



# Vol-eNews FloridaVolleyball.org

The official source for Florida volleyball news!



March 2013: ISSUE 42

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**WELCOME NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY & TREASURER**

Springtime is upon us in Sunny Florida! Tournaments are underway in all areas of the State and weekend travel is upon us. Soon the Beach season will be returning and we’ll all be enjoying both Indoor and Outdoor Volleyball Opportunities every weekend. Look for coming updates on the Outdoor Page this month as we prepare for some fun in the Florida Sun. HP Tryouts have begun, Coaches education continues with Coaches Education Clinics at each of our Indoor Tournament of Champions Tour Stops. Come by and take a class when you have time between competitions.

While enjoying our many travels, it is important to stop and reflect. Be aware of safety while traveling and make sure that when in unfamiliar territory, you use caution and plan ahead for any unforeseen emergencies. Always have a plan! This will prevent unnecessary worry and allow you to enjoy yourself without worrying about unforeseen circumstances. Even though it is still early in the season, our Region Office Staff is already hard at work preparing for the end of the season Florida Region Awards Ceremony. We hope that you took a moment to submit a nomination this year. The awards ceremony is always a great time to recognize individuals who have made a contribution to bringing our sport to the level it is today!

2013 Region Volleyball Calendars are still on sale and may be purchased online at the [floridavolleyball.org](http://floridavolleyball.org) website. What a great way to be reminded daily of the fun events that continue throughout the year! Hope to see you on the court or on the beach very soon!

Warm Regards,  
**Donna Beasley, CPA**  
 Secretary & Treasurer



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

From time to time I like to use this valuable space to point out some observations that I see from my position. Let me start by exhorting the many clubs that work so diligently to grow our sport in their respective areas. The club leaders, coaches, and volunteers work tirelessly to improve their respective clubs and I was reminded of that recently when we were in Jacksonville for the Jax Jam Tour of Champions. Many of the JJVA club coaches met us on the dock when we arrived and assisted the Region staff with unloading and setting up for the regional HP tryout and the other various events scheduled for the evening. Once we finished setup, another contingent of JJVA coaches arrived to volunteer for the HP tryout while many others checked-in for the coaching clinic offered by Nick Cheronis. The entire time I watched as the coaches and volunteers asked what they could do to help and they did it with the greatest sincerity. This is just one of our many Florida clubs that continually foster a family environment that is noticeable and refreshing. Hats off to JJVA and all of the Florida clubs that have a similar approach to operating their junior volleyball programs!

Next I want to recognize the many parent volunteers that donate their time to help our local volleyball clubs across the state with travel arrangements, event registration, and other various club matters that take place during the season. Without volunteers, many of our clubs would not be able to deliver such great products and services to their athletes. Volunteers are the backbone of non-profits and I hope that we can all take a few moments to recognize a volunteer in your immediate circle. A big “thank you” means a great deal to a volunteer!

Let’s all remember to be on the lookout for a “volleyball star” this month. I am certain that if we will spend more time looking for the good in others, we will get more of it. I ask you to join me this month to be a “good finder” and infuse some fun and a positive spirit into our great sport.

See you on the court,

**Steve Bishop**, Executive Director  
Florida Region of USA Volleyball

[steve@floridavolleyball.org](mailto:steve@floridavolleyball.org)





### CLUB HIGHLIGHT – CLUB STORM OF TAMPA

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 **John Babbitt** and **Club Storm of Tampa** will be highlighted.

**Q: When did you start your club?**

**A:** 2000

**Q: What or who has been most inspiring to you, either personally or professionally?**

**A:** Professionally: Nick Cheronis- I met Nick a couple years ago through PowerCore 360 and I have learned a lot by talking with and listening to him. He is full of ideas and strategies for coaching that have helped me work towards being a better coach. He has an outlook and approach to things that I agree with and can relate to and he composes himself on and off the court in a way that I respect and work to emulate.

**Q: Do you have a career outside of coaching? What do you do?**

**A:** Volleyball is my life! Outside of Club Storm, I also run PowerPlay Volleyball through which I run adult grass and indoor tournaments and juniors camps.

