



Wisconsin Independent Volleyball League

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To: Wisconsin Independent Volleyball League Coaches

From: Jerry Engeleiter

Subject: Spring 2010 Wisconsin Independent Volleyball League Enrollment
for 4th through 8th Grade Girls

This memo is directed to those coaches who were involved with teams that played in the Spring 2009 Wisconsin Independent Volleyball League (WIVL) season or who have expressed an interest in participating during the Spring of 2010. We are also mailing these materials to various area girls varsity volleyball coaches from communities that have not participated in past WIVL seasons.

Spring 2010 Enrollment Form

The enclosed Enrollment Form to participate in the Spring 2010 season of the WIVL must be submitted by March 17, 2010. The instructions in the enclosed form are self-explanatory. However, if you have questions, please call Tracie Tilton at 715-749-9048 or, if you can't reach her, call me at 715-549-6161.

Draft 2010 Spring Rules

WIVL Rules are not enclosed in this mailing. Draft 2010 League Rules can be viewed on our website at gnbl.org, by clicking on the "4th-8th Grade Wisconsin Independent Volleyball League" link at the top of the page and then "Spring 2010 Rules for 4th-8th Grade." These rules cover not only match rules, but also how the League is organized, the League's fee structure and meet management. Because these rules are quite detailed and self-explanatory, we don't spend a great deal of time in this memo discussing their content. It's imperative that all coaches looking to enter one or more teams in the Spring League for fourth through eighth grade girls, read and understand these rules. While we will consider changes in these "draft" rules for the 2010 Spring season, any changes at this point must reflect a majority view of League participants. If you have suggested rule changes, or you have questions about the draft rules, please call me at 715-549-6161.

While the WIVL's Rules in 2010 are largely unchanged from 2009, there were several changes from the 2008 to the 2009/2010 seasons which warrant emphasis:

- League Rule B-5. Spells out what action the League will take if we have too many or too few hosts – indicates how we determine which teams/programs may lose a hosting option (if we have too much capacity) or who might lose play dates (if we have too much demand).
- League Rule C-5. In the 2008 season and before, teams would face financial penalties if they dropped out after the detailed schedule for a given meet was posted six days before that meet took place. In 2008 and before, several teams each season would drop out seven or eight days before a given meet – in other words, after their attendance had been confirmed by phone or e-mail contact with the League, but before the schedule was actually posted on the website. Since many of the meet schedules were completed about eight days before a given meet, but weren't posted until six days in advance, these schedules had to be re-done, causing extensive inconvenience and cost. In 2009, we established a new procedure: teams dropping a meet less than **nine** days in advance of a given meet, after their attendance was confirmed by phone call or e-mail from the League, faced the penalties spelled out in Rule C-5 (in other words, teams need to give **nine** days of notice when dropping a meet, compared to **six** days in 2008). This rule, which worked well in 2009, and eliminated the need for most re-scheduling, will be continued in 2010.
- Rule D-5. In 2008, this subsection of the Rules indicated that the League was transitioning to the use of "lite" or "volley-lite" balls in all 5th/4th grade meets, to give teams/programs time to purchase such balls if they didn't already own some. While their use was "encouraged" during the 2008 season, their use was required in 2009, except where **both** teams prefer the use of the official balls (those mandated by WIAA rule for high school and middle school play and in use in all 6, 7 and 8 grade WIVL meets). With the transition complete, this rule will remain unchanged from 2009 to 2010.

Length of Season

We will again organize meets on seven consecutive Saturdays: April 10, April 17, April 24, May 1, May 8, May 15 and May 22.

"Flexible" Scheduling

On the enclosed enrollment form, you can opt to have your team play three, four, five or more matches per day.

- If you choose to play three matches, your matches will likely be scheduled in three consecutive time slots, or usually over no more than four time slots, so that your team is making only a half-day commitment. However, please note Section B-4 of the League Rules: we cannot consistently guarantee a specific team that their matches each week will all be in the morning or all in the afternoon.
- If you choose to play four matches a day, these will likely be scheduled over five to seven time slots, with some back-to-back matches and some one time-slot breaks between matches.

- If you choose to play five matches a day, in most cases you're looking at a full day commitment (e.g., 8:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m. or 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m.), with five matches over a six, seven, eight or nine time slot day. The length of your day, however, will depend on how many courts are being used by the host team that day, how many other teams are in attendance and how many other grades are being hosted on that day by the host team.
- If your team wants to play more than five matches per day, you aren't likely to have any longer day than those teams playing five matches, but you will play more back-to-back matches.

See Paragraph B-3 of the enclosed League Rules for an example of how flexible scheduling works with thirteen teams playing on three surfaces, where five teams play three matches each, three teams play four matches each, four teams play five matches each and one team plays seven matches.

