



REGION REF BULLETIN

WWW.BADGERVOLLEYBALL.ORG | MEMBERSHIP@BADGERVOLLEYBALL.ORG

Nelson assumes role as Region Officials Liaison

John Nelson has taken over the role as the Badger Region Officials Liaison to USA Volleyball, replacing Teague Prichard who served the position for three years.

Nelson's promotion to the position will go before the Badger Region Board of Directors at the Board's next meeting on Monday, Nov. 20.

As Officials Liaison, Nelson will serve on the Badger Region Officials Committee which oversees ref development and advancement in the Region. He will work closely with the Badger Region Ref Chair & Assigner Sara Voigt and Score Liaison Erin Stalker to assign modules to officials, arrange training sessions and mentor new or inexperienced officials.



John Nelson's bio:

John has been involved in competitive volleyball for close to 40 years now as a player, coach and official. While serving in the Marine Corps he played and coached many Marine teams as well as playing on USA Volleyball men's teams. In 1989 the coach for his men's team invited him to an officials meeting and he became involved in the sport as a

referee.

While serving as a Marine, Nelson served in several locations around the country and learned about volleyball and officiating from many great mentors. He received his Junior National Referee patch in 1998 and has had the chance to serve as a clinician and mentor for many others. In 2008 he retired and moved home to Wisconsin and joined the Badger Region.

Since joining the Badger Region he has worked as an official doing junior, college club and men's matches. He also serves as a trainer and mentor for officials as well as a clinician. As a clinician, he has done many Junior Work Crew clinics training junior players the skills they need to be a good work crew at their tour-

naments. He also does officials clinics, score clinics and on court observations for officials in the northern part of our region. He has been selected three times as the Dale Rhode Silver Whistle Award winner by the players of the Wisconsin Volleyball Conference. He received the Robert L. Lindsay Meritorious Service Award in 2016 and the USAV Junior National Outstanding Clinician award in 2020.

He is currently a USAV Junior National and PAVO National referee. His wife Sheila is a former USAV Regional referee, and they have one daughter Emily who is currently a Regional Referee.

To contact John Nelson, email him at jcnelson2110@gmail.com.

Erin Stalker nominated as Badger Region Score Liaison

Erin Stalker has taken over the role as the Badger Region Score Liaison to USA Volleyball, replacing Lexi Sheldon who served the position for four years.

Stalker's promotion to the position will go before the Badger Region Board of Directors at the Board's next meeting on Monday, Nov. 20.

Erin Stalker's bio:

Stalker received her USAV National Scorer certification in 2022.. She is excited to continue and build the scorer program in the Badger Region. She is also a certified PAVO Scorer and Line Judge.

Native to Milton, Wis., Erin started playing club volleyball when she was 11 years old in 2003 with Milton Aces (now Crossfire VBC).

A graduate of Milton High School in 2010, she played volleyball, basketball, softball and was a thrower for the track and field team. She continued to play club volleyball through

high school with Milton Aces, Capital Volleyball Academy, and Wisconsin Performance. She continued her volleyball career at UW-La

Crosse where she played as a middle blocker and an outside hitter.

She is currently the tournament director, system coordinator, and 15-1s coach at Crossfire VBC. She has been coaching since 2015, starting at Milton Aces and then with Wisconsin Performance 2016 thru 2020. She was also the varsity assistant coach at Lodi High School for five



years. Coaching volleyball is her passion which she continues to improve by attending clinics throughout the year.

Stalker graduated UWL in 2015 with a Bio-Medical degree, chemistry minor, and ceramics minor. After college, she moved to Madison where she began her career as a scientist at PPD/Thermo Fisher in Middleton, doing pharmaceutical development. She is currently working in the gene and cell therapy department there with the method development team.

Erin's mother, Bonnie, is also very involved in the volleyball world as the director of Crossfire VBC as well as a USAV and WIAA referee. Bonnie Stalker is also the southwest representative on the Badger Region Board of Directors.

Still residing in Madison, Erin is a dog mom to her Australian Cattle Dog/Beagle mix, Driver.

