



Sun Country Shine

Welcome!

We will use this space to periodically update our membership on the wonderful things going on in our region, discuss some food-for-thought topics, and seek your input on how to continuously improve our region.

Congratulations!!!

Sun Country had 35 teams qualify to compete at Nationals for the 2023 season. Way to go!



BOYS VOLLEYBALL

Congratulations to New Mexico for adding boys volleyball as an experimental sport for this school year! It is exciting, cheap, safe, and trending nationally in a major way. If you know any boys interested in playing, ask your club director what options are available.

Sun Country Spotlight

Coming soon! The Sun Country Spotlight section will allow us to highlight our exceptional members. This could be an outstanding player, coach, director, or official that has an exciting story to share either on or off the court.



Sun Country All Stars

High Performance is back! This USA Volleyball pipeline program has been rebranded as “All Stars”, and SURVA intends to field a team in the girls youth division and the boys older division. We are in the very early stages, but if you have questions or want to let us know about players that are obviously deserving from your area you can contact Mike Moffitt or Geoff Lawson.






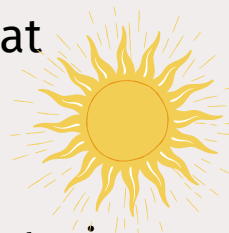
TIMEOUT PLEASE

With Dr. M

Interacting with Officials



So, is the ref shortage real? Absolutely! Thankfully, our volleyball region is not hurting nearly as bad as other sports and areas around the nation, but we still need to be actively recruiting new officials, supporting and teaching them, and treating them well, so that they continue officiating our great sport. The SURVA board is doing our part to adjust our training and support systems, as well as our official assigning system, so that we maximize the expertise of the wonderful officials we already have in our region and help develop the next crop of great volleyball officials.



You can probably think of horror stories related to officials that rise to the level of national headlines, but there are a wide range of interactions that could be greatly improved with just a little kindness and some foresight.

Continued Below...

THIS SECTION OF THE SHINE WILL CONSIST OF FOOD-FOR-THOUGHT, OMBUDSMAN STYLE TOPICS SUCH AS HOW TO HANDLE THE VARIOUS FORMS OF CONFLICT THAT ARISE IN AND AROUND CLUB VOLLEYBALL, COACHING AND PARENTING TO MAXIMIZE PLAYERS' MENTAL WELLBEING, BEST PRACTICES TO HAVE YOUR BEST PRACTICES, AND MUCH, MUCH MORE. OUR INAUGURAL EDITION KICKS OFF WITH THE TOPIC OF INTERACTING WITH OFFICIALS.

DR. MIKE MOFFITT

Mike is your SURVA Junior Representative.

Please reach out to him with questions, comments, and concerns related to coaches education, player welfare and ethics, All Stars, or share your ideas for future topics for "Timeout Please".



mlmoffitt11@gmail.com

TIMEOUT PLEASE

With Dr. M

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Interacting with Officials

Everyone: When there is a disagreement brewing, DON'T take it personal, DON'T make it personal, but DO think of them as a PERSON. People make mistakes. That adult official, child working as an official, or coach may have made a mistake (or not), but when you blow it out of proportion, you are definitely making a mistake. SURVA will not tolerate any abusive language, so keep it CLEAN. Profanity is a shortcut to escalating a problem, and as soon as those words fly, your credibility as a coach, official, player, or parent fly with them.

Coaches: The more years I have coached, the less I interact with the officials during matches (Yes, really! Ask Mark Noble.) It is less about mellowing in my old age and more about discovering what is effective and what is ineffective. Wave and send your captain instead of yelling across the gym. Pretend it is Jeopardy! and keep everything in the form of a question. Once a decision is final, move on. All these years and I have still never witnessed a perfect match from a coach, player, or official, so accept that a little bit of human error is just part of the game.

Parents: Learn the game and the rules. Respect the officials' impartiality. They do not have a rooting interest in the match. They are here to let the kids play. It is a great rule of thumb to not say anything negative to or about anyone else's kid. When it comes to youth players on the work crew, don't say anything at all. We would all have a better experience at tournaments if no one screams "SCORE", no one ever says anything to the line judges, and no one yells "double, hands, lift, carry, or throw." (Officiating setting is probably a future topic).

Players: Let your coach handle anything related to interacting with the officials. If you are the speaking captain, you may address the lead official, but be careful not to "go rogue". When you are working as a linesperson, R2, or at the table: pay attention, put your phone and snacks away. If we had to hire a full adult staff to officiate matches, we wouldn't be able to play, so embrace your role, and do a great job.

Officials: Be professional, but have an open, friendly demeanor. Give those coaches and captains just enough time for a quick explanation, and don't be afraid to take a moment to double check with your R2 and line judges. It might be an opportunity to correct an error, but if nothing else it lends you more credibility because now there are four of you owning that call. Otherwise, keep that match moving. Thanks for what you do!