



# Vol-eNews FloridaVolleyball.org

The official source for Florida volleyball news!



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**WELCOME NOTE FROM THE COMMISSIONER**

Congratulations to all of the teams who have qualified for the USAV Girls and Boys National Tournaments in Dallas and Reno. The Florida Region is sending a record number of teams to the National Championships this year, so you should all be very proud of the work the players, coaches, directors, officials and parents have put into this indoor season. The increased numbers of indoor clubs and players has raised the level of competition in our region which pushes the quality of all teams and as a result gives more region teams a chance to win bids to the Nationals. I am very proud of all of the teams who competed in the USAV Florida Region Indoor season. You can see a list of who has won a bid on the region web page.

The beach season has begun and the first DTB tournament was held in Clearwater this month. It was a great success with over 300 teams competing in a great kick-off event. I am sure the beach events coming up will be just as much fun and just as successful. I look forward to attending some of these events to soak in the excitement and the sun!

I am almost through my first year as commissioner and would like to thank all of you for your input and support. The staff office and I remain committed to serving you by providing maximum playing opportunities and events, updated and improved educational support, efficient administrative support, improved safety programs, quality recognition events and new volleyball information throughout the year. Please feel free to contact us with your suggestions and concerns at any time. Thanks for making the Florida Region the best in the USA!

Regards,

**Mary F. Andrew**  
Commissioner



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to announce that your Florida Wave men's and women's professional volleyball teams had a very successful trip to Louisville, Kentucky between May 24<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. The women participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual PVL Championships and won 2<sup>nd</sup> place out of 15 teams, earning \$6,500. The men participated in the 85<sup>th</sup> annual US Open and won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Men's Open division, defeating a team with two former Olympians. As the General Manger of our Florida teams and the President of the PVL, it was very exciting to see indoor professional volleyball take shape. Additional information on the Florida Wave teams is included in this edition of Vol-eNews. Information on the PVL is available at [www.usaPVL.com](http://www.usaPVL.com).

Last month we launched our 2013 Florida Region beach volleyball tour in Clearwater Beach and hosted 313 teams to kick off the tour. What an amazing beginning to an exciting beach season that is sure to follow. We have seven more stops this season and hope that you will be able to join us for some sand, sun, and fun. You can find the beach tour schedule on our Florida Region website.

Looking ahead, we have our annual Board/Staff Retreat and our 2013 Boys' Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships in June. This year's event for the boys will be at the Orange County Convention Center in Hall North B. This will be the second year that we have had the boys' regional championships in a convention center. Last year we had 40 teams and this year we are expecting a few more since several new clubs have come online.

Finally, we wish all of our boys and girls teams that are attending the USAV Jr. National Championships the very best as they represent Florida. We hope to hear many great success stories upon their return.

See you on the court real soon!

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

E-Mail: [steve@floridavolleyball.org](mailto:steve@floridavolleyball.org)





## CLUB HIGHLIGHT – HURRICANE VOLLEYBALL

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 **Chris Zimmerman** and **Hurricane Volleyball** will be highlighted.

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

**A:** My family moved to Saudi Arabia when I was in junior high and there was not a lot to do. The country was very underdeveloped and we did not have very many options for sports. I was introduced to volleyball my 7<sup>th</sup> grade year and have been involved in one way or another. Being we were a small team funded by an airline we had many opportunities to play in many different places and that just fed the fire.

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

**A:** I have been coaching for 5 years. I started with 8-10 year old girls and stayed 12 and under since.

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

**A:** Right now I am a Project Manager for a high end custom home builder during the day and night and weekends I am Volleyball Director at the Weston YMCA and Hurricane Volleyball Club Director, 11u head coach, team administrator and whatever else needs to be done. Managing my responsibilities can be very complicated at times. I am lucky to have a coaching staff that shares my passion and will back me up anyway they can and of course cutting out sleeping always helps.

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

**A:** The items on my desk that are most important to me are the picture of my daughter and the first team she played on. After leaving the sport years ago due to knee issues I thought it was behind me. After taking my daughter Gabriella to the USAV National Championships in Miami Beach to see some old friends it brought back memories. From that day on my daughter begged me to play. I finally gave in and signed her up at the YMCA and told her I even would coach her team so she will be comfortable. The first day I met all the 8-10 year old girls learning to play. I was nervous at first then I saw the girls just wanted to play and have fun. The girls listened, most of the time, and had a great season. I never looked back.

