

4/21/2020

Hello all officials

I hope this email is reaching you in good health. I just wanted to take a minute to touch base with everyone.

As with most everything right now, the officiating world is in uncharted territory. I'm sure many of our officials are in various stages of employment right now – working more hours than normal, working a reduced schedule, working from home, not working at all. Many of us rely on officiating income - to pay bills, have extra spending money or save for the future. While our future is uncertain at this point, we are hopeful that our season will start on time in August. When the announcement went out that schools would be closed through the remainder of the school year, UIL did not address any future plans for Fall sports. However, on the UIL website, it stated, "We are now turning our attention to the 2020-2021 school year." So, the Austin Chapter Volleyball will do likewise. The board will be working to have everyone prepared for the season following the direction of state and medical authorities.

The board is currently evaluating how to proceed with training to best have our officials ready for the start of the season. We want to conduct training in a safe manner for all our officials based on current recommendations from TASO and other organizations like the CDC. One of our normal avenues for training – Spring and Summer Leagues – are not going to happen unless something changes. Additionally, we normally conduct our in-person training sessions in school gyms prior to the start of school in June and July. While we have not yet confirmed, I find it doubtful that we will be allowed access, particularly with a group of more than 10 or even 50. The ACV board will be evaluating how to best proceed to prepare everyone for the start of the season. As we find out more, we will adjust the training schedule as needed, so please check the website periodically for announcements on updated training sessions and changes to the calendar. Currently, we still plan to hold the first ALR meeting on Monday, May 18th at 6:30PM via Webex and hope to have a more definitive plan at that time. Details on logging in are available on the Google Calendar or on the Webex link. We have postponed the first New Member Orientation and Train the Trainer Sessions scheduled for later this month. Check the Calendar page and the announcements bar at the top of the page.

As you know we have extended our renewal deadline to June 9th. That doesn't mean you have to wait to renew. We are encouraging all of our current members to return this year, as our training opportunities for new members may be limited, so we will need each and every one of our experienced officials to cover all of this season's matches. Also, now would be a great time to reach out and recruit anyone you know who has volleyball and/or officiating experience. Please have them review the website and then contact Christle at TxVolleyGal1@yahoo.com to be added to the potential new members list. Again, I hope everyone stays well through all of this and I hope our season starts on time. Stay tuned for additional updates via the website and email. Talk to you soon.

Thank you
Kevin Carlyle
ACV President