**Q: What is your most valued item on your desk or in your office? What is its significance?**

**A:** My tablet- it keeps me organized and on track with my daily and long term tasks and goals.

**Q: What awards or recognitions have you and/or your club received in the past?**

- Former club director Vicky Page was named Club Director of the Year a few years ago
- Dave Wolcott received Male Coach of the Year
- The past few years we also sent more coaches to CAP training than any other club

**Q: Do you have any memorable stories with Club Storm?**

**A:** I have a ton of fantastic memories with Club Storm! One of my favorite memories is the first time I heard a former player of mine had gotten a collegiate offer and then going to her “signing” day. This was very rewarding because I had been coaching some of the players on this team since they were 12 and it was great seeing all her hard work pay off.

A more recent memory happened last summer. Club Storm has always been associated and run by the YMCA but as of the past couple years we had outgrown the space they could give us. Last summer we (myself, the coaches, parents and players) all decided it would be best for the club to separate from the Y and become an independent club. We felt this would allow us to grow bigger and stronger and would be best for the future of Club Storm. This undertaking had been by far the most challenging and rewarding experience I have had with Club Storm over the past 10 years.

**Q: Tell us about SandStorm. What are your thoughts on the progression of sand volleyball programs offered collegiately in Florida?**

**A:** We started SandStorm last summer to encourage our players to start playing more beach volleyball. We practiced weekly and then our players would attend tournaments on the weekends. I have always loved playing beach and I believe that it is one of the best ways to develop players all around skills. Plus, now that it is a collegiate sport, it is one more avenue for players to pursue playing a scholarship. I think it is awesome that Florida schools are leading the way in building the sport!

**Q: What advice could you give to athletes that want to play both indoor and outdoor volleyball in college?**

**A:** Go for it! The two games complement each other and one will make you better at the other. Keep in mind though that playing two sports means a greater commitment. You will be working year round and you will have to work harder than the other athletes in order to maintain your academics. With good time management and a lot of hard work you can do it!

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

**A:** Club Storm has always been a club built on the integrity and character of our players and coaches. We work hard to instill character qualities, values and life skills in each of our players and I believe that sets us apart from most other clubs. Character breeds Excellence!

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

**A:** I look forward to bringing a qualifier back to the Florida Region. I also look forward to us continuing to grow beach volleyball and developing well rounded athletes.

*Thanks John for participating in the Club Highlight. The Florida Region wishes you and your club success in the 2012/2013 season! Stay tuned for next month's Club Highlight to learn about and **Eddie Maynard** and **Gainesville Athletic Club**.*

#### 2013 TEAM FLORIDA WAVE ATHLETE HIGHLIGHT



**#5 BRIANNA BARRY**

**Height:** 6'3

**Position:** Middle Blocker

**Hometown:** Winter Springs, FL

**Club Team:** OVA

**College Team:** Florida State University

**Professional Experience:** Volleyball Franches-Montagnes Club Team in Switzerland

**Q: What are some awards and recognitions you are most proud of in your volleyball career?**

I think that I am most proud of two awards I received my Senior Season at FSU - I was a All American 2nd Team member and I was named the ACC Scholar-Athlete of the year. To be named an All American was an incredible honor and it was the icing on the cake of an absolutely amazing season that I had with my team at FSU. We made it the furthest in the NCAA tournament in school history and I played some of the best volleyball with some of the best girls I

will ever meet. The 2nd recognition that impacted me the most that year was being named my conference's Scholar-Athlete of the year. People think in college as an athlete you only have your sport on your mind, but that it completely not true. As an athlete you are required to maintain good grades to stay eligible, as well as juggle stressful competition schedules thrown right into the middle of your education. For me to have succeeded on and off the court, I was able to complete my college career on the best note possible.

