



COLUMBIA EMPIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

Open Power League Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 12, 2026 – 6:00 PM via Zoom

Members Present

Michael Brown, Autumn Hilberg, Brian Wodke, Brandi Maurer, Shyanna Davis

Members Absent

Adam Ellis

Guests Present

Cara Freeman

Staff Present

Cody March

Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 6:01 PM by Cody March
- Quorum is present at roll call.
- No guests were present.

Open PLQ Debrief

- Format
 - Consensus was the format was well-developed and fair.
 - Would like to avoid having the same pool structure in the top 8 on the second day of the qualifier as the first regular Power League.
 - Perhaps a non-traditional snake seed or other alternative.
 - Future discussion:
 - Cap on the number of teams entering in qualifier.
 - Ratio of teams entering in qualifier vs. number of teams advancing through to regular Power League (look at other regions)
 - **Action Item:** Cody to look at Arizona Region data and formatting ideas.
- Seeding
 - Committee would like to see more notes and additional questions on the Power League registration.
 - “Why does your team want to be in Open Power League?”
 - “How many national qualifiers is your team registered for?”
 - “What events is this team participating in prior to Open PLQ?”
 - Committee discussed making a requirement for teams to submit notes to the committee or participation could be denied.
 - Three clubs submitted seed challenges – one challenge was granted.
 - Complaints about seeding rise when specific seed numbers are published. Committee discussed, but did not come to a consensus on, hiding specific seed numbers prior to the tournament.
- Other discussion
 - Disincentivizing teams from participating when they don’t *want* to qualify for Open – they’re just using the tournament to get additional touches.

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2026-2027 Open PLQ

- With uncertainty around the Jackson County Expo Center, the committee asked staff to explore keeping the Open PLQ in Portland for 2026-2027, then evaluate moving the qualifier to Medford on an “every other year” basis in 2027-2028.
- **Action Item:** Cody to explore options and report back.

Long Term Discussion

- The committee took two brief “straw polls” that will be brought back to the Junior Girls’ Committee.
 - Committee would like to keep the number of teams qualifying for Open Power League at 32.
 - Committee would like to explore allowing 12 teams into divisions of the Bid Tournament.
 - This is likely a larger discussion topic that would need to come with other policy changes.
- Scheduling
 - There are several challenges that we face when scheduling events. More qualifiers are being added so there are less opportunities to avoid conflicts.
 - We’d like to make it possible for each team who qualifies for Open PL to participate in all of them, but we face challenges with other tournament dates.

Good of the Order

- The region would like officials to have opportunities to work club scrimmages or internal events prior to the Open PLQ.

Next Meeting

- Will be scheduled once the next Junior Girls’ Committee meeting is put on the calendar.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 7:01 PM.