To contact Erin Stalker, email her at erinstalker18@gmail.com.



REGION REF BULLETIN

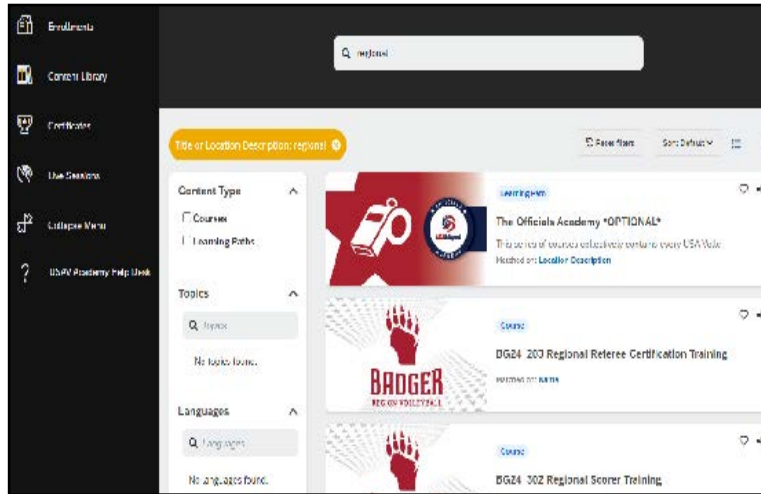
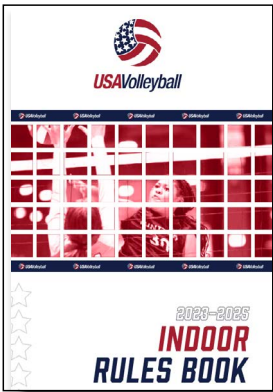
WWW.BADGERVOLLEYBALL.ORG | MEMBERSHIP@BADGERVOLLEYBALL.ORG

Rulebooks

New USAV rulebooks (also known as the DCR) are in that are good through the 2023-25 season.

The Badger Region will be disseminating these at the in-person officials meetings and mailing to those who we may miss those events. Please email Sara Voigt (sara@badgervolleyball.org) when you have purchased your annual USAV membership and she will put a rulebook aside for you.

For a link to an online edition of the DCR, please [click here](#).



Online ref-training modules now available in the Academy

All ref training modules are live. To access these modules please go into your training academy and search the appropriate certification training (current certification).

To access:

1. Log into Sports Engine
2. Click on Household
3. Click on View profile

4. Click on View details
5. Click on the blue USA Volleyball Academy at the top
6. Click on content library
7. Click on search and type in first couple letters needed to do search for your certification modules

Have questions? Email sara@badgervolleyball.org.

Online option for in-person ref meeting

Badger Region will offer an online Zoom meeting for those who cannot attend the in-person options due to travel distance. If you already registered for the in-person, don't worry about it. Just register for the Zoom, and we will take you off the in-person list. The in-person ref meeting will still take place earlier in the day as scheduled

The online meeting will be at 7 p.m. Nov. 19

Link to register: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZlodu2rqz-4jGNzSj7a-ccmSTDeLgpc_Z2Ai

In-person info

The Badger Region annual in-person officials meetings are coming up. Attending one of these meetings is mandatory for all officials who intend to officiate during the 2023/2024 club volleyball season.

Both meetings will be held at QRG Regional Office 2885 S. Calhoun Road New Berlin. QRG is a Badger Region-partner organization that assists with supplying members with Badger-Region branded items and signage at Badger Region events.

The two options are Noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19, or Noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10.

[Click here](#) to register.

INFO FROM PREVIOUS REF BULLETINS

Module help

Having trouble accessing "Module 051: Points of Emphasis"?

USA Volleyball is aware of the issue and has offered officials the following work around:

1. Login to your USAV Academy learner account (from your Sports Engine account)
2. Click on Content Library in the left navigation bar
3. Scroll down to The Officials Academy *OPTIONAL* (Click it)
4. Scroll down to the Silver Level

Collection and you will find ^051_Critical Rules and Points of Emphasis. You can take it from there.