### **Q: What/who has been the biggest influence in your career?**

**A:** I would have to say Coach Gonzales (Gonzo). He was a coach in high school that instilled the core beliefs of hard work, honesty and respect. He had all the players volunteer at the Special Olympics to get another view on sportsmanship. We saw athletes run and work as hard as they can and always had a smile on their face.



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Just seeing that changed my whole outlook, if I am playing the sport I love why I would ever be miserable. You will have good and bad days but in the end you are playing something you love.

**Q: Any memorable stories about your club you would like to share with us? A:**

This story happened with future club players. The girls were 8-10 years old and playing their first game. When the game was over and I called the girls together they all asked me one question "Did we win"? It did not matter if they won or lost just that they were playing. After every game they always asked me the same question and whether they won or lost the smile never disappeared.

**Q: What was the biggest tournament you played in?**

**A:** Our biggest tournament to date has been the AAU National Championships. It was an amazing experience for the girls and they had a great time. Our biggest local tournament is the Cloverleaf in Ft Lauderdale. Our 12u team has made it to the Gold Bracket 2 years in a row and the 11u team played strong in the 12u division.

**Q: What future plans do you have for your club?**

**A:** We are a small club and are not looking to grow into a large program but rather take the time to develop the younger players to build the club and the region. With the performances of our teams this season we have started getting a lot of interest from players outside the YMCA. We are looking forward to building the club one step at a time with girls with a positive attitude and a strong desire to grow. We played a few USAV tournaments this season and would like to increase our participation and begin to travel next season.

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

**A:** It is probably cliché but we have an awesome group of girls. This is only our second year for the club and we have built it with youth league players from the YMCA. The majority of the girls are league players that wanted more. They are first year players that work as hard as they can to become better players and do not let anything stand in their way. They have competed with some of the top teams in the region and been ranked as high as 28 in the region. I have to say not too bad for a group of league players. This is only the beginning.

I cannot thank my coaching staff enough. This program was designed to help girls get the training and exposure to become the best player they can but do it in a cost effective way so everyone can participate. The coaching staff believed in this and volunteered their time during the first season to keep costs down. We are in season two and their excitement has not dropped one bit and we all look forward to sharing our knowledge with the girls.

If you would like more information on our club, you can call us @ 954-552-8729 and "Like" us on Facebook!

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

**A:** I look forward to helping the region strengthen and grow to offer this experience to as many players as possible.



*Thanks Chris 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 **David Case** and **FMB Sandgirls Jr. Beach VBC**.*

### **NATIONAL REPORT – COMMISSIONER MARY ANDREW**

I just returned from the USA Volleyball national meetings in Louisville, Kentucky. These meetings give all of the 40 regions a chance to sit down together to review policies, receive reports from the USAV staff on events as well as insurance and safety, view the Olympic team program results, make recommendations to the Board of Directors, present motions for changes in the operating code/bylaws. Changes recommended by the regions that will affect us are as follows:

- There will now be a 13U Open Division at the National Qualifiers. The 13 USA Division will be eliminated.
- The Safe Sport Program should be ready for presentation to the regions by September. This is a program we will put in place to further protect our all of our members from illicit, illegal and dangerous behaviors. I was in a seminar given to all regions by a prominent psychologist on the subject of infiltration of youth sports by predators. It is a presentation that definitely gets your attention, so this program and training is designed to help prevent these situations from occurring.
- At national qualifying events the R2 will now be required to be a “rostered adult”.
- The rule shall remain in force that teams and players can only play in “one weekend” of a national qualifying event that has been split into two weekends.
- John Kessel has produced a Sport Kit with information and ideas on how to get the programs for the youngest players started. He has included a CD and other items to help directors and coaches introduce volleyball to beginners. You can get this from the national office by going to the USAV web page.
- Regions were encouraged to put into place any policies and procedures that would encourage parents to maintain proper behavior and decorum during matches and competition events. Discussion was held on “teams not switching sides” so spectators would remain in one place, but this was defeated.
- The Divisions for bids would remain the same for the next season. Results from the upcoming national tournaments will be reviewed to provide information concerning the effect of the changes in the position of the USA and National bids.
- The insurance statistics on claims and rates were presented.

Recommendations for rate increases were heard. Regions will need to make decisions concerning these rate adjustments. There were many more procedural meetings held. If any other pertinent information affecting the Florida Region comes forth, we will get it to the directors as soon as possible.

