



Florida Region
of USA Volleyball

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PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FLORIDA REGION OF USA VOLLEYBALL RESTRUCTURES ADULT INDOOR VOLLEYBALL PROGRAMMING

Eustis, FL – September 29th, 2016 – The Florida Region of USA Volleyball announced that they will discontinue funding and resources for both the men’s and women’s Florida WAVE indoor pro volleyball teams, effective for the 2017 season. The decision will reallocate more resources to a wider variety of adult athletes playing at all levels, not just professionally, and is an effort to include more participants in the adult membership category. It will also help maintain current 2017 membership rates for all members, including youth.

The Florida WAVE, which has been a member of the Premier Volleyball League (PVL) for the past five years, was originally created in order to spur interest and grow adult memberships. While the staff, coaches and athletes of the Florida WAVE put forth a very strong effort during the program’s tenure, the PVL as a whole has recently seen a decline in professional-level adult participation. This has affected the anticipated adult membership growth in the Florida Region.

However, in May 2016 at the USA Volleyball Adult Open National Championships in Orlando, FL, the adult *amateur* category experienced exponential growth. Over forty (40) Florida teams participated in various amateur divisions, which was the largest amount in the history of the region. The Florida Region plans to reallocate a portion of the funds and resources previously used for professional teams to help interested amateur teams make it to the championship event each year.

“This was a tough decision, since the PVL effort originated here in Florida,” said **Steve Bishop**, Executive Director and President of the Florida Region. “I want to thank everyone who supported the Florida WAVE over the years. We plan to refocus these resources into other programs and events that could have a greater impact on the adult membership category. We saw such positive growth in the amateur divisions at the Adult Open National Championships and we want to continue to grow this number.”

The Florida Region Board of Directors approved the decision in late September. The program will be subject to review as the development of the PVL, under the new leadership of USA Volleyball, is monitored.

About USA Premier Volleyball League:

The USA PVL is a grass roots professional volleyball league that began in 2012 and is made up of teams from among the forty (40) regional volleyball associations across the United States. The USA PVL is sanctioned by USA Volleyball and offers tournament play and a League Championship event each year. Additional information on the USA Premier Volleyball League can be found at: www.usapvl.com.

About Florida Region of USA Volleyball:

The Florida Region of USA Volleyball is a 501c3 non-profit that began operations in the 1960’s and was officially incorporated in 1982 to promote the sport of volleyball and to create competitive playing opportunities for volleyball enthusiasts of all ages throughout the State of Florida. The Florida Region is one of the 40 regional volleyball associations under the umbrella of USA Volleyball and currently serves over 14,500 members. Indoor and outdoor programming is available for adults, juniors, coaches and officials. The Florida Region of USA Volleyball headquarters is located in Eustis, FL. Additional information on the Florida Region can be found at: www.FloridaVolleyball.org.

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