Scrimmages on horizon

Region staff is working with clubs all around the state to set up scrimmages in the month of December. These scrimmages will be used for new official mentoring as well as advanced officials mentoring. Once the dates are secured a sign up form will be sent out to all officials.

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, refing accessories and plenty of apparel options.

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Voigt at sara@badgervolleyball.org.

A FACT SHEET FOR Sports Officials



The information in this fact sheet can help you protect athletes from concussions or other serious brain injuries and know what to do if an athlete might have a concussion.

Understand concussion

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or by a hit to the body that causes the head and brain to move quickly back and forth. This fast movement can cause the brain to bounce around or twist in the skull, creating chemical changes in the brain and sometimes stretching and damaging the brain cells.

Help keep athletes safe

As a sports official, you help set the tone for safe play and can help lower an athlete's chances of getting a concussion or other serious injury. When athletes are overly aggressive or make illegal actions, they can increase the risk for concussion for themselves and other athletes. Here are some ways you can keep athletes safe:

- Enforce the rules for fair play, safety, and good sporting behavior.
- Learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of concussions so you can be confident about when an athlete should be removed from a game or competition.
- Stop play whenever there is a concern for the safety of athletes, and remove an athlete from a game or competition if you observe concussion signs or if the athlete reports concussion symptoms.
- Penalize athletes for unsafe actions, such as:
 - Using their head or helmet to contact another athlete.
 - Making illegal contacts or checking, tackling, or colliding with an unprotected athlete.
 - Trying to injure or put another athlete at risk for injury.
- Use correct terminology, such as concussion and brain injury. Avoid words, such as *bell ringers* and *dings* to describe a concussion because these can make light of a serious problem.
- Use pre-season and pre-game meetings to remind coaches to promote a culture of concussion safety with athletes.

Take action for a possible concussion

If you suspect that an athlete might be experiencing concussion symptoms, pull them from play. **When in doubt, get them out.**



An athlete who is allowed to continue playing with a concussion, or who is returned to play too soon, is at risk for a repeat brain injury. This can lead to a longer recovery and poorer health outcomes.

Stay up to date on concussion policies and information

- Review your state, league, and organization's concussion policies. Be aware that concussion policies may vary by location and sport. Most policies state that an athlete cannot return to a game or competition on the same day the possible concussion occurred and cannot return before being cleared by a healthcare provider.
- Take a training course on concussion. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers free concussion training for sports officials at www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP.
- Talk with other sports officials to share strategies that enforce safe and fair play.

GOOD SPORTING BEHAVIOR
MODEL IT. EXPECT IT. ENFORCE IT.



ENFORCE SAFE PLAY. SPORTS OFFICIALS SET THE TONE FOR SAFETY.

Spot a possible concussion

Athletes with one or more of the signs and symptoms listed below after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body may have a concussion or other serious brain injury.

Concussion signs that sports officials, parents, or coaches might observe in athletes:

- Appearing confused, dazed, or stunned
- Looking unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moving clumsily (appearing off-balance or dizzy)
- Being slow to answer questions
- Being unable to remember events before or after the hit, bump, or fall
- Losing consciousness (only occurs in about 10-15% of concussions)
- Showing behavior or personality changes

Concussion symptoms that athletes might feel and report:

- Having a headache
- Feeling nauseated or vomiting
- Experiencing balance problems or dizziness
- Seeing double or having fuzzy vision
- Feeling sensitive to light or noise
- Feeling sluggish
- Feeling mentally foggy
- Having difficulty concentrating or remembering plays
- Being confused about what play it is or what part of the game it is

Signs of a more serious brain injury

Have someone call 9-1-1 if an athlete develops one or more of these danger signs after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body:

- Drowsiness or inability to wake up or inability to stay awake
- Repeated vomiting
- Convulsions or seizures (seizures can include violent, uncontrollable shaking or twitching)
- Unusual behavior, increased confusion, restlessness, or agitation
- Slurred speech, weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination
- One pupil larger than the other
- A headache that gets worse and does not go away

The information provided in this fact sheet or through links to other sites is not a substitute for medical or professional care. Questions about diagnosis and treatment for concussion should be directed to a physician or other healthcare provider.