**Q: Tell us about your current job.**

My current job is a Professional Volleyball Player for the Volleyball Franches-Montagnes Club Team in Saignelegier, Switzerland. If you would have told me when I was younger that I would be a professional volleyball player I may not have believed you. This tall lanky uncoordinated 12 year old girl luckily grew into my 6'3 frame and was able to find passion in volleyball and let the sport take me on the most intense emotional experience I could have asked for.

**Q: Who has impacted your volleyball career the most and why?**

I would have to say my high school during my sophomore year. I was struggling to fit into a new school and learning how to coordinate my size 15 shoe, 6'3 lanky self - and my coach looked me straight in the eyes and said, "You will be a star Bri". And from that moment on I put my heart, soul, blood, sweat, and tears into volleyball. Not only make my coach proud but to prove to myself that I was strong enough to get through anything.

**Q: What advice could you give to junior volleyball athletes on what it takes to be a successful volleyball athlete?**

Never give up. and Keep dreaming. Like I said I was not the best athlete when I began to play volleyball but I never let it get me down. I had big dreams when I was young and I was able to push through the obstacles and shine in the great moments and grow to love the sport of volleyball for more than just the sport itself.

**Q: What do you look forward to being part of the Team Florida WAVE?**

I am looking forward to being back in my home state of Florida. It will be nice to play with teammates from college as well as players I have faced across the net throughout my career. I am excited to try and help push the professional league in the US forward and make the fans realize how exciting volleyball can be.

*You can catch Brianna and the other women's WAVE athletes in action on Apr 6 in Gainesville as they take on the University of Florida Gators! They'll also be competing on Apr 20 as we host the first PVL Tournament in Orlando. This event will be in conjunction with the 2013 Girls' Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships...stop by and get an autographed poster!*

**# 2 TANNER GREGORY WRIGHT**

**Height:** 5'11

**Position:** Libero

**Hometown:** Orlando, FL

**High School:** Dr. Phillips

**College Team:** Quincy University

**Q: Tell us about your current job.**

I am still living the dream of never growing up and staying in school FOREVER!!!! In reality I am a Medical Student at University of South Florida.

**Q: Who has impacted your volleyball career the most and why?**

Throughout my junior volleyball years I had many role models, great coaches, and supportive family and friends that catalyzed my love of the game. The one person who had the greatest individual impact on my volleyball career was my high school coach at Dr. Phillips High School, April Ball. Coach Ball is the most talented person I know; she isn't just one of the best teachers of the game, but also of education, life, and developing student-athletes who are ready for the next step of their life. To her I owe any success I have had in volleyball and in my personal development as a student.

**Q: What advice could you give to junior volleyball athletes on what it takes to be a successful volleyball athlete?**

The only thing it takes is the mindset... if you have the motivation to want to get better, the drive to want to reach your potential, and most importantly a love for the game you can become a successful volleyball athlete. In anything you do within or outside of volleyball and athletics you should always ask yourself "Do I want to become the best at this? Do I want to put in the work to do it? Do I LOVE this?" If you can confidently answer all of those with a yes, you belong there.





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## **Q: What do you look forward to being part of the Team Florida WAVE?**

The guys on the team are some of the coolest cats around and so talented. I look forward to practicing with this group of players when we step out of our everyday lives and enter our dream lives- a life of volleyball!! Finally to answer those very important questions I mentioned earlier... of course I look forward to working hard as a team to be the best we possibly can and loving every minute of it!!

*Come out and support Tanner and the rest of the team on Mar 16 as they compete in an exhibition match in Ft. Lauderdale! They'll also be competing at the 2013 ASICS Girls' Jr. Regional Qualifier on Apr 27 in Orlando in the first men's PVL tournament in Florida history...hope to see you there!*

You can find more information on the men's & women's Team Florida WAVE programs by visiting, [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org).

