

From the President...

HOW MUCH FUN IS THIS???

Where else can you get so much joy out of a second profession! What a privilege to be an official in South Dakota!

As I reflect on this volleyball season, I find myself feeling grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a wonderful profession and to serve alongside so many dedicated volleyball officials. One of the things I appreciate most is the commitment each of you brings to the court. We all have busy lives and many demands on our time, yet you continue to show up, work hard, and give back to a sport that means so much to us. That dedication does not go unnoticed, and I am proud to be part of this group.

Officiating is about more than knowing and enforcing the rules. It is about serving the athletes, supporting our fellow officials, and doing our part to make every match a positive and fair experience. I know we all have matches that challenge us and moments when we reflect on what we could have done better. I believe that willingness to learn, grow, and support one another is what makes us stronger as officials.

As we move through the remainder of the season, let's stay true to our responsibilities, continue sharpening our skills, and approach each match with confidence, consistency, and professionalism. There is always room to improve, and the effort we put into ourselves makes a difference in the experience we provide for the athletes.

For those of you who experimented with the headsets this year, I would love to hear your thoughts! Please share what you liked, what worked well, and what you think could be improved. Your feedback is important as we continue exploring ways to strengthen communication and our officiating experience.

Most of all, thank you for your time, your dedication to volleyball, your commitment to enforcing the rules, and the pride you bring to the court. Your willingness to continue learning and growing makes us stronger. I truly appreciate each of you and the important role you play in serving our athletes and the sport of volleyball in South Dakota. We couldn't do it without you!

Have a great rest of the season and finish strong!

Jo Auch
SDVBOA President



Official of the Year!

LAURIE DURR





Laurie has been officiating volleyball for 23 years. She began her career in volleyball as a coach to 7th & 8th graders in 2000. She has been honored to officiate many post-season matches, including districts, regions, the SoDak 16, state tournaments, and served as the West River Regional coordinator for seven years.

She credits her husband, family, and her fellow officials (who have become her second family) for her success as a volleyball official. The time and commitment during the volleyball season always brings the same response from her husband, "See you in November! Just call me a volleyball widower!"

Laurie is married to Sam and has 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

She graduated from Northern Illinois University in 1977 and worked as an RN in public health and ICU in Omaha, NE. Once her children came into the world, she became a stay-at-home mother, until the last child was in high school. At which time, she bought Fjords Ice Cream Store in Rapid City. She now works part-time as a clerk in a health food store. In her spare time, she can be found spending time with her husband, playing golf, exercising, or transporting grandchildren to their various functions.

She is very honored to be selected as this year's recipient for South Dakota Volleyball Official of the Year.



Nominations needed for Official of the Year!

You can nominate yourself or another official. Please click on the nomination form, complete and email to sneuge13@hotmail.com.

The deadline for nominations is July 1, 2027, prior to the summer board meeting held in July.

MENTORING PROGRAM VOUCHERS DUE!!

If you participated in the mentoring program and have not turned in your vouchers please do so no later than **Friday, November 6th!**

Forms sent after this date will not be accepted!!

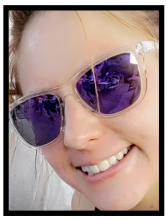
Mail to: Sandy Neugebauer
1204 N. Foster St Mitchell, SD 57301
or email to: sneuge13@hotmail.com
or text a copy of form to (605) 770-5275

SDVBOA
YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

The SDVBOA recognizes officials that have officiated volleyball in South Dakota for 10, 20, 30, 35 and 45 years. These awards were presented at the state-wide officials conference or at a region meeting.