Revised August 2022

To learn more,
go to cdc.gov/HEADSUP





REGION REF BULLETIN

WWW.BADGERVOLLEYBALL.ORG | MEMBERSHIP@BADGERVOLLEYBALL.ORG

Summary of rule changes for 2023-25

USAV 4.3.3.1a: Uniform numbers must be clearly visible and centered side to side on the front and back of the jersey. Numbers are recommended to be placed on the upper half of the jersey. Numbers may not extend below the player's waist and may not be tucked into the uniform bottom.

USAV 5.1.2.1, added: Judgment decisions are not subject to protest. A protest related to a judgment decision may result in a penalty (red card) being assessed to the coach.

USAV 5.2.3.4: During the match, the coach may give instructions to players on the court while standing or walking within the free zone in front of his/her team's bench from the extension of the attack line up to and including the warm-up area, without disturbing or delaying the match. The coach must not obstruct the view of the line judges.

USAV 5.3.1: One assistant coach at a time may stand to give instructions to the players on the court but has no right to intervene in the match. During play, the assistant coach may give these instructions while standing or walking within the free zone in front of his/her team's bench from the extension of the attack line up to and including the warm-up area, without disturbing or delaying the match. The assistant coach must not obstruct the view of the line judges.

New for 14-and-under age groups:

New USAV 12.4.4a: Once the serving action is initiated, including an underhand serve, if the server tosses the ball and then catches it or allows it to fall to the floor, this is considered a service tossing error, including a ball that touches the server as it falls.

USAV 12.4.4b: After a service tossing error, the referee must authorize the service again (re-serve) and the server must execute it within the next 8 seconds.

Rule 12.5.1: The players of the serving team must not prevent their opponent, through individual or collective screening, from seeing the service hit and the flight path of the ball. Should either be visible to the receiving team, this is not a screen.

USAV 12.5.2: A player or group of players of the serving team make(s) a screen by waving arms, jumping or moving sideways, during the execution of the service, or by standing grouped, and in so doing hides both the service hit and the flight path of the ball until the ball reaches the vertical plane of the net.

Rule 14.3: In blocking, the player may place his/her hands and arms beyond the net, provided that this action does not interfere with the opponent's play. Thus, it is not permitted to touch the ball beyond the net before an opponent has executed an attack hit.

Rule 14.6.1: The blocker touches the ball in the OPPONENT'S space before the opponent's attack hit.

New USAV 19.2d: When two Liberos are used, both Liberos can be in uniforms different from each other and from the rest of the team.

USAV 24.2.7d: During the match, the coach or captain may request verification of the number of team substitutions or time-outs. If incorrect information is provided by the 2nd referee and the team acts directly upon this misinformation resulting in an illegal substitution (per USAV 15.9.1) or an excessive time-out, the referee's error will be corrected with no penalty or sanction assessed to the team. If an illegal (excessive) substitution does not result, the substitution may still be withdrawn prior to the next serve without sanction or penalty

Important dates to know for all officials

Membership season begins: Sept 1st (You can purchase your membership now if you want)

* Modules available: October 1

* Badger Region Champs assigning: Assigning for the 2024 Champs starts Sept 1

* Badger Power League assigning: Assigning for 2024 starts Sept 5

* Badger Region Qualifier/Dale Rohde assigning: Assigning starts Sept 10

* **Badger Region Power League:** Jan 6/7, Feb 10/11, and Apr. 6/7. This will be at sites throughout the state of Wisconsin.

* **Badger Region Qualifier and Dale Rohde:** March 2/3. This will take place at the Madison Expo Center.

* **Badger Region Championships:** March 9/10, March 16/17, and March 23/24. This will take place primarily at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee as well as one or two age groups will be Appleton the first weekend.