



# THE SILVER EDITION

**October 2011: ISSUE 25**

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**WELCOME NOTE FROM THE COMMISSIONER**

Members,

I hope that all is well with you and your family and that you are enjoying time-off from the USA Volleyball schedule. I hope that you are preparing for the holidays and setting your goals for the upcoming club season. We are working hard to prepare for the new season and want to make it even better than the last. Our Board of Directors and Region staff are working hard to improve the programs and events for the 2011/2012 season. We are always open to your feedback!

This is just a friendly reminder to renew your membership, remembering that you cannot tryout for a club without a current one. Another reminder is that tryouts for those 15 and older can only occur after the last day of High School volleyball which ends November 19, 2011. So anyone 15 or above should not attend a USAV tryout until Sunday, November 20, 2011. Anyone 14 and below can attend tryouts and commit to a club as early as September 1<sup>st</sup>. Contact the Region Office if you have any questions or need any assistance.

**James Phillips**, Commissioner  
Florida Region of USA Volleyball



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

October is here along with the start of our 2011/2012 club volleyball season. We are very excited to begin our 30<sup>th</sup> year as a Regional Volleyball Association (RVA), under the umbrella of USA Volleyball. We are currently the eighth largest RVA (out of 40) in the USA with a new record of 11,000 members at the conclusion of last season. Thank you for helping us achieve this milestone!

As the high school and college seasons hit the mid-point mark, I wanted to take a moment and highlight how some of our Florida colleges are doing so far:

### **NCAA DI, AVCA Poll 9/26/11 (Rank – School – City)**

- 🏐 13<sup>th</sup> – University of Florida (Gainesville)
- 🏐 20<sup>th</sup> – University of Miami (Miami)
- 🏐 22<sup>nd</sup> – Florida State University (Tallahassee)

### **NCAA DII, AVCA Poll 9/26/11 (Rank – School – City)**

- 🏐 2<sup>nd</sup> – University of Tampa (Tampa) 13-0 Record!

### **NAIA, AVCA Poll 9/27/11 (Rank – School – City)**

- 🏐 2<sup>nd</sup> – Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Daytona Beach)

### **NJCAA DI, AVCA Poll 9/28/11 (Rank – School – City)**

- 🏐 10<sup>th</sup> – Miami Dade College (Miami)
- 🏐 16<sup>th</sup> – College of Central Florida (Ocala)

Congratulations to each of the above listed colleges and the many more that made Honorable Mention in the most recent polls. We hope to see many of our Florida colleges in post-season action!

As a final note, in the spirit of recognizing our Florida colleges, we are also very excited to announce that we are finalizing plans to form our first women's semi-pro volleyball team for post-collegiate athletes that live in Florida. We will call them the "**Team Florida Wave**" or "**The Wave**" and they will play under the newly formed Professional Volleyball League (PVL) of USA Volleyball. Stay tuned for more information on tryouts, volunteer opportunities, the league schedule, and how you can support our very own pro team and "**Catch the Wave!**". This is an exciting time for volleyball in Florida and we are glad to have you as part of the family!

*Steve*

**Steve Bishop**, CYSA  
Executive Director/President  
Florida Region of USA Volleyball, Inc.  
T: (352) 742-0080 E: [steve@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:steve@FloridaVolleyball.org)



## CLUB HIGHLIGHT – SUNCOAST VOLLEYBALL CLUB

Each month a member club is featured in *Vol-eNews*. This is a great way to get to know the Club Director(s) and learn more about the clubs throughout Florida. This month **Jeff Horr** and **Suncoast Volleyball Club** will be highlighted.

### **Q: Tell us how you got started in volleyball.**

**A:** My passion for volleyball began in 1993, while student teaching. As a student teacher at Geneseo Central High, I served as the Assistant Volleyball coach.

After graduating from college and upon accepting my first teaching position, I took on the position of Middle School Volleyball Coach. A few years later moved up the ladder to Head Varsity Volleyball Coach.

I first began coaching club in 1997 and branched off on my own in 2005 to start up a competitive youth volleyball program. After a few years, we branched out to the high school program at the requests of our parents.



### **Q: How long have you been coaching volleyball?**

**A:** 17 years

### **Q: What would you consider to be your biggest accomplishments with volleyball?**

**A:** My biggest accomplishment is not any specific win, trophy or qualifying event. Rather, my biggest accomplishments are the relationships that I have developed with my coaches, parents, athletes, officials, and other people in the volleyball community.

