

Notes from the GEVA Junior Competition Meeting of May 15, 2011

The GEVA Junior Competition Committee met on Sunday, 5/15/11, at 9am, at Queens College. Board members in attendance were:

Phil Wagenblast – Commissioner
Joel Stanford – Junior Competition Director
Dan Altro – Northern Counties Rep
Merlin Thompson – New York City Rep
Kevin DesLauriers – Long Island Rep
Bob Baker – New Jersey Rep
Doug Levine – Girls' At-Large Rep
Marilyn Maccio – Boys' At-Large Rep

LIBA's Lynford Foreman was also present.

Highlights of the meeting included the following:

- Reviewed the current policy on reimbursement of the entry fee for the Junior National Championships. The policy is as follows (the only change was in the date the article is due):
 - o Boys – The entry fee (currently \$900) per age group is available and will be split amongst all teams in that age group attending Nationals. An extra share is available to the winner of the Boy's Regional Championships attend.
 - o Girls – The team that win's GEVA's bid to the National division of each age group will be eligible to have their entry reimbursed.
 - o In order to receive any reimbursement, a team must submit an article, of at least 500 words, to the commissioner by August 1st. The article should cover the teams experience involving the Junior National Championships. Late entries will not be accepted.
- Marilyn Maccio will organize a GEVA hosted boy's tournament at least once a month, beginning in October and running through the GEVA Boy's Regional Championships. The tournaments in October, November, and December will be held at a facility TBD, in New Jersey.
- The Boy's Regional Championships will be held the last weekend in February, at a site TBD.
- Boys tournaments will be posted on AES.
- Marilyn Maccio and Merlin Thompson will host a Boy's session in mid-October focused on college volleyball opportunities for boys. We'll try to have a representative from USA Volleyball present as well as a men's college volleyball coach(es).
- The national Firemen's volleyball championships, to be held at Javits Center, is another opportunity to host a boys' session.
- We'd like to form a Boy's committee to meet the needs of the boys throughout the region. If you would like to participate, please contact Marilyn Maccio.
- Joel Stanford will publish a list, from Webpoint, of the boys and girls clubs from this season, along with contact information.
- We reviewed the survey responses from junior club directors. While there were several ideas and suggestions included, the overall tone of the responses was favorable towards the format and structure used for the girl's junior tournaments during the 2010-2011 season.

- We will continue to use Webpoint for individual and team registrations, and Advanced Event Systems for tournament entries. AES is investigating adding a ranking system, if they do, GEVA will probably adopt it. If not, we'll continue to use the current ranking and seeding method.
- There were enough 14s teams that we'll split the 14s age group into 14 Open and 14 Club.
- The initial tournament calendar, including club sponsored events, will be posted and open for tournament entries by December 1st. We'll try to post the GEVA hosted tournament schedule by November 15th, if we are able to secure sufficient facilities by that date.
- GEVA will host at least two events at each age and division, plus the Regional Championships.
- As was the case this season, a team must enter, be accepted, and play (to count they must play all matches for which they are scheduled and fulfill all work assignments for the event) in at least 3 GEVA sanctioned events. All GEVA sanctioned events are listed on advancedeventsystems.com and begin with "GEVA 20xx" in the name of the event.
- New for this year: The GEVA hosted OPEN division tournaments for each age group will have a restricted entry period of 3 days, beginning when entries open. During these 3 days, only the following teams (based on the club/team USAV number) will be accepted into the OPEN division events:
 - o Only the 1st team in a club at each age group is eligible for the restricted entry period. They must still meet the requirements below, based on finish at Regionals.
 - o The winner of the "Club 1" division at the prior year's Regional Championships.
 - o All teams that played in the "Open" division of the prior year's Regional Championships.
 - o A team's finish allows entry for that club's similar team at two age groups for the following season: the age group of that specific team during Regionals and the age group that team will compete at during the following season. For example, is a 16s team played in the Open division at the GEVA 2011 Regional Championships, that club's 16-1 team AND 17-1 team would be eligible for the restricted entry period of OPEN division events during the 2011-2012 season.
 - o A team that doesn't meet the criteria may petition the Junior Competition Committee for inclusion in the restricted entry period at least 1 week prior to the start of the restricted entry period. The committee will primarily focus on the level of the players that will be on the petitioning team (i.e. did at least 5 players play on teams that would have met the criteria during the previous season), and the results at 3-day "festival" format events during the team's previous season (i.e. finishes in the gold bracket) when deciding whether or not to grant an exception.
- 14 Open will be open to any teams without a restricted entry period. Club Directors, please only enter teams that you believe will compete in 14 Open at the Regional Championships!
- For 15s, 16s, and 17s, the Open division will have room for at least 24 teams, though they may be at different venues. The 18s division will accommodate at least 16 teams.
- Only teams that meet the criteria for the restricted entry period may play up in age group for the GEVA hosted OPEN tournaments. Other teams must play at their age group.
- Acceptance into GEVA hosted tournaments will be based on receipt of paid entries.
- Stefanie Carrington will investigate if GEVA can add a region specific document that must be read and approved as a part of Junior registrations. If so, we'll create one and include at least the region's policy on recruiting, tryouts, and offer acceptance.
- Dan Altro will create a "complaint" or "rules violation" form for the website. Joel Stanford will see that it gets posted.
- Dan Altro will create a list of GEVA rules violations and sanctions to be posted on geva.org.

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- GEVA will not sanction junior girls' tryouts prior to November 1st. We will keep the 72 hour commitment policy in place.
- Phil Wagenblast will take charge of creating a GEVA Handbook or Operating Guide.
- Bob Baker will draft a GEVA Juniors "Bill of Rights" that will be posted on geva.org and included in registration approval process, if possible.

The next meeting of the full GEVA Board will be on July 10th, at a time and location TBD.