

BREAKING BARRIERS AWARD: CHRISTINA FIEBICH

Fiebich honored on National Girls & Women in Sports Day in Minnesota

Christina Fiebich has made a name for herself not only in North Country Region and across the United States as a USA Volleyball National Official and NCAA Division 1 Official, but also internationally as an International World ParaVolley (WPV) Official. This past summer, Christina became the first female referee from the United States to officiate Sitting Volleyball at the Paralympics in Tokyo. Then, this past weekend, Christina spent her days working with our junior officials at the NCR Region Road Trip to Coon Rapids and investing in the Region's new J.O.T. program. What a privilege to have an official of Christina's caliber right here in North Country Region, giving back to our members!

"While her officiating has taken her from coast-to-coast nationally and around the world internationally, Fiebich credits her success to the mentor referees and coaches in Minnesota who helped her get started as a new official. Every weekend in the fall and many weekends throughout the year, she is on the court officiating the best teams in the NCAA and around the world. She wants to make sure young officials have those same opportunities."

**Quote is an excerpt from the National Girls & Women in Sports Day in MN website*

[National Girls & Women in Sports Day 2022](#)
[Breaking Barriers Award Winner: Christina Fiebich](#)



Christina Fiebich (center) at the USA All-Star Championships



NATIONAL & JUNIOR NATIONAL OFFICIALS DEVELOPMENT TEAM UPDATES

... the latest news for our National & Junior Nationals!

National Referee & Scorer Credentials for Indoor & Beach • All credentials/certifications are extended by three years.

Upload Photo to SportsEngine • The Officials Development Team requests that you upload a photo of yourself in your SE account.

[Instructions on How to Upload a Photo to SE](#)

National Official Dues • [National Officials dues payment portal](#).

Deadline to pay National Officials dues is March 15.

Extended Officials Insurance • This insurance provides coverage at non-USAV sanctioned events. Cost is \$6.85. [21-22 USAV Extended Officials Insurance](#)

National Coursework • National coursework is now available on your USAV Academy Dashboard. Coursework should be completed by March 15. [Step-by-step instructions on how to access your USAV Academy Dashboard](#)

National Clinic • The National Clinic, titled Avoiding Tragedies, will be held virtually on Wednesday, March 9 at 7 pm CST. You may attend live or view the recording. Registration information will be available shortly.

IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THE EVENT MOVING

Officials are known as arbiters of the sport. In fact, our international referees were called FIVB Arbiters for many years. We are a key component in ensuring teams are able to contest the match fairly. But we are also a key component in ensuring an excellent experience for participants and spectators. Our guidelines talk about how important an official is in the enjoyment of the sport. That role extends to the tournament as well. One of the benefits to having professional officials at your tournament is having the matches run on time and scores reported timely. Teams don't have to wait for the working team to finish their post-game debrief before warming up for their next match. Parents aren't (always) plagued with the extremely late nights at the gym because none of the matches started on time. Players aren't standing around while non-certified coaches/players acting as officials try to make a determination on a confusing rule, only to have to call the site director to come over.

For those of you that work big tournaments, we all know officials who you hate to follow, because you know their court will be behind. They start warm-ups late, they are slow when finishing the match to thank the work team and sign the scoresheet. They want to chat with the oncoming coaches, or maybe take a break, starting the subsequent match late, too. And during the match, they speak to the Captains multiple times, they pull in their R2 or line judges for conferences multiple times, they are startled by balls that bounce toward, but NOT on the court, calling replays, and have a generally slow pace. And we know the officials who are known to be efficient. This doesn't mean they rush the match, or make the experience uncomfortable for the players because of their haste. It means the official completes the match, thanks the team and checks and signs the scoresheet immediately. They are calling the captains and starting the warm-up protocol before turning to their many other duties. During the match they keep a nice steady pace, and don't allow time-outs and time between matches to linger. They have a routine for speaking to the work team that is efficient, allowing them time to get a drink, a snack, or take care of themselves in the 10 minutes between matches.

Make sure you have a reputation for being efficient. Tournament directors should be excited to see you, because they know you will keep their tournament running, the players moving, and most importantly, create an environment where the focus is on playing volleyball, and not on administrative necessities or your own desire to be involved in the match.