### **Q: What are all the job titles you currently hold? How do you manage all of those responsibilities?**

**A:** At Suncoast Volleyball Club, I am Club Director, Youth Coordinator and 13 National Head Coach. In addition, I am the Physical Education Teacher, Physical Education Department Head, and JV Volleyball Coach at the Out-of-Door Academy. However, the most important job title I have is husband and father to two and three year old children.

I manage these responsibilities by surrounding myself with a strong supporting cast. Over the last 6 years, many people have assumed leadership in our club, which has enabled us to grow without sacrificing the quality of our programs.



**Q: When did you start your club? How many teams were in your first year? How many now?**

**A:** Our inaugural year was 2005, six years ago. We started with four teams and over the years have grown to 16 teams.

**Q: What is your opinion on the growth of volleyball throughout the years, especially with the transition of sand volleyball becoming a college sport?**

**A:** The growth of volleyball is exciting. The expansion of Sand Volleyball as a collegiate opportunity offers young women another means of taking their game to the next level and another opportunity for financial assistance.

**Q: Does your club offer beach volleyball? If not, does it plan to add it in the future?**

**A:** While we do not have a beach program, we have several coaches that provide beach training, with several of our athletes accomplishing great things this past summer.

In 2012, we plan to aggressively pursue a full-blown beach program to compliment our indoor program and assist those seeking college opportunities playing sand volleyball.

**Q: Tell us about your "Volley Totz" program. What could the Florida Region do to better promote youth volleyball?**

**A:** Our program is based on John Sample's Volley Totz Program, which our coaches attended last May. We have started small to help us learn what works best for this age group. Currently we have 12 girls in our Totz program and the program continues to grow. We have received excellent feedback from parents and Totz. We look to expand our Totz program in the near future.

Our Volley Totz program is a blend of various skills necessary in volleyball. It mixes volleyball-related skills and movements and incorporates physical fitness into the program as well. Besides learning the fundamental skills of volleyball, the Totz participate in an obstacle course, scooter races and other fun conditioning activities.

The Florida Region could help by providing coaching clinics specifically geared towards children ages 3-8.



**Q: If you could brag about your club, what would you say?**

**A:** I feel we have a great balance between competitiveness and having fun. While we are a competitive volleyball club, we try to be a club that is about more than just volleyball. We have a great sense of community and family. Our club has been blessed with great parents, athletes and coaches.

We have always had a strong commitment towards our youth programs (10/12/13/14) and this has made for a nice transition for our athletes into our highly competitive high school program. Athletes that start with us - stay with us.

**Q: What do you look forward to in the future for the Florida Region?**

**A:** I look to the Florida Region for their continued leadership and more specifically, helping clubs to keep the cost of playing volleyball down without a loss in programs.

I look forward to more Florida Regional tournaments, perhaps in the Sarasota area.

I look forward to possibly, one day, having district championship tournaments, with the winners moving on to a state championship.

*Thanks Jeff for participating in the Club Highlight. The Florida Region wishes you and your club success in the 2011/2012 season! Stay tuned for next month's Club Highlight to learn about **Latoya Washington and Tallahassee Jrs. Volleyball Club.***

## **JAB ELECTION RESULTS**

JAB Election results are confirmed. Congratulations to **Sam Skelton (Palm Beach Jrs.) & Rita Crockett (Rita Crockett Academy)**!

JAB ELECTION RESULTS:

**Sam Skelton - 30 Votes**

**Rita Crockett - 23 Votes**

Jessica Lamm - 9 Votes

Latoya Washington - 7 Votes

Tim Harris - 7 Votes

Eric Praetorius - 5 Votes

Allan Rubenstein - 4 Votes

John Babbitt - 3 Votes

Max Lacombe - 2 Votes

Please submit any questions about the election to [vote@floridavolleyball.org](mailto:vote@floridavolleyball.org).



## PROFESSIONAL VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE – TEAM FLORIDA WAVE

We are excited to announce the launch of the **Florida Region's FIRST Women's Indoor Semi-Pro Volleyball Team!** The Board of Directors has approved partial funding for this endeavor and you will have a chance to be a part of history by attending the first **Team Florida Wave** tryout on December 9 & 10 in Orlando, FL. The tryout is in conjunction with our annual Education Weekend. (Location and times will be posted on the Florida Region website!)

