

Volleyball officials wanted

Written by Chris Lee

The Colorado Volleyball Officials Association is looking for officials throughout the state to participate in upcoming clinics and sports seasons. Earning extra cash and becoming more involved in the game are reasons the organization say people should get excited for becoming an official.

Nici Bishop, president of the Colorado Volleyball Officials Association, said officials are needed throughout the state, particularly in northeastern Colorado.

She has seven years experience as an area director. She was director in Springfield before moving to Holyoke and is currently serving her first term as president of the association.

It was never a goal of hers to become president but after many suggestions from friends and fellow officials, she decided to take on the task. At the end of this year she will decide to run for another term or pass it off to someone else.

Clinic to be held in Sterling

An upcoming clinic will be held in Sterling on the campus of Northeastern Junior College (NJC). New official study sessions will begin on July 27 with the regional clinic being held on Aug. 15.

Training sessions are for both new officials and veteran officials.

New officials will learn the basic rules, mechanics, signals and ways to handle players and coaches. Game management is another aspect of the training.

Veteran officials will learn about minor changes in rules. Bishop said they will also concentrate on ball handling and judgment this year.

Bishop also added they are implementing a new game show style of teaching this year. "It's a fun way to teach the rules instead of just lecturing to them," she said.

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Attracting high school and college students from around the state is a goal for the association. Bishop said officiating is a great way to keep high school students engaged in the sport after they graduate. She also mentioned it is a great way for college students to earn extra cash.

Bishop said everything learned at Colorado training clinics can be taken to other states because most of the rules are the same from state to state.

Bishop has been an official at the Colorado State Tournament for the last six years. Her first tournament came at the end of her fifth season as an official.

“It’s an honor,” she said. “I have a huge passion for volleyball.”

She added it is incredibly rewarding and being able to meet and keep in touch with officials from all around the state is a bonus.

“It is a very close-knit group of officials,” she said.

The schedule for the upcoming clinic at NJC in Sterling follows:

—July 27, new officials study session, 6 p.m., NJC Bank of Colorado Event Center in Sterling.

—Aug. 3, new officials study session, 6 p.m., NJC Bank of Colorado Event Center in Sterling.

—Aug. 10, new officials study session, 6 p.m., NJC Bank of Colorado Event Center in Sterling.

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—Aug. 15, regional clinic, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., NJC Bank of Colorado Event Center Auxiliary Gym in Sterling.

—Aug. 17, new officials test, 6 p.m., NJC Bank of Colorado Event Center in Sterling.

—Aug. 24, study session, 6 p.m., NJC Bank of Colorado Event Center in Sterling. Test due veteran officials.

—Sept. 14, study session, 6 p.m., NJC Bank of Colorado Event Center in Sterling.

—Sept. 28, study session, 6 p.m., NJC Bank of Colorado Event Center in Sterling.

—Oct. 12, study session, 6 p.m., NJC Bank of Colorado Event Center in Sterling.

—Nov. 3, study session, 6 p.m., NJC Walker Hall room 104. Sterling potluck.

Those interested are encouraged to attend a regional clinic, one study session before the season begins and one study session after the season starts. New officials are encouraged to attend as many of the new official study sessions as possible.

For questions or to register, contact Trudy Fritzler 466-9234 or Deb County 522-4738. The web site for the Colorado Volleyball Officials Association is www.cvoaref.org.