## **JR. OFFICIAL'S TRAINING INFO**

Officials training took a new turn this year, thanks to a large investment by USA Volleyball in VRT: VolleyballRefTraining.com. This is a comprehensive website for all volleyball referees and scorers. The goals of the website include making training more accessible, standardizing the message and tailoring training to the various user groups, i.e. adult officials, junior officials and player work teams. This year, in addition to the training site, USAV has also invested in a new LMS: Learning Management System. This system offers online testing and tracking for members. Under the new LMS, everyone has a personalized training and testing plan to be sure they are ready for the season. The LMS allows the users to enroll in the courses required for their level of officiating complete the courses and required on line testing, and have their results recorded in the system. Eventually the LMS will link directly with Webpoint, the USAV registration database; so that everyone's learning progress and test scores will be automatically added to their registration record.

So what does this mean for Florida Region players and officials? For clubs training Junior players who must officiate as part of their work team assignments, it means there are more ways to offer training – individual training online, group training by the club, or group training by a region-approved clinician. It means that the message that is delivered is consistent, because the training modules are available to everyone. It also means that training is available on-demand, so even someone who missed a clinic or joins the team late can be trained online. Everyone has the opportunity to learn in the way that is most effective for them – with their laptop or in a classroom, and they can repeat any lesson at any time if needed.

For our adult paid officials we have the opportunity for a consistent training message to be available to each official, with more in-depth and helpful tools like video clips of plays to show the correct calls. The modules are available as a resource for officials who have questions during the season. And all the courses can be monitored to be sure each official has completed all the required training. The New Referee Clinic modules allow us to offer much more comprehensive training to brand new officials, helping them to be better prepared when they take the court for the first time.

With every new system there are challenges, and this has been the case with VRT and LMS. Over 7400 individual learners have registered in the Florida Region this season. We worked through some volume-related delays as many of you accessed the system for the first time in early January. Another common issue was the fact that the LMS required everyone to “create new student” so those who tried to access the system without taking that step experienced some frustration. Other confusion centered on entering the wrong region, enrolling in the wrong courses or not fully completing clinic acknowledgements to access quizzes. Many times these issues were solved by a visit to the Florida Region website under Officials and Junior Work Team Training. (<http://www.floridavolleyball.org/junior-work-team-information.html>) The click-by-click instructions there were helpful to many users.



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What's next for VRT and LMS? The site has been moved over to a new, USAV-owned server for better performance and functionality. You will notice that the background screens are now red instead of blue on the new server. Also now that we have tracking information for all users, we are able to identify those who have or have not completed training requirements. If there are issues at tournaments where a work team is not able to perform their duties properly, we can review the training records and alert the club director, allowing the club to address and correct the situation before any formal disciplinary action is needed.

This new training system is a great resource for all of us. Whether an adult or a junior player, when an official is well trained and confident they are able to do a better job for the teams. The best officials are those who go through the entire match virtually unnoticed. Going forward, VRT and LMS will help all Florida Region officials and players move toward becoming well-trained, confident and "unnoticed" in their matches, keeping all the focus where it belongs: on the teams competing in the match.

If you have any questions on Jr. Official's training, please contact the Official's Coordinator, Sue Wanio-Oato at [Sue@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:Sue@FloridaVolleyball.org).

## FLORIDA REGION SCHOLARSHIPS

**Attention Florida Region High School Seniors!** The following scholarships will be awarded at the Annual Awards Ceremony held in April: (Note: These scholarships may be divided into multiple awards with the minimum being \$500.)

1. Edward "Ned" DeGroot Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000.00
2. Ben Jordan Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000.00
3. Mark Headrick Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000.00
4. ASICS "Sound Mind, Sound Body" Scholarship - \$1,000.00
5. ROX/1st Place Volleyball Scholarship - \$1,000.00
6. Commissioner's Scholarship - \$500.00

**NOTE: ONLY HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS CAN APPLY FOR THESE SCHOLARSHIPS!**

To apply, please visit [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org). Each applicant will need to complete the Scholarship Checklist and Application in order to be eligible. Recipients will be notified in advance and scholarships will be awarded at the Annual Regional Awards Ceremony in Orlando! (Note: Recipients must be able to attend the ceremony to be eligible for the scholarship!)