Post-collegiate athletes will be given primary consideration; however, any athlete that has graduated high school and did not play volleyball in college may attend the tryout. (NOTE: Athletes currently participating on a college volleyball team are not eligible to attend the tryout.)

In the first year the season will begin in January, 2012, and extend through May, 2012, playing in several exhibition matches and a league championship. Athletes will be expected to attend practice twice a month in the Central Florida area.

Team Florida Wave will participate in the USAV Semi-Pro Volleyball League and will compete against women's college teams, Puerto Rico and teams across the other semi-pro potential league from California, Colorado, Texas, Arizona, Ohio, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Utah and Illinois.



Team Florida Wave will also have the opportunity to compete at juniors events in exhibition matches and while there will be able to sign autographs and take pictures with the junior teams.

### Other opportunities and benefits include:

- Playing under the direction of a well known college coach
- Outfitted by the official Team Florida Wave apparel partner
- Lodging, airfare & meal costs covered when representing team
- Percentage split of prize money won
- Featured as an indoor pro volleyball player with the Professional Volleyball League (PVL)
- Traveling across the U.S.

If you have any questions concerning Team Florida Wave, please contact Krissy McKane @ [Krissy@floridavolleyball.org](mailto:Krissy@floridavolleyball.org).



## USAV RULE CHANGE

There is a new rule change that will affect all USAV clubs in the 2011/2012 season: there can be up to two (2) Liberos on each roster. Please see the specific wording below taken directly from the [USA Volleyball Domestic Competition Regulations](#).

**19.1.1** Each team has the right to designate from the list of players up to two (2) specialized defensive players: Liberos.

**19.1.2** All Liberos must be recorded on the score sheet before the match in the special lines reserved for this.

**19.1.3** One Libero designated by the coach before the start of the match will be the starting Libero. The Libero on court is the Acting Libero. If there is another Libero, he/she will act as the second Libero.

**19.1.4** Only one Libero may be on court at any time.

**19.1.5** The Libero cannot be either team captain or game captain at the same time as performing the Libero function.

**In addition, the Florida Region has voted to institute a new rule change allowing Liberos to serve in the 2011/2012 season.**

If you have any questions regarding the new rule changes, please contact the Official's Coordinator, [Sue Wainio-Oato](#).

## TIMEOUT NEWS BULLETIN



Take a look at our first junior news bulletin called **TIME OUT!** This bulletin was created to keep our athletes, coaches and parents updated on the *hot topics* for each month. We will be emailing you a copy each month as well as posting it on the Florida Region website. We hope you enjoy the first edition of **TIME OUT!**

[\*\*CLICK HERE TO READ THE LATEST ISSUE!\*\*](#)



## GIRL'S JUNIOR CLUB TRYOUT DATES

This year, the earliest date for girl's junior tryouts (ages 10U – 14U) is Thursday, **September 1<sup>st</sup>**. The earliest date for girl's junior tryouts (ages 15U – 18U) is Sunday, **November 20<sup>th</sup>**. Any club found to be holding tryouts prior to these dates will be subject to fines and/or penalties! Please make sure that you sanction your USAV tryouts at least 30 days in advance so it can receive an event sanction number and a USAV certificate of insurance. Please contact **Steve Benson**, Events Manager, @ [SBenson@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:SBenson@FloridaVolleyball.org) if you have any questions.

## IMPORTANT REGION EVENT DATES

### Grass Volleyball Challenge Event, October 22

- o Winter Springs, FL
- o More info coming soon!

### Grass Volleyball Challenge Event, November 12

- o Fort Myers, FL
- o More info coming soon!

### Coaches and Official's Education Weekend, December 9-11

- o Location: TBD
- o IMPACT/CAP I & II/Beach IMPACT/BCAP
- o Official's Training Clinic

### 2012 Girls' Jr. Regional Qualifier, April 28-29

- o Orange County Convention Center – Orlando, FL
- o Teams wanting to compete for a national bid

### 2012 Florida Region Awards Ceremony, May 18

- o Double Tree Resort – Orlando, FL

### 2012 Girls' Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships, May 19-20

- o Orange County Convention Center – Orlando, FL

### 2012 Boys' Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships, June 9-10

- o Location: TBD
- o

To view the 2012 Indoor Tournament/Event Schedule [Click Here!](#) If you have any questions, please contact Steve Benson @ [sbenson@floridavolleyball.org](mailto:sbenson@floridavolleyball.org).



