



# REGION REF BULLETIN

WWW.BADGERVOLLEYBALL.ORG | MEMBERSHIP@BADGERVOLLEYBALL.ORG

## Dawson wins seat on Board of Directors

Longtime official Patti Dawson was elected to the Badger Region Board of Directors after voting concluded May 10.

Dawson will serve as the Official's Representative on the Board and will serve a three-year term.



As the Officials Rep on the board, she will also be a part of the Officials Advisory Committee which includes Badger Region Ref Chair/Assigner Sara Voigt, Score Chair Erin Stalker and Officials Liaison to USA Volleyball John Nelson.

Dawson has been an official since 1996. She earned her Junior National certification in 2015 and her National rating in

2019. Dawson became a National Scorer in 2022 and has been a recipient of the USAV Silver Whistle Award recipient.

She has been a coach in some capacity since 1990 and has a passion for riding and showing horses in her spare time.

Dawson also has three grandchildren.

When asked why she would be a valuable addition to the

Badger Region Board of Directors, she said, "I love the game of volleyball and want to be a voice between officials and the Board. I feel I listen to all sides of a story and am open to everyone's opinions and feelings and know there are always resolutions to any situation."

Dawson and other new board members will be seated at their first meeting in September.



## Stalker wins USAV's Silver Pen Award

Congratulations to Badger Region Score Chair Erin Stalker for earning the 2024 Silver Pen Award from USA Volleyball.

This award recognizes the individual deemed as the most outstanding rookie scorer of the year from the previous year's USA Open National Championship Event.

Other requirements for the award include:

- \* Officiated as a scorer in a minimum of 10 matches at the USA Open Championship Event as a USA National scorer;

- \* Demonstrated consistent quality and ability as a scorer throughout each match assigned;

- \* Demonstrated high quality of teamwork in his/her capacity as a scorer under varying conditions of the highest level of competition;

- \* Demonstrated personal characteristics consistent with the high ideals and purposes of the USA National Scorers Subcommission

After receiving the award, Stalker wrote, "Getting awarded the Silver Pen means so much to me. I have worked very hard to get where I am as a scorer. Being recognized as the best rookie scorer at the 2023 Open National Championships is a huge honor. I cannot wait to continue that reputation in upcoming years and help others gain the knowledge to be an outstanding scorer, too!"



## Torres Rivera earns National rating

Congratulations to Francisco Torres Rivera on reaching your goal of attaining a National Referee certification during the 2024 Girls 18s National Championships in Baltimore, Md.

He is a familiar face at numerous Badger Region and USA Volleyball events around Wisconsin and the Midwest. He is also a physical education teacher in Milwaukee Public Schools.

Torres Rivera, a resident of Milwaukee, received his Junior National Referee certification 2022 and earned his Regional Scorer designation in 2023. Recently married and a father of a newborn, he has been a registered official since 2017.





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## THINGS OFFICIALS CAN WORK ON DURING OFFSEASON

Knowledge of volleyball rules for better understanding and explanation is incredibly important. Volleyball officials must also possess excellent communication skills. This includes being able to clearly explain rulings in order for everyone involved in the game, from coaches and players to spectators and other officials, to understand why certain decisions have been made.

They also need to be able to articulate themselves in such a way that it does not come across as overly biased or unfair. Use some off time to review the USAV rule book and interpretation.

Here's a link to the USAV officials page for more information <https://usavolleyball.org/resources-for-officials/rule-books-and-interpretations/>

## Shoutouts

Calling all officials: Please send your outstanding work crew nominations to Badger Region program director Brian Sharkey at [brian@badgervolleyball.org](mailto: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.

Thanks in advance.

## 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.

## Officials uniforms

Badger Region and USA Volleyball officials should start using a new website to order approved apparel for upcoming seasons. The website is: <https://vbofficialsgear.com/>

There, you will also find travel accessories, reffing accessories and plenty of apparel options.

## Ref training resumes in fall

Officials training and recertification will start back up for the 2024-25 season after Sept. 1. Mandatory in-person and Zoom meeting dates will be announced at that time along with the new online module training through the USAV Academy.

Regional Advancement interest form will be available on Oct. 1 with Regional camp dates announced during the first and last weekend of Badger Power League.

## 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](mailto: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.

**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  
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## Do's and don'ts on social media

**DO** be aware that posts on social media are visible to the general public. Even if you limit access to your page to friends, it is likely that your post will be viewed by someone beyond the circle of people you intended to see it.

**DO** find out your association or league expectations regarding social media. Your association may not have hard and fast rules, but find out if it has an unofficial policy.

**DO** think twice before you post. If there is anything in your post that could be construed as a criticism of officials, of officials' decisions, or of schools, coaches or athletes...it is better left unsent.

**DO** assume that your post

will be seen by the two teams you will see in your next game and the teams you worked in your previous game as well as your partner(s) in those games.

**DON'T** post anything relating to the schools you have worked or will work. It calls your objectivity into question.

**DON'T** include anything in a post that makes reference to an upcoming assignment. If teams want to find out who is going to be working their game, they should do so through official channels, not your tweet.

**DON'T** post details about other people's regular season or playoff assignments. Don't use your page as a news service.

**DON'T** use social media to criticize state or local association policies, assigning practices, etc. **DON'T** make posts regarding calls made by officials in other games, whatever the level. You and your buddies might debate the call you saw on TV, but debating the call on Facebook, Twitter or other forums and social media is a no-no.

**DON'T** "friend", "follow" or otherwise interact with student-athletes in any social media forum. Regardless of the intentions, it is risky and unwise for an official to communicate with student athletes, since it could call into question your objectivity or motives.

### Save the dates:

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:

**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)

**July 24-27:** USA All-Star Championships (Alliant Energy Center, Madison)

Events still to be scheduled include:

\* Badger Boys Series (two dates)

\* Badger Region Power League (three dates)

Single-day events in the Badger Region are assigned starting the second week in December (unless they are scheduled for December).

**WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL SHOWCASE**

 WISCONSIN
  MINNESOTA
  STANFORD
  TEXAS

**LABOR DAY WEEKEND 2024 | FISERV FORUM**