



COLUMBIA EMPIRE VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

Junior Girls Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 2, 2026 – 7:00 PM via Zoom

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Heidi Wood

Guests Present

Mark Sykes

Staff Present

Cody March

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Cody March
- A quorum was present at roll call.
- Guests were recognized.

Open PL Qualifier

- Mostly positive feedback was received on the Open Power League Qualifier, and the Open PL Workgroup has met previously to go over some of the comments received.
- Other comments and discussion:
 - Mixing crossover opponents between flights.
 - Reserving some space in Open for younger teams.
 - Knowing what teams are going to NQs prior to the qualifier
 - Continuing to keep the event under one roof.
- The event will be in Portland in 2026-2027. Discussions are ongoing about potentially hosting the event in Medford in a future season, once construction of the new facility at the fairgrounds is done. We would need to conduct a site visit and make inquiries with the city and county.
- The Open PL Workgroup will continue working to refine the event.

Summer Tryouts

- Results from the club director & administrator survey were shared with the committee.
- Discussion:
 - There is still a lot of misinformation and misconceptions about current policies and how a change in tryouts would impact clubs.
 - Survey comments had a lot of focus on recruiting.
- Continuing messages:
 - Start dates are not mandatory.
 - Respecting the high school season and ensuring the region does not appear to be devaluing the school season.
 - Clubs may still run multiple tryouts in the hypothetical policy.

- Next steps (**Action Items for Cody**):
 - Development of a survey for parents and other stakeholders.
 - Small group meetings and conversations with diversified viewpoints.
 - Examination of using Regionals to have conversations and convey information.
 - Deeper examination of data looking for correlations between club size and geographic location.

Bid Tournament

- The committee discussed various scenarios involving the expansion of the Bid Tournament, and the pros/cons of all.
 - Discussion:
 - Assume the region will receive the same number of bids next season.
 - If we reserve spots in the Bid Tournament for teams from regular Power League, will it disincentivize teams from trying for Open?
 - If we expand, what are the odds of a lower-seeded team (e.g., a 9th or 10th team) earning a bid. Statistically, those odds are low.
 - From a competitive standpoint, allowing more opportunities to compete against higher-level teams is viewed positively.
 - What's keeping teams coming back to CEVA if they have no pathway to earning a bid? If we keep the Bid Tournament at the same number, will teams leave?
 - Note – approximately 25% of teams from Power League expressed interest in participating in the Bid Tournament.
 - Nobody is limited from participating in the Open PL Qualifier, and with that event being a two-day tournament, keeping priority for Open teams seems the fairest.
 - There was no consensus from the committee to pursue expansion of the Bid Tournament at this time.
- The committee discussed holding reallocated bids from USAV until Regionals.
 - There are several logistical challenges with this, but Cody will examine possibilities.
- The committee agreed that a policy was necessary that would prevent teams who already had an Open Bid from participating in the Bid Tournament.
 - **Action Item:** Cody to draft policy language.

Good of the Order

- Each committee is being asked to put together a basket for the CASF Silent Auction at Regionals.
 - **Action Item:** Cara is taking the lead on this initiative.
- Each committee is also tasked with producing a “Roles & Responsibilities” document that can be presented to potential committee members, so they can understand what would be expected of them should they join the committee.
 - **Action Item:** Cody will work with Cara to complete this document and submit it to the Board Development Committee.

Next Meeting

- Cody will send a survey to the committee to determine a next meeting date.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.