



REGION REF BULLETIN

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Pre-season college club match at Boys Open House

Thank you to officials, from left, Chris Cronin, Rick Jones, Phillip Spearo and Anthony Chan for refing the UW-Whitewater/UW-Milwaukee men's college club exhibition match Oct. 25 for the Badger Region at the boys open house at Pius XI High School. The was a high-level experience and training opportunity for all four during the match that featured two Wisconsin Volleyball Conference teams.

Treat every match like it's a final

Have you ever dreamed of officiating a national championship final match?

Picture it, the two top teams are competing on the big court for the gold.

The players are digging, blocking, and attacking, trying to score every point. The coaches are strategizing to maximize the players' strengths and minimize their weaknesses, trying to gain every advantage.

The fans are frenzied, cheering and celebrating the efforts and successes. The lights are bright, the cameras are rolling, and you are in the middle of it all. Wait! How does this really differ from every match we officiate? When a team is playing for their first win of the season, or for that weekend tournament in a local gym, isn't this a final for them?

When seniors, or 18s, are playing the last match of their college, high school, or club careers, isn't this a final for them?

Do we officiate for the glory of the spotlight, or for the love of the game? Shouldn't we treat every match we officiate as if it were a national championship final, offering our very best for the teams and fans?

If we do, we become better officials, and we can live the dream every match.

Reprinted for the benefit of Badger Region Volleyball Association referee members with permission from Ron Kolash. Interested in writing for the Badger Region Ref Bulletin, contact Sara Voigt at sara@badgervolleyball.org.

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.

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.

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 Advancement 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 starting for the 2023-24 season. The Region will form a Regional Advancement Committee composed of interested parties, including but not limited to National and Junior National officials within the

See **ADVANCEMENT**, Page 2



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From Page 1

Region as well as the Region Liaison to USAV. The committee will select up to eight candidates for Regional advancement per season, as outlined by the process below:

An application form will be live on the Badger Region website on November 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 2024 advancement weekend of April 6-7 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 February.

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

The eight candidates who are accepted to the April 6-7 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 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.

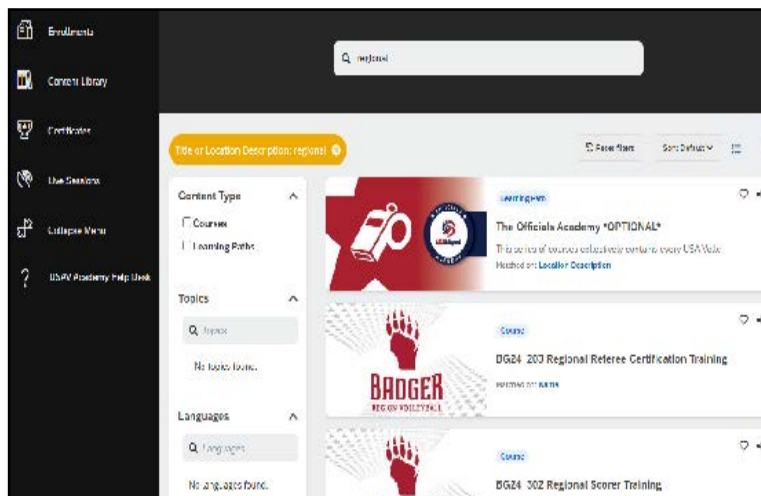
At the end of the second day of Advancement Weekend, the advancement coaches will decide if a candidate has been successful. Upon successful advancement, the new Regional candidate will receive a Regional Patch and be celebrated in the upcoming issues of the Badger Beacon newsletter and Ref Bulletin.

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.

Register now for the in-person ref meeting

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.

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.

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To learn more,
go to [cdc.gov/HEADSUP](https://www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP)





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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.