Posting Schedules

A schedule of meet participants will be posted and updated as changes occur. By Sunday, April 4, 2010, a detailed meet schedule will be posted on the website for all teams playing on Saturday, April 10. By Friday, April 9, "skeletal" meet schedules will be posted on the website for the April 17 and 24, May 1, 8, 15 and 22 meets (i.e., by April 9 we'll post who plays where and how many matches on these remaining six dates, but not the exact opponent and time of each match). Starting on Sunday, April 4, and continuing on Sunday, April 11, the detailed meet schedule will be posted every Sunday on the website for the next Saturday's meets, showing each meet match-up, court assignments and start times. This process will be repeated every Sunday by 11:00 p.m. for the next Saturday's meets.

We initiated this approach to scheduling in the 2004 season. We did so because if each team's schedule is completed in detail prior to the season, and a team later drops out of a given meet, we have to find a replacement for that team, or entirely re-do the schedule, which is a major task. By waiting until six days before each meet to do the pairings, if a team drops out prior to that time, we don't have to scramble to find a replacement. We simply shorten the meet by the number of matches the dropping team occupied.

Hosting

When hosting, a community needs a minimum of two playing surfaces for a full day for one grade (first match starting between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m., last match starting sometime between 3:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., depending on attendance at that meet). A community can also host a meet for one grade on three playing surfaces on the same Saturday. If a host has three, four or more playing surfaces, it can host meets for multiple grades on the same date.

Fees/Hosting Credits

For the Spring 2010 season, it will again cost (as it did in 2009) a team \$24 per match to play and the host will receive a hosting credit of \$14 per team per match.

Length of Matches

See Section B-6 of the rules. We will follow the same time line used in the Spring of 2009 season:

- 4th/5th and 6th Grade: 50 minutes apart – anticipated 40-45-minute match with a 5-10-minute warm-up for the next match.
- 7th and 8th Grade: 55 minutes apart – anticipated 45-50-minute match with a 5-10-minute warm-up for the next match.

Separate Divisions

The Spring 2010 League will have a separate playing division for each of three grades: 6, 7 and 8. There will also be a combined 4th/5th grade division, in which we'll schedule play between 5th grade teams, 4th grade teams and combined 4th/5th grade teams.

League Championship Tournament

On Saturday, May 22, the League will hold a separate League Championship Tournament (LCT) in each division for 8th, 7th, 6th and 5th/4th grade teams, provided that centrally-located communities with adequate playing surfaces agree to host on that date. Each of the LCTs will be hosted by a different community or group of communities. A team must play in at least two meets prior to May 22 to be eligible to participate in the LCT. If more teams at a given grade level sign-up to play in the LCT than court capacity allows, we will: 1) give preferential treatment to teams playing in at least three other meets (rather than just two as noted above) and 2) if after that action, we still have too many teams, preferential treatment will be given to those teams with the best match and game records as of the completion of the May 8 meets. The process to be used for determining the content of the LCT field at each grade level will be posted on the League's website by Friday, April 9, when "skeletal" schedules are posted as described above.

At the LCT, each team will play between five and six matches. Teams will be seeded based on their season's record. Trophies will be awarded to the 1st through 5th place finishers in each grade, as well as to the Consolation Champions. Medallions will be awarded to individuals on those teams that win a trophy. Players on teams that fail to win a trophy will not receive individual awards. The cost to play in the LCT will be \$150. The slightly higher cost of the LCT relative to regular meets accounts for the increased number of matches each team will be playing (five to six matches per team times \$24 per match), the cost of the awards and added staff time to organize a large event. Hosts of the LCT will be allowed to charge \$5 per adult and \$2 per student (versus \$4 adult/\$2 child during the regular season) to also help cover the added cost of hosting a larger event of this nature.

Consent for Medical Treatment and Voluntary Release Form

All girls playing in the Wisconsin Independent Volleyball League will need to have a Consent for Medical Treatment and Voluntary Release Form executed by one of her parents. A copy of that two page form is enclosed. Please make as many copies as you'll need to provide one to all of the girls enrolled in your program. If you misplace the enclosed copy, or inadvertently mark it up before making copies, additional forms can be downloaded from our website, at *gnbl.org*. Click on the "Wisconsin Independent Volleyball League" link located on the top of the page, then on "Consent for Medical Treatment and Voluntary Release Form."

The *original* executed copies of these Consent for Medical Treatment and Voluntary Release Forms need to be mailed to WIVL, PO Box 506, Hudson, WI 54016. They need to be returned prior to your first meet. We also recommend that you keep a photocopy of page 2 of each girl's form that your coaches carry with them to each meet in case a player needs emergency medical treatment and one of her parents is not present. Please don't view the distribution, execution and submission of these waivers as a chore. The waiver and release portion of this document provides the same level of legal protection to you as coaches, as well as your school district, as it does to the League and, therefore, is as much in your interest to complete as it is ours. These forms need to be re-executed once annually. As a result, even if your team's members submitted this form during the Spring 2009 season, this needs to be re-done for 2010.

