



From the President...

As President of the South Dakota Volleyball Officials Association, I'm proud to celebrate another successful season with our dedicated team of high school officials. Whether you're just starting out or have years of experience, your commitment to the sport makes a lasting impact on student-athletes across the state.

This year, I'd like to highlight three key areas that help us maintain excellence on the court: ball handling, legal uniforms, and good sportsmanship.

Ball Handling: Staying Consistent

Ball handling calls can be tough, especially in fast-paced rallies. A clean hit should be quick and controlled—no prolonged contact. Watch closely for double contacts when directed to a teammate vs. an opponent. While double contacts to a teammate are allowed, they are not allowed if intentionally or unintentionally directed to an opponent. These situations can certainly catch even the best officials off guard. Trust your judgment and make the call with confidence.

Legal Uniforms: Keeping It Clear

Uniform checks are more than routine—they help us keep the game organized and fair. All players should wear matching jerseys with visible numbers on the front and back. Libero jerseys must be clearly contrasting in color and design. Jewelry, specifically small studs above the chin are allowed. Confirm with the Coaches & Captains during the pre-match conference as well as doing a uniform check during warm-ups help to avoid delays and/or penalties.

Good Sportsmanship: Leading by Example

As officials, we help set the tone for respectful competition. When players show kindness, hustle, and teamwork, it makes the game better for everyone. Coaches and fans follow our lead—so let's model calm, clear communication and professionalism. A respectful explanation of a call can defuse tension and build trust.

Thank you for your dedication to high school volleyball. As SDVBOA President, I'm honored to work alongside such passionate and skilled officials. Let's keep learning, growing, and supporting each other as we serve the game we love.

See you on the court!

Janelle Vis



WINTER BOARD MEETING

Zoom Meeting

January 7, 2026

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

Official of the Year!

Janelle Vis



Janelle's journey as a high school volleyball official began in 2000 after hearing a local Sioux Falls radio station announce the need for officials. Inspired by her own experience as a high school volleyball player and her love for the sport, she stepped onto the court with a whistle and a commitment to fairness. Over the past 25 years, Janelle has officiated countless sub-varsity and varsity matches across all three volleyball classes in South Dakota. Her expertise and dedication have earned her assignments at the District, Region, SoDak 16, and State Tournament levels since 2010, where she has served as both a line judge and a referee.

Beyond the court, Janelle has played a vital role in shaping the officiating community. She has held multiple leadership positions on the South Dakota Volleyball Officials Board, including serving as the Southeast Region Representative. In that role, she helped

coordinate the annual Officials Jamboree and led in-person Rules Meetings and training sessions to support and educate fellow officials. Today, Janelle continues to lead with integrity and passion as the current President of the Board, championing excellence in officiating and mentoring the next generation of volleyball officials

Janelle is honored to be named the 2025 Volleyball Official of the Year. This recognition is not just a reflection of her journey, but of the incredible community that has supported her every step of the way.

To her fellow officials, Janel thanks you for your mentorship, and shared passion for the game. Your dedication and integrity inspire her as well as many other officials.

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 7th!**

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



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, 2026, prior to the summer board meeting held in July.

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



Davis Grooms



Leann Hollinshead

30 year award recipients



Brett Distel



Joanne Ebsen



Julie Ortman

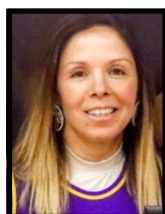
20 year award recipients



Jerry Carda



Cella Hermsen



Marc Marshall



Dean Pierson



Annika Russel-Manke



Laura Thompson



Marcy Van Zee



Dan Krier*

35 year award recipient



Robin Hartley

45 year award recipients



Gary Duffy



Deb Schlagel



Lori Krier*

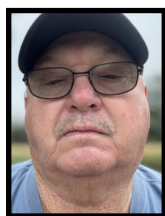
*Lori and Dan Krier are being included as they were previously missed for their 20 year recognition.

This is year 24 for Lori and year 22 for Dan.

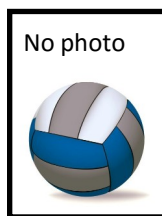
SDHSAA YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

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

15 year award recipients



Steve Bailey



Craig Fonder



Rod Pierson

25 year award recipients



Dave Beste



Stephanie Kjetland



Beth Leber



George Lee



Scott Mack



Erin Schroeder



Hali Stredde



Janel Vis

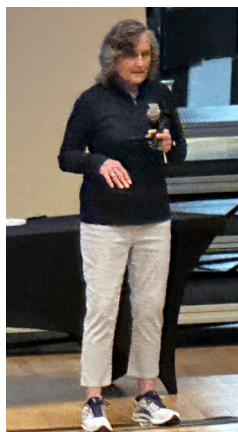
40 year award recipient



Kelley Devine

State Wide VB Officials Conference

On July 11-12, 2025, 110 volleyball officials attended the State Wide VB Official's Conference at Roosevelt High School in Sioux Falls, SD.



Joan Powell, our guest speaker, is a familiar face and we were honored to have her once again be a part of our conference.

Joan covered many topics in regards to ball handling, new changes in regards to double hits, match management, role of the R2, alignments, etc.

Officials attending all sessions of the conference received credit

for their jamboree, mechanical and rules meeting and region meeting.

Thank you to Laurie Thompson who lead the committee to organize and make all the arrangements to make the conference a success. Other committee members were Eric Gerlach, Cindy Trager, Greg Thompson, Hali Stredde, and Matt Sisk. Also thanks to Tami and Dennis Hosman for their help at the conference.

Thank you for your time and effort on a job well done!!



An old saying goes, if you can play you play, if not you coach. And if you can't do either you become a referee!

A lot of us love the sports we officiate and know that we are a necessary part of game. A good official can officiate the game without being a factor in who wins or loses. That way the fans watch a great game and never notice the officials. If we can do that there's nothing better!

Thanks for all you do for the sport of volleyball! Your time and dedication is appreciated!



Open board positions for 2026!!

Region Reps: (3 year terms)

There are 4 Region rep positions open. Must be a certified official. Terms ending this year:

West (Tanya Nelsen)

Northeast (Erin Schroeder)

Southeast (Matt Sisk)

Northwest (Linda Dahlgren)

The duties of the region representative include: attending the summer and fall 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.

President Elect: (2 year term)

This is a two-year position and then will move to the President position for two years. Must be a certified official.

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 meeting scheduled on JANUARY 7, 2026

SDVBOA BOARD MEMBERS



Officers:

Janelle Vis, President (2025)

Jo Auch, Pres. Elect (2025)

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:

Erin Schroeder (2025)

Mark Nelson (2026)

South Central:

Tacey Dykstra (2026)

Lynell Martin (2027)

Southeast:

Matt Sisk (2025)

Eric Gerlach (2026)

Laurie Thompson (2027)

West:

Tanya Nelsen (2025)

Brett Distel (2027)

Northwest:

Linda Dahlgren (2025)

Hilaree Emmons (2027)



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