Regards,

**Mary Andrew**  
Commissioner

## 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL WOMEN'S PVL CHAMPIONSHIPS RECAP

**Congratulations to the Women's Team Florida WAVE for their 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in the Gold Division at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Women's PVL Championships in Louisville, KY!!**

Below is an excerpt from a press release issued by USA Volleyball:

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (May 28, 2013) –**

Team Iowa Ice captured the 2nd Annual Women's Premier Volleyball League (PVL) title following a 25-18, 25-21, 25-17 victory over Team Florida Wave on Tuesday evening at the Kentucky Expo Center in Louisville, Ky.

Team Iowa Ice had reached the championship match in the inaugural event in 2012, but lost to Hoosier Exterminators. The PVL is a grassroots professional volleyball league using USA Volleyball's 40 Regional Volleyball Associations as the foundation for the 15-team league.

Team Iowa Ice opened the first set with a 13-9 advantage and rolled to a 25-18 victory. Team Florida Wave built an early 11-7 margin in the second set, only to have Team Iowa Ice rattle off eight of the next nine points to establish a 15-12 lead en route to a 25-21 victory. In the third set, Team Iowa Ice maintained a slim lead through 17-14, then powered to a 25-17 win to cap the match.



### Players

- #1 Brianna Barry, MB
- #2 Kelsey Black, OH
- #3 Benavia Jenkins, OPP (All-Tournament Team)
- #5 Sareea Freeman, MB
- #8 Correy Johnson, OPP
- #10 Kristy Jaeckel, OH (All-Tournament Team)
- #11 Marcela Oliveira, OH
- #12 Jordana Price, MB
- #16 Nirelle Hampton, S
- #17 Evan Sanders, S
- #23 Kuulei Kabalis, LIB



### Coaches

Nick Cheronis – Head Coach  
Michelle Chatman – Assistant Coach  
Pete Sproules – Assistant Coach

### Staff

Steve Bishop – General Manager  
Krissy McKane – Team Manager  
Ben Keyes – Team Massage Therapist  
David Jester – Team Photographer

## US MEN'S OPEN ADULT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS RECAP

**Congratulations to the Men's Team Florida WAVE as they are the new reigning Men's Open Champions!!** The Men's WAVE team was the only Men's Open team to remain undefeated with an impressive record of 7-0 going into the finals. They will be competing in the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Men's PVL Championships in Reno, NV, in conjunction with the Boys' JNQ later this month. Below is a press release issued by USAV:

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (May 28, 2013)** – Team Florida Wave captured the Men's Open Division of the USA Volleyball Open National Championships on Tuesday, but needed to bounce back from its first loss of the tournament with a Golden Set win over Team Pineapple.

Team Pineapple, which ended up in the title match through the loser's bracket, ended Team Florida Wave's seven-match win streak in the tournament with a 26-24, 15-25, 25-27, 27-25, 15-11 victory to force the Golden Set. Team Florida recovered from the setback with a 25-22 victory.

In the opening set, Team Florida Wave wiped out a 24-21 deficit with three straight points. However, Team Pineapple responded with back-to-back points for a 26-24 victory. Team Florida Wave answered quickly with a 20-10 start to the second set and evened the match with a 25-15 victory. Team Florida Wave grabbed a 2-1 lead in the match with a back-and-forth 27-25 victory. In the fourth set, Team Pineapple overcame a 22-18 deficit and saved three match points en route to a 27-25 set victory. In the fifth set, Team Pineapple surged to an 11-8 lead and finished with a 15-11 win leading to the Golden Set.

Team Florida Wave used a 6-1 run to take a 7-4 lead in the Golden Set. After Team Pineapple reached to within two at 14-12, Team Florida Wave maintained the advantage to a 25-22 victory and the title.

### Players

- #1 Sergio Rios, S
- #3 Hudson Bates, OH (All-Tournament Team)
- #6 Robert Schramm, MB
- #7 John Michael Plummer, OH
- #9 Chad Mercado, OPP (All-Tournament Team)
- #10 Nick Jensen, MB
- #11 Mike landolo, S (All-Tournament Team – MVP)
- #12 Marshall Brock, OH
- #16 Rob Koehler, MB
- #20 Srdjan Nadazdin, OPP
- #22 Juan Ramirez, LIB

### Coaches

Steve Benson – Head Coach  
Rob Holley – Assistant Coach  
Greg Villareal – Assistant Coach

### Staff

Steve Bishop – General Manager  
Krissy McKane – Team Manager  
Ben Keyes – Team Massage Therapist  
David Jester – Team Photographer



## USA V DIG THE BEACH TOUR



The first beach event of the season in Clearwater Beach on May 11-12 hosted a record 313 teams on 36 courts! Register online early to make sure you secure a spot at the next event!

