

August 31, 2011

Each summer we talk about improvement opportunities for CMVBC and what changes are needed to enhance our membership's volleyball experience. As we embark on those discussions, I just want to share a few of my focus areas.

This past season we registered several more (five) of our "first" teams as Gold in the Heart of America region. This supports an **attempt to grow the strength of schedule & competition** for our teams and to start **changing the culture** that winning 25-5 against poor competition is not in the best interest for challenging or improving players. Some of our teams chose an out-of-region tournament to enhance their schedule such as in the St. Louis Gateway region. Others added a Convention Center volleyball event on either side of the state. A side benefit was having player and parent eyes opened that "we aren't so great after all" in the bigger picture of volleyball. One of our CMVBC coaches observed that "the bigger clubs don't take losses as devastation... they don't mind losing against better competition and they seem to strive on the challenge knowing it makes them better."

As with most volleyball clubs, maintaining quality coaches remains a concern. Some come and go, particularly finding it challenging when parents intrude into the coaching process. We must respect our coaches' efforts. That sometimes means stepping back, putting things into perspective, and then certainly raising legitimate concerns in a respectful manner as good role models to our young athletes.

The CMVBC Board dealt with more Code of Conduct issues this past season than ever before. Only one infraction involved a player, but two separate incidents with parents and one coach. I plan to discuss Code of Conduct more at our second Parent/Player meeting this Fall to educate so we prevent future occurrences. USA Volleyball is the governing body that provides disciplinary guidance. CMVBC will continue to view Code of Conduct infractions as a serious concern as we strive to produce a positive experience for everyone involved.

On a more positive light, here are a few other enhancement areas that we will be reviewing for next season....

- Ensure a solid coaching support structure for our teams
- Ensure greater focus on strong fundamental skills
- Consider registering one annual CMVBC home tournament as Gold (promoting it early by emails to HOA clubs and Gateway past participants).
- Transition the CULTURE (of coaches, parents, and players) that winning easy tournaments are a waste of time and money. We need to instill excitement and reward with strong play in tough tournaments and instill a personal desire for player self-improvement.
- Transition CULTURE of CMVBC teams AWAY from being separate entities and "competing" against each other. Instead, grow a culture of being ONE club, being players with a common goal of self-improvement and pride in being a member of the Central Missouri Volleyball Club.

Sincerely,

Janice Hoerber
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