Line Judges

We've had some problems in meets the past two seasons with teams failing to (or refusing to) provide a line judge in each of its matches. Please note Section C-4 of the League Rules. Each team must provide one of the two line judges for each match. Coaches: It's your responsibility to make sure that a person associated with your team gets into position at least two minutes before a match is scheduled to start so that the official doesn't need to take the time to remind you of this obligation. Hosts: If a given team fails to provide a line judge, do not proceed with the match until that team meets its obligation. If a team refuses, the match will be forfeited by the team refusing to comply with this rule for purposes of League Standings, but played for "fun" so that the players are not disadvantaged. Such refusal should be reported to the League because it may affect that team's ability to participate in future meets, including the League Championship Tournament. While parents and older siblings are the logical people who most often are asked to act as line judge, players are acceptable if necessary. For example, if a team has eight players on it, rather than sitting out a game in a specific match, one player can line judge -- coaches can have three different players each line judge one game in a three game match, which allows each player to play in the other two games. If all else fails, the team's coach needs to line judge rather than shirk its responsibility.

League Standings

An issue about which we receive numerous questions each season relates to League Standings:

- **7th and 8th Grade Meets.** The only time a third game in a match should be played is when the two competing teams each win one of the first two games. Hosts are encouraged to get ahead of schedule, rather than play an "unneeded" third game. Nevertheless, there are some

times when the next scheduled match on that court can't proceed because the next two teams scheduled to play on that surface haven't arrived yet. In these situations, if both participating teams, the host and the official (who may need a break) are all willing to allow a portion of a third game to be played, they can proceed. However, that game will not be played to a specific score - it will be terminated whenever the teams in the next scheduled match are prepared to take the floor, even if it means that match starts ahead of schedule. Results of complete or partial unneeded third games will not be posted on the website and will not be counted as part of the "game winning percentage" in the League Standings.

- **4th/5th and 6th Grade Meets.** The main difference between 4th/5th and 6th grade matches and those in 7th and 8th grade, is that we actually have a procedure in place to encourage (rather than discourage) the playing of the unneeded third game (see Section D-3 of League Rules). This is done to give younger players more playing experience, even if the outcome of a given match has been decided. The only difference between how we handle 4th/5th and 6th grade versus 7th/8th grade meet results, is that we will post the scores of all unneeded third games in 4th/5th and 6th grade matches. However, we will **not** count the outcome of that third game toward the League Standings, for purposes of calculating the game win/loss percentage, when the match was decided in the first two games. In that way, the "winning" team isn't penalized for playing all of its less experienced players in game #3.

Website

We are currently using The Great Northwest's website (gnbl.org) to post volleyball items. These are some of the items that already appear, or eventually will appear, on the website as the Spring 2010 season approaches:

- **Rules:** League rules are posted for all coaches, parents and players to access. Tentative draft rules for the Spring 2010 season are already posted.
- **Consent for Medical Treatment and Voluntary Release Forms:** These are drafted to help protect the League, the coaches and the municipality/school hosting each game. Copies can be printed directly from the website.
- **Schedules:** Meet and LCT schedules will be posted and updated continuously as changes occur. (See the "Timeline" section of this memo below for timing of postings).
- **News Updates:** There is a section allowing for the posting of news items, rules interpretation issues, scheduling questions, etc., on a League bulletin board. These will be posted only on an as-needed basis.
- **Scores:** Host teams will be required to submit scores within 48 hours of the completion of each meet. Scores will be posted on the website and standings updated on a weekly basis. First scores for the Spring 2010 season will be posted on or about April 13. Score results for the Spring 2009 season are archived on the website and can be accessed at gnbl.org. Click on "Wisconsin Independent Volleyball League," located on the top of the page, then "Volleyball Archives."

Timeline Going Forward

What follows is a timeline we will follow leading up to the beginning of League play this spring:

- January 12: First wave of enrollment packets are mailed. Packets distributed to additional teams that express interest throughout the months of January and February.
- Mid January - mid March: Communities looking to enter teams in this League should conduct their local enrollment process if they haven't done so already.
- March 17: Registration deadline for all teams wishing to play in or host in the WIVL.
- March 23 - 29: Lock in all hosting dates.
- April 4: Detailed meet schedule will be posted on website for all teams playing on April 10.
- April 9: "Skeletal" meet schedules will be posted on website for April 17, 24 and May 1, 8, 15 and 22 meets (i.e., at this time, we'll post who plays where and how many matches, but not the exact opponent and time of each match). Final details about the League Championship Tournament for grades 8, 7, 6 and 5/4 will be posted: location, field size and qualification standards of the tournament at a particular grade level if over-subscribed.
- April 11: The detailed meet schedules will be posted on the website for April 17. This process will be repeated weekly throughout the season every Sunday by 11:00 p.m. for the next Saturday's meets.

Questions and Comments

If you have questions about how to access the website, need additional enrollment packets or copies of certain documents, please call Tracie Tilton 715-749-9048. All other questions should be directed to Jerry Engeleiter at 715-549-6161.