

[Sent by Brian Hemelgarn from the OVR List of Certified Officials]

Folks,

A few updates since the season is upon us:

CLINICS. Our last round of in-person clinics concluded Sunday in Akron. We haven't hosted in-person clinics since pre-COVID, so it has been great to reconnect with everyone! A few of you could not attend due to schedule conflicts, etc. Since this is a rule-change year for USA Volleyball, it is crucial that all referees participate in a pre-season clinic to have current USAV rules & interps, OVR updates, etc. With that in mind, I will host an online make-up clinic within the next couple weeks on a weeknight; it will last about two hours. You must attend the make-up clinic if you missed an in-person clinic. Details are forthcoming.

ASSIGNING. I am focusing on events in the immediate future (Jan-Feb). If you have requested assignment for an April or May event, I'll get to those soon, please be patient.

CONCUSSION TRAINING. The concussion training course needs to be completed by several of you; the certificate is good for three years. If you don't have a date in the Concussion column in the referee listing, it means you need to take the course again. Remember, the course is free, and I included a link in the clinic materials you received. I will also be sending the OVR Concussion Protocol to you, club directors, and tournament directors.

SPECTATORS. As we highlighted during our clinics, we (including USA Volleyball) are trying to curb poor spectator conduct. I will provide local tournament directors the same information we discussed during our clinics. If you encounter poor spectator behavior that impacts the match, PLEASE REPORT IT! Remember, we're going to have a little booing from time to time. Re-read page 22 in the rulebook to know where to draw the line.

The next three weekends we will be busy certifying our class of new referees - 150 in the program this year - and we get right into the season after that. I'll send news & updates as they become available. If you need anything, reach out to me - I'll reply as quick as I can. Re-send your note if you don't hear from me within a couple days... I usually get 100+ emails per day, so I miss one sometimes. ðŸ˜‰

Thanks in advance for helping the OVR provide a great experience for our athletes, coaches, and spectators! We can't do what we do without YOU!

Best,

Brian Hemelgarn
OVR Referees' Chair