## WILSON FRIDAY NIGHT ADULT TOURNAMENT SERIES

### ATTENTION ADULT PLAYERS, CLUB COACHES, & OFFICIALS:

The Wilson Friday Night Adult Series was created to give adult players, clubs coaches, and officials an opportunity to come together and enjoy the game for a few hours the night before the tournament begins. Each host has been kind enough to provide up to 4 courts at each site. Come out and enjoy the music and fun...and make some new friends at the same time. We hope to see you at an upcoming event!

### 2013 WILSON FRIDAY NIGHT ADULT SERIES SCHEDULE

- **FRI, MAR 15, 2013 - Ft. Lauderdale, FL** - Broward County Convention Center - In conjunction with the Cloverleaf Tour. of Champions
- **FRI, MAR 22, 2013 - Tampa, FL** - Tampa Convention Center - In conjunction with the Molten Pre-Q Tour. of Champions

**COST:** (Note: Fee will be collected at check-in)

**\$10 per person** (for current USAV members) **\$20 per person** (non-USAV members)





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## COACHING CLINICS IN FLORIDA

**Assistance to Coaches 2013 Coaching Series** is designed to bring the clinic to you! All sessions will be held during Florida Region USAV events. No longer will you have to schedule a separate weekend to hone your skills as a coach! Sessions will be held "on court" on Friday evenings, and "in classroom" during the tournament on Saturday. Have a morning wave? No problem, the same classroom session will be held in the afternoon. Assistance to Coaches is dedicated to helping you solve YOUR problems. These sessions will touch on specific topics from game management to practice planning to everyday drills that work for you. Not everyone has an All-American in the gym. Sessions are designed to be practical to helping you coach your team.

## ASSISTANCE TO COACHES

2013 Coaching Series - By Nick Cheronis, Head Coach Team Florida WAVE  
www.FloridaVolleyball.org

### SERIES SCHEDULE:

Mar 15 & 16 - Ft. Lauderdale, FL,

Mar 22 & 23 - Tampa, FL

Register online at [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org)! Contact [atc@floridavolleyball.org](mailto:atc@floridavolleyball.org) if you have any questions.



## The Art of Coaching VOLLEYBALL

**The Art of Coaching Volleyball Clinic Series**, led by Russ Rose, John Dunning, and Terry Liskevych is touring North America to bring over 100 year of volleyball knowledge to coaches of all experience levels. The

University of Central Florida (UCF) in Orlando will host a clinic on Mar 16-17, 2013. Registration closes March 11<sup>th</sup>. Visit [www.TheArtofCoachingVolleyball.com](http://www.TheArtofCoachingVolleyball.com) for more information and to register online.

## TOUR OF CHAMPION EVENTS

- **CLOVERLEAF INVITATIONAL – Tour of Champions Event** - March 16-17, 2013 at the Ft. Lauderdale Convention Center in Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- **MOLTEN PRE-Q – Tour of Champions Event** - Mar 23-24, 2013 at the Tampa Convention Center in Tampa, FL

-All teams will register through AES at [www.advancedeventsystems.com](http://www.advancedeventsystems.com)

The top finishing team in each division (10u-18u) will win **FREE** entry into the 2013 Florida Girls' Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships. (Note: To be an eligible team, you must compete in at least two of the four Tour of Champions events. [A full list of TOC event dates can be found on the region website.] Teams will be refunded their entry fee after the Regional Championships.)

Other events that will take place at the Tour of Champions event on the Friday night before include:

- **Indoor IMPACT Clinic (5:30p-9:30p)**
- **Friday Night Adult Tournament Series (6:00p-9:30p)**
- **Coaching Clinic w/ Nick Cheronis (Friday Night 7:00p-8:30p, Saturday 10a-11a & 2:30p-3:30p)**
- **Team Florida Indoor HP All-Star Tryout (6:00p-9:00p)**

If you have questions or need any additional information on this event, please contact Steve Benson (Events Manager) at (352) 742-0080 or [sbenson@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:sbenson@FloridaVolleyball.org).