The Florida Dig the Beach tour stops in 2013 will take place in 5 of the most desirable beaches in Florida:

- Jun 1-2\*** Ft. Myers Open & ROX Jr. Series Stop, Ft. Myers Beach
- Jun 15-16\*** Siesta Key Classic & ROX Jr. Series Stop, Siesta Key Beach
- Jun 29-30\*** Ft. Lauderdale Classic & ROX Jr. Series Stop, Ft. Lauderdale Beach
- Jul 13-14** Siesta Key Open & ROX Jr. Series Stop, Siesta Key Beach
- Jul 27-28** Ft. Lauderdale Open & ROX Jr. Series Stop, Ft. Lauderdale Beach
- Aug 3-4** Clearwater Open & ROX Jr. Series Championships, Clearwater Beach
- Aug 17-18** DTB Tour Championships, St. Augustine Beach

**\*2013 Florida Beach HP All-Star Ranking Events**  
Register online at [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org)!

Online Registration closes at 12noon on Wednesday before each event!



## 2013 TEAM FLORIDA BEACH HP ALL-STAR PROGRAM

The **Team Florida Beach HP All-Star program** was the first beach HP delegation formed in the US. In 2011 & 2012 the Florida delegation competed in the USAV National Beach HP Championships in Hermosa Beach, CA. Beginning in 2013, the Team Florida Beach HP All-Star program will change directions and participate in the new Florida Beach HP Championships. The top five (5) junior teams from Florida in each age division along with top teams from across the US will be invited to participate in the 2013 Florida Beach HP All-Star Championships.





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## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Elite Level Competition
- 5 Florida Teams per Age Div.
- 3 Day Championship Format
- Team & Individual Competitions -ROX Volleyball Apparel
- College Sand Volleyball Coaches
- Officials for All Championship Matches
- Lodging, Breakfast, & Lunch Included



## FLORIDA BEACH HP ALL-STAR RANKING EVENTS

- MAY 11-12 – CLEARWATER KICKOFF & ROX JR. SERIES TOUR STOP
  - JUN 1-2 – FT. MYERS OPEN & ROX JR. SERIES TOUR STOP
  - JUN 15-16 – SIESTA KEY CLASSIC & ROX JR. SERIES TOUR STOP
  - JUN 29-30 – FT. LAUDERDALE CLASSIC & ROX JR. SERIES TOUR STOP
- Fill out the form online, [www.floridavolleyball.org](http://www.floridavolleyball.org), to express your interest in being considered for the 2013 Team Florida Beach HP All-Star program!

## TEAM FLORIDA INDOOR HP ALL-STAR TRAINING CAMP

The **Team Florida HP All-Star Training Camp** will take place on June 1-2 at the Orlando Sports Center. There will be over 200 athletes & coaches in attendance making this the largest HP Training Camp in the history of the Florida Region!

This year, we will be traveling to Ft. Lauderdale with 7 HP teams to compete in the 2013 USA Indoor HP Championships which will be held in July.

The Florida Region would like to recognize the outstanding HP Coaches for their dedication and hard work. We would also like to extend a big thank you to all of the volunteer HP coaches who have selflessly devoted their time and effort to the HP Program and athletes!

We would like to once again thank ASICS for their continued support of the Florida Region as the Official Outfitter of the Indoor HP All-Star Program! For more information and details regarding the HP All-Star Program, please visit [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org). If you have any questions, please contact [Krissy@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:Krissy@FloridaVolleyball.org). **Final travel team selections will be announced on June 7!**



## 2013 BOYS' JR. REGIONAL VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The **2013 Boys' Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships** will take place June 15-16 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL. Admission into the Boys' Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships is **\$10** per day or **\$15** for a two-day pass.

For additional information and hotel accommodations, please visit the Florida Region website. **NOTE:** Boys' teams participating in the 2013 USAV Boys' Jr. National Championships must attend the 2013 Boys' Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships!





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## SUMMER MEMBERSHIP

The USAV Summer Membership option is now available! For \$20, you will have access to play in any Florida Dig the Beach tour stop or any USAV affiliate tour stops this summer. Please contact [Michele@floridavolleyball.org](mailto:Michele@floridavolleyball.org) with any questions.

## MEMBERSHIP COUNT UPDATE

As of June 1, 2013, the Florida Region has **11,800** members. We look forward to meeting our new goal of 13,000 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

Florida Region of USA Volleyball, Inc.  
15010 US Highway 441  
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T: (352) 742-0080

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### 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!

## OFFICIAL FLORIDA REGION BUSINESS PARTNERS

