



DDC Meeting Minutes

Thursday September 20th, 2018 - 2:30-4:00 pm EST

Attendees: Brian Newman (chair), Dawna Sales, Ed Drakich, Jim Plakas, Monette Boudreau-Carroll, Keith Hansen, James Sneddon (staff)

Regrets: Glenn Hoag, Jonathan Chevrier, Kerry MacDonald

Approval of the Agenda:

- The agenda for the meeting was circulated. A request for any additional items was made. Hearing none the agenda for the meeting was approved.

Approval of the Previous Minutes:

- The minutes were circulated from the previous meeting (November 23, 2017) and approved.

Project Updates:

- High Performance (HP) Pathways – some interest has been expressed to have NORCECA teams join an Elite Division at the U18 Boys and Girls 2020 Indoor National Championships. This will be explored further with the Technical Directors and the NCC.
- LTAD 3.0 and the Athlete Development Framework – a brief recap was given of the outcomes coming from the 2017 Technical Summit in Ottawa. This work is to continue at this year's summit set for December 12-13, 2018 in Ottawa. All members of the DDC have been invited to this summit.

New Business:

1. Motion: Change the roster size available for participation in a set from 12 to 14. **Defeated**
Discussion: The committee noted the current 'Team Composition' wording and the detailed rationale supplied when the agenda was circulated. After considerable review and discussion, the committee felt this rule change was not beneficial to all age categories but could perhaps have benefit to age categories where teams were allowed the use of a Libero.
2. Motion: Change the roster size available for participation in a set from 12 to 14 of age categories where teams were allowed the use of a Libero. **Tabled to Next Meeting**

Discussion: While the committee felt this amended motion had more merit and brought the team composition more in line with international rules, the committee also felt that leaving the roster size at their existing numbers creates more fun and engagement for the athletes, allows more development opportunities and aligns to Volleyball Canada's current LTAD recommendations. This will be reviewed at the next meeting.

3. Motion: Change Fair Play rule wording for 14U. ***Defeated***

Discussion: The committee members agreed that the current rule, while not perfect, works quite well at achieving the desired outcome of increasing playing time, engagement/fun with the sport, for all participants at the 14U level. The committee was intrigued by the recommendation to require a minimum of 9 players, and that no player may play in all 3 sets as this would create more parity between teams (and more meaningful competition). However, the advantages of increasing minimum roster sizes did not outweigh the disadvantages and so the committee voted not to adopt any changes to the current Fair Play Rule.

4. Motion: Allow 16U Libero for boys. ***Passed - 2019-2020 season implementation***

Discussion: Shorter players have fewer opportunities to participate. Increasing boy's participation is a mandate at Volleyball Canada. Players are entering the sport at a younger age. There are many opportunities within the practice environment for taller players to gain backcourt skills, and shorter players to develop front court skills. There are many opportunities to train high performance athletes within Provincial Team and National Team programs, focusing on all the skills. While the DDC landed on the side of allowing for greater opportunity for shorter boys to play the sport at 16U, the concern of early position-specialization remains and coach education must be a priority.

5. Motion: Allow overhead passing at 15U for both genders. ***Passed – 2019-2020 season implementation***

Discussion points: At 15U, serves are coming much harder (than 14U) and many athletes are caught in the position of having to make an emergency move (double axe handle) that provides little control. Allowing the overhead pass has shown to extend rallies, a critical element to enjoyment of the game and increased opportunities to develop other skills. These aspects were considered to be paramount for the 15U category by the committee.

6. Motion: Allow coach to sit on any area of the bench. ***Passed – 2018-19 season implementation***

Discussion: The committee wishes to highlight the head coach must be seated in the first chair, or standing at the attack line to conduct official game business (timeout or sub).

7. Rulebook wording update on Sanctions: ***Passed - 2018-19 season implementation***

Discussion: This is a clean-up of the wording for the existing rule as proposed by the NOC chair. Rule 21.3 – 'Any direct unsportsmanlike communication or behavior from team members on the bench towards the referees will automatically result in a misconduct sanction'.

8. Request to Rule Change Engagement Procedure. ***Tabled to Next Meeting***

Next Meeting:

- The next meeting is set for Friday November 16th, 2:30-4:00pm eastern time – conference call.
- The next in-person meeting is set for Friday December 14th, 9:00-2:00pm eastern time in Ottawa following the Athlete Development Summit.

Meeting Adjourned: