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# CEVA

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## 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.

## 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.