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## FLORIDA REGION AWARDS CEREMONY

We have some of the greatest volleyball people in the Florida Region and they deserve recognition for their hard work and commitment to further the sport. Many thankless hours go into coaching a team, running a club, attending clinics, getting certified, planning events, and improving our Region every year.

Please take a moment and familiarize yourself with the different awards we offer and our previous award winners (see online) and let us know about the volleyball people that have gone above and beyond to make our Region better.

### 2013 AWARDS CEREMONY INFO

Date: Friday, Apr 19, 2013

Location: DoubleTree Resort, Orlando, FL

Time: 6:30pm Reception, 7:00pm Ceremony Begins



## TEAM FLORIDA INDOOR HP ALL-STAR TRYOUTS

The 2013 USA High Performance Championships will be held in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. This year, Team Florida will field seven (7) teams. Athletes that are interested in trying out for this elite program can register online at

[www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org). This year's delegations will be led by some of the best college and club coaches in the state. Here is a snapshot of the remaining tryout dates for the Team Florida Indoor HP Tryouts this year.

o **March 15** - Ft. Lauderdale (Girls & Boys)

o **March 22** - Tampa (Girls only)



If you are a USAV coach and are interested in volunteering for the **2013 Team Florida Indoor HP All-Star Tryouts**, please complete the volunteer form located on the HP page. Volunteer Coaches will assist the staff coaches with running drills and helping staff with checking in the athletes. **NOTE: The Florida Region requires that all coaches are, at a minimum, IMPACT certified before they begin working with players in tryouts.**

## ORLANDO CONVENTION AID

This year, we have teamed up with Orlando Convention Aid to help you make the most of your time in Orlando. Available discounts include restaurants, golf, attractions, nightlife, shopping and much more. Each listing offers detailed information and discount coupons that can be printed. They can also make your dinner reservation, book your group dinner party or event. This web site will help you plan your time during your stay in Orlando.

Just click on the golden ticket to:

- Purchase, discounted attraction tickets!
- Receive, discounts to fantastic restaurants and make dinner reservations!
- Enjoy complimentary cocktails at some of Orlando's best nightlife!
- Play great golf at a discount!
- Shop at Orlando's most exclusive stores and outlets with discounts!
- Rent cars and make use of other great services all with fantastic discounts!



This web site will help you plan your time in Orlando and **SAVE MONEY!** Be sure to check out the coupons available and just call us at **(407) 248-8629** if we can help you in any way!



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## OUTDOOR JR. FORUM CONFERENCE CALL

There is a scheduled conference call for all outdoor club directors on March 27 @ 9pm. This conference call will be open to all outdoor club directors that would like to discuss any ideas or concerns pertinent to this year's outdoor season. Information gathered from the Outdoor Jr. Forum Conference Call will be forwarded to the Beach Advisory Committee for review and possible action heading into the 2013 beach season.

**Date:** Mar 27

**Time:** 9PM - Open to all Outdoor Club Directors

**Dial In #:** 866-576-7975

**Code:** 109816

The deadline to submit agenda items to [beach@floridavolleyball.org](mailto:beach@floridavolleyball.org) is Wed, Mar 6.

## MEMBERSHIP COUNT UPDATE

As of March 1, 2013, the Florida Region has **10,807** members. We met last year's goal of 12,000 members and look forward to meeting our new goal of 12,500 members! Thank you to all of you for supporting USA Volleyball... please let others in your area know about the playing, coaching, and officiating opportunities offered by USA Volleyball in the Florida Region.

## REGION INFORMATION

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Web: [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org)

### Board Members:

**Mary Andrew**, Commissioner  
**Doug Darling**, Asst. Commissioner  
**Donna Beasley**, Secretary/Treasurer  
**Sam Skelton**, Indoor Chair  
**Nancy Cothron**, Outdoor Chair  
**Darin Clark**, Official's Chair

### Staff:

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

### Junior Admin Board (JAB) Representatives:

**Lori Eaton, Russel Williams, Rita Crockett, Carrie Prewitt**

## OFFICIAL FLORIDA REGION CORPORATE PARTNERS



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!

