



## **COLUMBIA EMPIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION**

*Junior Girls Committee Meeting*

*Sunday, September 7, 2025 – 5:00 PM via Zoom*

### **Members Present**

Cara Freeman, Alicia Provost, Michael Brown, Kindell Souders, Charlie Rosa, Adam Ellis, Rainey Shriver

### **Members Absent**

Heidi Wood

### **Guests Present**

None

### **Staff Present**

Cody March

### **Call to Order**

- Meeting called to order at 5:03 PM by Cody March.
- A quorum was present at roll call.
- No guests were present at roll call.
- No modifications were made to the agenda.

### **Old Business**

- Open PLQ date has been set. Cody shared an update on what facilities may be used for the event.
- 12s PL Format – approved by the Board and will be implemented in the 25-26 season.
- Open PL Workgroup
  - Pending approval of the CEVA BOD, the group will convene on 9/15.
  - There are 5 individuals (possibly 6) that will serve on the group.

### **New Business**

- Open Flight 1 Gold Regionals format.
  - Discussion – moving to an 8-team 2-match guarantee bracket for the top 8 teams in Open Flight 1 on the second day of Regionals. The committee saw no major drawbacks to the proposed move.
  - This would align the top 8 teams in Open with all other flights in Regionals.

Motion (Ellis/Freeman): To move the Open Flight 1 Gold bracket at the CEVA Regional Championships to an 8-team 2-match guarantee bracket, like all other flights at Regionals. Motion passes 7-0-0.
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- Boy on Girls' Team (BOGT) Waiver Policies
  - The staff presented proposed changes to the BOGT waiver policies. Major changes:
    - Prohibition of 14s boys participating on a girls' team.
    - Limitation of one male player on a girls' team.
    - 13s boys playing on – minimally – a 15s team.
  - Committee consensus was to move forward with the changes, and no major concerns were presented.

Motion (Ellis/Shriver): To adopt the proposed revisions to the BOGT Waiver policies as presented. Motion passes 7-0-0. *Motion will be presented to the CEVA Board of Directors for approval.*

- Age Waiver Policies
  - The staff presented proposed changes to the age waiver policies. Major changes:
    - Prohibition of age waived players participating in Open.
    - Deadline for submission (December 31).
  - Committee consensus was to move forward with the changes as presented.

Motion (Freeman/Ellis): To adopt the proposed revisions to the Age Waiver policies as presented. Motion passes 7-0-0. *Motion will be presented to the CEVA Board of Directors for approval.*

- Tryout policies
  - The staff presented a proposed summer tryout policy, noting that no policies were going to be formally adopted at this meeting and the presentation was only meant to start a discussion.
  - The committee was asked to acknowledge that the competitive environment we operate in is changing, and that some of our current tryout policies are unenforceable. It was also noted that many national events open registration prior to our current tryout windows.
  - Discussion points on the tryout policy as presented:
    - Recommending that clubs avoid high school seasons and allowing athletes to focus on school seasons when appropriate.
    - Recommending a second tryout window in the Fall.
    - Consideration of family travel plans and summer plans.
    - Numerous benefits for clubs and administrators for summer tryouts (fundraising, ordering of equipment, scheduling, booking travel, etc.).
    - Best situations for the athletes.
    - Longer payment schedules for athletes when they know earlier what teams they'll be on and what their financial commitments will be.
    - Opportunities to fundraise in summer and allowing athletes to start working toward paying dues earlier.
    - Long commitment period if an athlete commits in summer, and things potentially changing between their commitment date and the start of club season.
    - Could look at a "lock in" date where commitments become "final," but would need a method to track this and enforce it.
    - Clubs not having coaches chosen by a summer tryout date, and athletes wanting to know what coaches they're playing for prior to tryouts.
    - Facility access – while it was noted that clubs are not required to run an in-person tryouts, larger clubs with their own facilities could have an inherent advantage.
      - Accessing schools could be easier in the summer as there are less conflicts with other sports (e.g., basketball).
  - Discussion points on timing:
    - The staff feels at least a 9-month runway is necessary to properly educate and communicate this policy, if it were to go into effect.
    - Support for possible implementation in Summer of 2027, while leaving tryout policies unchanged for 2026 – which would give over a year of lead time.

- Communication steps
  - Discussion of a “town hall” style meeting to gain feedback
  - Committee was asked to be visible at tournaments and have discussions with stakeholders in person at events when possible.
- The committee consensus was to move forward with the policy as presented, which will be used simply to continue conversations and work through possible formal policy rewrites.
- **Action Items:**
  - Staff to research other regions’ tryout dates/policies and present to committee.
  - Staff will report back to the committee on capabilities of new USAV MMS and how that might impact commitment policies (e.g., club assignments).
  - Staff to continue working through policy drafts and work through a formal communication map.

## **Good of the Order**

- None

## **Action Items**

- Staff will send a redline version of the CEVA Junior Girls Handbook to the committee for review.
- Other action items noted in this document.

## **Next Meetings**

- Sunday, October 26, 2025 – 5:00 PM (Full Committee)
- Monday, November 3, 2025 – 6:00 PM (Seeding Education)
- Wednesday, December 3, 2025 – 6:00 PM (Seeding #1)
- Wednesday, December 17, 2025 – 6:00 PM (Seeding #2)

## **Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 6:01 PM.