

March 18, 2020

Hello OVA Referee Family,

Even with things changing at a pace that nobody could have imagined as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, we wanted to take a moment to connect.

The last thing we want as an organization is for you to feel that you are alone. The OVA staff continues to work, albeit remotely, so if there is something that you need, do not hesitate to reach out to us.

In our Mission Statement, we say: *“The OVA is an athlete-centred association where dedicated volunteers and professional staff provide leadership in the growth and development of volleyball for all Ontarians.”* Make no mistake, as key stakeholders, we rely on the volleyball referees to aid in the development of Ontario volleyball players. By applying the rules of the game during matches and by taking the time to explain the rules of the game to athletes and coaches, the OVA referees are instrumental in helping these stakeholders build their understanding of the sport.

Your efforts have not gone unnoticed and we appreciate the fluid and dynamic way in which you have been handling the current situation in a style that mirrors our own objectives. We want you to know that we are continuing to pay attention to the situation as it evolves in order to be able to bring you the most up to date information.

During this challenging and stressful time, it is important to note that as details and strategies continue to emerge, we support one another in all our different communities as best we can. This includes sharing the sadness at the season being cut short for the Indoor Competitions regular season. We all agree that this decision although appropriate was nevertheless a tough one and we are continuing to investigate options on if we can deliver Ontario Championships at a later date.

We are ever hopeful that things will return to normal as soon as possible but in the meantime, we respectfully suggest that you continue to follow the guidelines set out by Public Health to help with containing the spread of COVID-19. And if you are social distancing and are staying at home, what better way to pass the time than to jump on the OVA *RulesR* or *Referee Engagement Centre* to keep your knowledge of the game up to date.

The sport of volleyball is as strong as it is in the province of Ontario because of you. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing commitment.

If you any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to your Referee Chair or either one of us.

Yours in Volleyball,



Alishia Lidums
Director of Volleyball Operations
Ontario Volleyball Association



Andrew Robb
Ontario Referee Chair
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