10 year award recipients


Randi Bosch


Shyla Derschan


Craig Habben



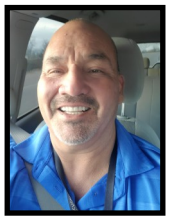
Don Mitchell


Matt Sisk


Leasa Woodward

20 year award recipients


Duane Boer


Patrick Clifford


Brian Ries

30 year award recipients


Hilaree Emmons


Mike Ruth

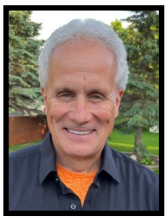
35 year award recipients


Julie Bjerke


Pat Dockendorf


Scott Wagner

45 year award


Terry Duffy

South Dakota Volleyball Official's Google Group

The purpose of the site/email group is to:

a) Help officials find partners to work a match
b) Help officials to find a replacement when they can't work a match due to a conflict
c) Opportunities to pick up a match when schools are having trouble finding officials.
d) Discussion when presenting a situation that happened in a match and see if they handled it correctly.
e) Ask other officials for help on situations or questions they need help with.
f) General discussion about volleyball, etc.

If you would like to join this group, please email Sandy Neugebauer at sneuge13@hotmail.com

SDHSAA YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

The SDHSAA recognizes officials that have officiated any sport in South Dakota for 15, 25, 40 and 50 years. There were no 40 and 50 year recipients this year.

15 year award recipients



Gayla Black Horn



Bridgette Muller

25 year award recipients



Bev Ball



Angie Kinsley



Lori Krier



Brian Sieh



WINTER BOARD MEETING

Zoom Meeting

January 13, 2027

7:00 p.m. CST 6:00 p.m. MST



OFFICIAL HEADSETS

This volleyball season, officials had the option to experiment using headsets. This was not mandatory.

The SDVBOA offers a rebate of $25 per headset (2 headset maximum) to offset the initial cost. To receive the rebate, a valid receipt needs to be submitted with the purchase date in the 2026 season. This rebate offer will also be valid for the 2027 volleyball season.

Thanks to those who did purchase headsets. We would like to hear some feedback on your experience using them. Please send your feedback and/or any valid receipts to Sandy Neugebauer, SDVBOA Executive Secretary at sneuge13@hotmail.com.

REMINDER: Headsets cannot be used in post season matches!





This year high school volleyball teams were permitted to designate up to two libero players during each set, creating additional participation opportunities without needing to use a substitution. Many officials and fans have asked why the change?

Per Lindsey Atkinson, NFHS director of sports and liaison to the Volleyball Rules Committees:

"We have seen rapid growth in high school volleyball participation over the last several years, which has resulted in more highly skilled student-athletes and larger rosters." "Providing an opportunity for one more student-athlete to participate aligns with the mission of education-based athletics."



Open board positions for 2027!!

Region Reps: **(3 year terms)**

There are 5 Region rep positions open. Must be a certified official. Terms ending this year:

East (Char Carda)
Central (Sharon Ferry)
Northeast (Mark Nelson)
South Central (Tacey Dykstra)
Southeast (Eric Gerlach)

The duties of the region representative include: attending the summer and winter board meetings, be responsible for clinics and jamborees in their area and finding presenters and evaluators, setting up and administering region meetings and being the contact person for any concerns of officials in their area.

Anyone interested in any of these positions should send an email of interest along with your volleyball experience to the Executive Secretary (sneuge13@hotmail.com). Outgoing reps are also eligible for another term and should send in an email if interested in being considered.

This email must be received before the winter zoom meeting scheduled on JANUARY 13, 2027

SDVBOA BOARD MEMBERS



Officers:
Jo Auch, President (2027)
Brian Rook, Pres. Elect (2027)
Sandy Neugebauer, Exec. Secretary
Kristina Sage, Asst. Exec. Director of SDHSAA
Nick Huntimer, All Sports Advisory Council Rep (26/27 school year)

Region Representatives:

East Central:
Char Carda (2026)
Tami Hosman (2027)

Central:
Sharon Ferry (2026)
Stephanie Kjetland (2027)

Northeast:
Mark Nelson (2026)
Val Devine (2028)

South Central:
Tacey Dykstra (2026)
Lynell Martin (2027)

Southeast:
Eric Gerlach (2026)
Laurie Thompson (2027)
Belinda Miller (2028)

West:
Brett Distel (2027)
Tanya Nelsen (2028)

Northwest:
Hilaree Emmons (2027)
Misti Henderson (2028)



Any feedback, suggestions for improvement or future topics for the newsletter is appreciated! Send your ideas to sneuge13@hotmail.com