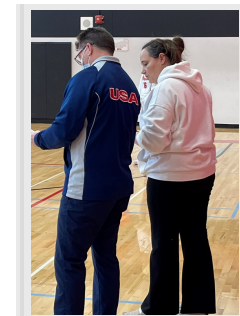
~ Travis Karlin, NCR Officials Chair

DID YOU KNOW?

This scenario was submitted this month by an NCR Club Director.

Our opponent dug a ball (1st contact) that hit the ceiling. The ball came down directly on top of the net (part of the ball on both sides of the plane). The ball bounced up and back on to their side. Opponent played it two more times and sent it over the net. Was that a legal play or should it have been called out since the ball broke the plane off of direct contact from the ceiling?

USAV 8.4.2 • "The ball is "out" when . . . the ball contacts the ceiling or obstruction above the team's playing area and crosses the plane of the net into the opponent's court. Because it did not cross the plane of the net into the opponent's court, the ball would still be in - PLAY ON!



National Official, Matt Larsen, working with a coach during J.O.T.

USAV OFFICIATING OPPORTUNITIES - WE NEED YOU!

USAV EVENTS/EVENTS IN OTHER REGIONS

Sunshine Volleyball Classic Qualifier • April 1-3
Orlando, Florida

Iowa Region Events

March 12-13, March 26-27, April 16 (Boys Event)

USAV Girls 18s Junior National Tournament • April 22-24, 2022

Phoenix, AZ

SNAPSHOT OF J.O.T.

NorthCountry
REGION VOLLEYBALL

J.O.T. Feedback Form

Match vs. <i>Manti</i>	J.O.T. Official: <i>Belinda M</i>	Date: <i>1/30/22</i>
WORK TEAM: <i>Hammerheads</i>	17-2	Court: <i>9</i>
Time: <i>2:00 PM</i>		
POSITIVES <i>Very Thorough!! Both tracked where libero was serving Awesome!</i>	AREA OF REVIEW SCOREBOOK LIBERO TRACKER	THINGS TO CONSIDER <i>Remember to put time of game on the top</i>
Thank you for lifting the scoreboard for parents to see	MISCELLANEOUS TABLE COMMENTS	
I love the way you check receiving team is ready before signaling serve!	#4 R1	
Good job, Coach	R2	
I appreciate that you took turns + switched after set 1	LINE JUDGES	<i>Be confident + sell your calls</i>
Overall, excellent calls and remained "in the game."	COURT MANAGEMENT	<i>Both hands on flag instead of arms crossed. (neutral ready position)</i>
	MISCELLANEOUS WORK TEAM COMMENTS	

Thank you, ladies!!

The positive feedback from our J.O.T. officials has made a significant impact on our Junior Officiating Teams, and the level of officiating of our NCR clubs has improved substantially over the course of this season!

NCR HOSTED EVENTS

The following events still need officials!

Boys' Smack Showcase (March 5-6, 2022)

- Region Tiered Pay Scale based on Certification
- Glencoe, MN

Shamrock Shenanigans (March 19-20, 2022)

- Region Tiered Pay Scale based on Certification
- Shakopee, MN

NCR Area Championships (April 23-24, 2022)

- Region Tiered Pay Scale based on Certification
- Various sites in MN, ND & SD

KODA LEAGUE (April 2-3, 2022)

- Region Tiered Pay Scale based on Certification
- Watertown, SD & Sioux Falls, SD

IN-REGION CLUB HOSTED EVENTS

30th Annual Heartland Tournament (March 27, 2022)

- \$40/match
- Monticello/Big Lake, MN

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

NCVF Championships (April 14-16, 2022)

Phoenix, AZ



**2021-2023
USA VOLLEYBALL RULEBOOK**

The 2021-2023 USAV Rulebook is available online. Per USAV, a printed version of the Rulebook will not be available in time for this club season. Along with accessing the new Rulebook online, NCR Officials Chair, Travis Karlin, recommends keeping a copy of the old Rulebook on hand with a printout of the 2021-2023 Rules Modifications & Clarifications.