the months of January and February, based on their designated in-region availability. Officials interested in advancement must be available for Badger Region events and open to mentoring and feedback. The goal will be to give all interested candidates the same number of mentoring opportunities, but this depends on availability of both the mentor and the candidate.

- * Mentors will send reports

of their sessions with interested candidates to the Advancement Committee after completing mentoring opportunities to give guidance on whether an interested candidate is ready (both in the R1 and R2 positions). These reports must be submitted after each mentoring session, but no later than the end of March.

- * The Committee will finalize selection and an email will be sent to all candidates no later than the first week of April on their status of acceptance. If an official is not accepted as one of the candidates for Regional Advancement, the region will work with that individual to help set them up for success the following year (if possible).

- * The candidates who are accepted to the April 5-6 Advancement Weekend will be given continued mentoring opportunities, if available, before evaluation weekend.

- * Selected Regional Advancement candidates will be assigned both days of Advancement Weekend and will be paid for half of the matches they are assigned.

- * Advancement coaches (mentor officials) will be assigned advancement camp and advancement weekend by the Badger Region, who will be given guidance from the advancement committee on qualities and skills to be considered during the evaluation process.

- * At the end of the second day of Advancement Weekend, the advancement coaches will decide if a candidate has been successful. Upon successful advancement, the new Regional candidate will receive a Regional Patch and be celebrated in the upcoming issues of the Badger Beacon newsletter and Ref Bulletin.



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Save the dates for these Region meetings, events

Start saving these dates on your calendar for the Badger Region-hosted events slated for the 2024-25 season. Here is what we know at the present time:

- Nov. 24:** In-person referee meeting No. 1 at 11 a.m.
- Dec. 6:** Badger Boys Series (Milwaukee Sting Center)
- Dec. 8:** In-person referee meeting No. 2 at 11 a.m.
- Jan. 11-12:** First weekend of Badger Region Power League (assigning begins week of July 8)
- Jan. 17:** Badger Boys Series (Milwaukee Sting Center)
- Feb. 8-9:** Second weekend of Badger Region Power League (assigning begins week of July 8)



- Feb. 22-23, 2025:** Dale Rhode Memorial Boys Volleyball Tournament (Baird Center, Milwaukee)
- March 1-2, 2025:** Badger Region Girls Qualifier (Baird Center, Milwaukee)
- March 15-16, 2025:** Badger Region Championships (Baird

- Center, Milwaukee)
- March 22-23, 2025:** Badger Region Championships (Baird Center, Milwaukee)
- April 5-6:** Second weekend of Badger Region Power League (assigning begins week of July 8)
- July 24-27:** USA All-Star

Championships (Alliant Energy Center, Madison)

Single-day events in the Badger Region are assigned starting the second week in December (unless they are scheduled for December). Questions? Email us at membership@badgervolleyball.org

HARD WORKING. DECISIVE. CONFIDENT. CONSISTENT. DEDICATED

REFEREES WANTED

REWARDS:

TRAINING OFFERED
GOOD COMPENSATION
FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES

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So, you're new to club?

Join us for a Lunch & Learn designed specifically for new parents and athletes

We are just a few weeks away from the start of the competition season for many of the teams in the Badger Region. And with that comes a lot of nervous athletes, parents and family members who are all part of the club volleyball experience.

Don't worry, we here at the Badger Region Volleyball Association are here to help.

The Region will be host a Facebook Live event from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 12, to make the start of season go smooth for everyone who might be new to the club volleyball landscape. [To bookmark the Facebook Live event, click here.](#)

The event will be archived on our Facebook page for those who cannot join us live for the event.

So, what will we be talking about? That's up to you. If you have a topic you want covered,

email us in advance at brian@badgervolleyball.org.

Some of the topics currently on the table include: What a membership gets you, what does it mean to be a Badger Region member, and who handles what in the Badger Region office.

We'll also dive into the expectations of things your club handles vs. the Region vs. USA Volleyball. Our agenda also will touch on officiating responsibilities and interacting with referees.

And we'll walk new parents and athletes through the day in the life of a tournament: What to bring, what not to bring, how to navigate the tournament schedule, costs of participating (and spectating) and much more.

It's going to be an educating discussion. Come and join our staff for this great event. See you soon!



Set up your direct deposit for event pay

Did you know that if you work the Badger Region's marquee events that you can be paid with direct deposit through our accounting company? Yes. You can.

Independent contractors who work the Region Championships, Qualifier, Power League and Dale Rohde Memorial can set up an account and get paid via direct deposit. [To set up an account through Bill.com, click here.](#)

The system will ask you some questions so follow the prompts, and you will also be asked to confirm your contact information.

The monies worked while officiating, scoring or serving as a lead official, score monitor, etc., can then be deposited electronically. A paper check would not be sent. Through this system, deposits are made roughly three days after they are processed and approved.

Shoutouts

Please send your outstanding work crew nominations to Badger Region program director Brian Sharkey at brian@badgervolleyball.org. Please get their team name, club name and the head coach if possible. We will highlight your nomination and the team on social media and in future newsletters.

BECOME A HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL OFFICIAL!

STUDENT-ATHLETES NEED YOUR HELP SO THAT THEY CAN CONTINUE PLAYING THE SPORTS THEY LOVE. ADDITIONALLY, THERE'S NO BETTER OPPORTUNITY TO EARN EXTRA PART-TIME INCOME. AS AN OFFICIAL, YOU'LL BE PART OF THE GAME, WITH THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE.

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE ● GIVE BACK TO THE SPORT
DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS ● EARN EXTRA INCOME

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