## 2012 CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

We've received some great volleyball photos but we still need a few more to finish up the calendar! Please send in your best indoor volleyball pictures, as well as a photo supporting breast cancer awareness to use for the month of October. You can submit your photos to [Krissy@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:Krissy@FloridaVolleyball.org). (Please submit high resolution photos only.)

**\*\*The deadline to submit your photos is October 15!\*\***

## USAV MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

- Lakeland setter, **Alex Taylor**, was named the **AVCA Player of the Week** on Sept. 19. The AVCA, or American Volleyball Coaches Association, only picks one athlete per week for the entire state. Taylor has 193 assists in nine games played for Lakeland (7-2) and is averaging 9.65 assists per game. She also has 63 digs, seven kills and seven aces.
- **Foluke Akinradewo** from Plantation, FL, was honored as part of The U.S. Women's National Volleyball Team when they were selected as USA Today's Athletes of the Week ([click here for USA Today article](#)) after the team won its sixth **NORCECA Women's Continental Championship**.
- Beach player, **Mark Vanzwieten** from Pompano Beach, FL, has been nominated by USAV to represent the United States at the **2011 Pan American Games** on Oct. 16-22 in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.
- Congratulations to the **PrepVolleyball Top Senior Aces**: **Jordan Burgess** (3<sup>rd</sup>), **Sarah Burrington** (15<sup>th</sup>) and **Mackenzie Dagostino** (49<sup>th</sup>) in the 2012 recruiting class.
- North Florida Volleyball Academy standout and Chiles High School Senior, **Blyss Harkness**, has committed to the **Florida State University Sand Volleyball Team**. Congratulations!
- Former OVA Libero, Freshman **Madison Monserez**, shows her defensive skills for the **UF Gators** with 46 digs and two service aces in 35 sets.



If you or someone you know is making headlines, please let us know by contacting [Krissy@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:Krissy@FloridaVolleyball.org).  
You could see your name in the next issue of Vol-eNews!

## MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

The **Spectator/Fan Membership** option is available for \$25 and includes a full year, NON-PLAYING membership with secondary insurance, entrance into all Florida Region hosted tournaments and a USAV Florida Region gift. This membership option is ideal for those members that plan on attending more than one USAV Event this year.

There is a new **FREE** membership for all youth who are 8 years old and under. This is a limited membership and must be upgraded to play in any qualifier or national competition. If you have any questions, please contact [MSisser@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:MSisser@FloridaVolleyball.org).



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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

**It's that time again!** Membership Renewal time is here for all current and future USAV members. You will notice on your membership cards that it expires October 31st, 2011. You can now renew your membership by visiting our website and logging into your account. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at (352)742-0080 or [MSisser@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:MSisser@FloridaVolleyball.org).

## MEMBERSHIP COUNT UPDATE

Please let others in your area know about the playing, coaching, and officiating opportunities offered by USA Volleyball in the Florida Region. We met and last year's goal of 10,000 members and look forward to meeting our new goal of 12,000 members!

## REGION INFORMATION

Florida Region of USA Volleyball, Inc.  
15014 US Highway 441  
Eustis, FL 32726

T: (352) 742-0080  
F: (352) 414-5304  
E: [info@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:info@FloridaVolleyball.org)  
Web: [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org)

### Board Members:

**James Phillips**, Commissioner  
**Shanon Lewis**, Asst. Commissioner  
**Donna Beasley**, Secretary/Treasurer  
**Mary Andrew**, Indoor Chair  
**Kendra Vanzwieten**, Outdoor Chair  
**Darin Clark**, Official's Chair

### Staff:

**Steve Bishop**, Exec. Director/President  
**Steve Benson**, Events Manager  
**Michele Sisser**, Registrar/Office Manager  
**Krissy McKane**, Marketing Coordinator  
**Michelle Daniels**, Bookkeeper  
**Sue Wainio-Oato**, Official's Coordinator

### Junior Admin Board (JAB) Representatives:

**Lori Eaton, Russel Williams, Rita Crockett, Sam Skelton**

## OFFICIAL FLORIDA REGION SPONSORS



The Official Outdoor Volleyball of the Florida Region of USA Volleyball!



The Official Outfitter of the Florida Region HP All-Star Program since 2006!



The Official Indoor Volleyball of the Florida Region of USA Volleyball!



The Official Outfitter of the Team Florida Beach HP All-Star Program!

## OFFICIAL FLORIDA REGION BUSINESS PARTNERS

