



USA Volleyball.

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BREVARD COUNTY VOLLEYBALL CLUB DIRECTOR WINS USA VOLLEYBALL AWARD, RECOGNIZED AT NATIONAL AWARD LUNCHEON

Fred Howell, Jr., Director of the Brevard County Starlings Junior Volleyball Club, was recognized at the USA Volleyball Junior Service Award Luncheon in Detroit, Michigan.

Eustis, FL – June 23rd, 2015 – The Florida Region of USA Volleyball is honored to announce that one of their members has received a prestigious award from USA Volleyball. Brevard County Starlings Club Director, **Fred Howell, Jr.**, received the 2015 Outstanding Junior Program Director Award on May 20th at the USA Volleyball Junior Service Award Luncheon. The annual award recipient is chosen from one of 40 volleyball regions in the United States.

Howell has been coaching volleyball for 20 years and founded the Brevard County Starlings in 2006. The Starlings program was started to provide an opportunity for girls of all ages to participate regardless of their socioeconomic background. Club dues, if any, are a fraction of most junior club costs and no girl is turned away due to her inability to pay. Howell has led this vision for his club and has given so many opportunities to girls who may not have had the chance to learn the sport of volleyball. He considers his biggest accomplishment to be launching the Starlings program in Brevard County and helping girls get to college.

Howell coaches 6 days a week without any compensation. He also volunteers for his local YMCA and three local recreation centers. He offers volleyball training at no extra cost. His peers and athletes agree that he truly exemplifies what it means to be a great leader, coach and compassionate human being.

Howell said that receiving this award is a tremendous honor. “I have been doing volleyball in Central Brevard, Florida for over 20 years,” said **Howell**. “Joining the Starlings organization 8 years ago gave our little program the direction, prestige and support that we could have never achieved on our own. I can say emphatically that Florida Region has definitely supported the Brevard County Starlings. I graciously and humbly accept this award for all the wonderful people that have volunteered with our small club and also the community organizations that support us, such as Brevard County Parks and Recreation, Cocoa YMCA, and Kennedy Middle School.”

Howell was the recipient of the Florida Region Outstanding Club Director Award in 2014 and was nominated by numerous amounts of athletes, parents, coaches and neighboring clubs who see what kind of difference he is making in children’s lives.

Steve Bishop, Executive Director & President of the Florida Region of USA Volleyball, said, “What an honor and privilege it is for us to have Fred in the Florida Region as a Starlings Club Director. His tireless efforts to grow the game in his community set a standard for others to emulate across Florida and the US. I have had the distinct privilege to serve as a guest coach for some of Fred’s open gyms in the past and the kids in his community are directly benefiting from the free training sessions, both with improved volleyball skills and character development. Fred has a direct coaching style that challenges the kids in his program to be their best and strive for college. Hearing Fred’s excitement when the first young lady from his program received a college scholarship several years back was very rewarding and we look forward to hearing many more of those success stories in the coming years. We celebrate with Fred and the many athletes that have been a part of the Brevard Starlings.”

About Starlings Volleyball Clubs:

Beginning with a single inner-city San Diego team in 1996, today Starlings is the largest junior volleyball club in the nation – serving some 3,000 girls in 50-plus clubs across America. The Starlings mission is to provide the equal opportunity for girls from diverse, lower socioeconomic environments to train and compete at USA Volleyball's Junior Olympic level; to encourage teamwork, health, positive life skills and academic achievement; to establish member clubs throughout the nation that are community-based and self-sustaining. Additional information on Starlings Volleyball Clubs can be found at: www.starlings.org.

About USA Volleyball:

USA Volleyball, founded in 1928, is the National Governing Body (NGB) for the sport of volleyball in the United States and is recognized by the Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) and the United States Olympic Committee (USOC). Additional information on USA Volleyball can be found at: www.USAVolleyball.org.

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 13,000 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.

For additional information contact:

Ashley Shewey, Senior Marketing Coordinator

Florida Region of USA Volleyball, Inc.

t: 352-742-0080 e: Ashley@FloridaVolleyball.org

###