



Yankee Board Meeting

12/8/2025, 7:30 PM

Embassy Suites, Marlborough

1. Approval of Prior Minutes

- a. Prior minutes were approved by email.

2. Reports

- a. Registrar's Report (Jeffry)
- b. NERVA Report (Dave)
- c. Ratings Report (Jeffry)
- d. Social Media Report (Amy)
- e. Web Editor Report (Jeffry)
- f. GrassRoots Campaign Report (Jeffry)
- g. Tournament Director's Report (Mark)

3. New Business

- a. RICC final planning
- b. Revised communication and transparency proposals (Amy)
 - i. Proposal:
Improved Documentation on Key Items within the Board Decisions by creating a high-level resource for Board Members to utilize to better identify trends and repeat issues that could affect the greater Yankee Membership. This includes master documentation on when votes occur as well as high-level tracking of Sanctions and Record of Repeat Offenders and/or issues for Board Members to better utilize with Meetings, Email Discussions, and Sanction Discussions.
 - ii. Proposal:
Improved Communication and Transparency of the Yankee Board to the Yankee Membership by defining standards & creating membership resources when obtaining Witness, Offender, Offendee or additional situation related reports.
 - iii. Proposal:
If any Yankee Tournament Director (TD) bans an individual from their facilities or within their organization due to violation of rules outside of a Yankee Volleyball Tournament needs to report this to Yankee if it would have been something that would have been a violation of the USAV Contract.
- c. Ratings Committee as a Standing Committee Proposal (Miriam)
- d. Discussion of Awards (Miriam)
- e. Tournament director qualifications, rules, requirements (Jeffry)

4. Old Business

5. Executive Session will be held

Key Future Dates

Yankee Scrambles –RICC scramble 12/27, 1/11, 2/15, 3/14

2026 Picnic – Saturday, June 13th

Board Meetings –Tuesday Feb 3, Wed Apr 1

Proposal:

Improved Documentation on Key Items within the Board Decisions by creating a high-level resource for Board Members to utilize to better identify trends and repeat issues that could affect the greater Yankee Membership. This includes master documentation on when votes occur as well as high-level tracking of Sanctions and Record of Repeat Offenders and/or issues for Board Members to better utilize with Meetings, Email Discussions, and Sanction Discussions.

Reasoning :

I believe that we have too long go on somebody's memory of an instance versus being able to easily pull up the data points surrounding issues. If that individual is not at a meeting or it is an email thread, they might not be able to weigh in as well as some details might be lost.

Information might be in notes, but those are individualized so there is no master log of reference to ID which notes are the ones to review for the full details, so then you have to hunt through something in hopes to find it.

This assists any Yankee Board Member to better look up previous sanctions / history of sanctions / their outcomes. As well as if appeals have been made / those outcomes. This also allows for newer Board Members to understand the history of previous ruling in these situations.

- Currently the process is that we have to ask questions to other Board Members if they recall what the offense was / what the outcome was. It can be looked up in individual minutes, but if somebody actually has this as document then each current Board Member should have access to it
- As a long term Board Member, do not currently know of any documentation of where the record of Sanctions Lives if I needed to use it as reference

Proposal Procedural Information:

That the Yankee Board sets standards for the following actions:

Tracking sanctions, Proposal Votes creating a resource for current Board Members to easily look up what the issue that was discussed (any proposal up for vote), the vote, the outcome and if appeals were done / what their outcome was.

Create a High-Level Reference for Board Members Only Database for which meeting minutes to review.

- It should include the following:
 - Date of Item
 - Name of Item
 - Type of Item (Proposal, Exec Session, Sanction, NERVA Item)

- If it is a Proposal Up for Vote Item
 - Listed out by title only & if it passed or failed
 - List out if submitted by Membership or Board
- If it is an Executive Session Item
 - list out nature of Exec Session
 - Categories for Ex. (TD Issue, Player Incident, SafeSport, etc)
 - List out involved parties involved
 - List out high level resolution (Sanction, Safesport, No Action)
- If it is something involving a Sanction / Warning regardless if Executive Session Item
 - listed out Name, Category of violation (Rule #), Start Date, End Date
 - If Appeals Occur, list out result (Sanction, Safesport, No Action)
- If it is a NERVA Item
 - List out nature - (SafeSport, Substantial Organizational change, ex. SportsEngine, USAV Rule Update, Key USAV Ruling)

Proposal :

Improved Communication and Transparency of the Yankee Board to the Yankee Membership by defining standards & creating membership resources when obtaining Witness, Offender, Offendee or additional situation related reports.

Reasoning :

I believe that by establishing set standards this will help to alleviate some of the mysterious nature of what happens at board meetings when a report happens and this not only protects our membership but also our board members.

- This is to help to prevent the delaying of reaching out, and the multiple extensions and follow-ups given to some individuals when we do not hear a response, but also to allow a clear definition to the board of when that individual has decided that their response is to not respond.
- Issues must be elevated to timelines where there are opportunities to have potential players playing in upcoming tournaments in the next upcoming days / following weekend. Regardless if they are currently listed on a roster. (people drop and get added the day of, so we must assume this could happen.)

Proposal Procedural Information:

The Yankee Board set a standard procedures and timelines for the following actions for reaching out to gain witness/offender/offendee or additional situation related reports.

Where there are **No Upcoming Tournaments** in the next **5 Calendar Days** from time of initial report.

Process / Email Format

RESPONSE REQUESTED in the Subject, as well as the DEADLINE should be **5 CALENDAR Days, with 5pm deadline on day 5** and that their information will be considered if it is submitted within that window. If it comes after that time window, then if possible we will include it into a decision, but there is not a guarantee that it will be included in time

Where there are **Upcoming Tournaments** in the next **5 Calendar Days, but more than 36 hours** from time of initial report

The issue needs to have an elevated timeline where there are opportunities for potential players in upcoming tournaments, regardless if they are currently listed on rosters at that point in time.

Process / Email Format

TIME SENSITIVE RESPONSE REQUESTED in the Subject, as well as the DEADLINE should be **24 hours or less** and that their information will be considered if it is submitted within that window. If it comes after that time window, then if possible we will include it into a decision, but there is not a guarantee that it will be included in time

Where there are **Upcoming Tournaments** in the next **5 Calendar Days, less than than 36 hours** from time of initial report.

The issue needs to have an elevated timeline where there are opportunities for potential players in upcoming tournaments, regardless if they are currently listed on rosters at that point in time.

Process / Email Format

TIME SENSITIVE RESPONSE REQUESTED in the Subject, as well as the DEADLINE should be **12 hours or less** and that their information will be considered if it is submitted within that window. If it comes after that time window, then if possible we will include it into a decision, but there is not a guarantee that it will be included in time

Proposal:

If any Yankee Tournament Director (TD) bans an individual from their facilities or within their organization due to violation of rules outside of a Yankee Volleyball Tournament needs to report this to Yankee if it would have been something that would have been a violation of the USAV Contract.

Reasoning

This is for the safety of the membership as well as the support from Yankee Volleyball to understand why certain players may not be allowed at specific venues. This does not mean that the Board needs to issue any additional sanctions against that individual, but instead be aware of history if that individual has additional issues with another Yankee TD or Member.

- This can include (but not be limited to): vaping, theft, harassment, failure of payment, improper behavior

This can help protect other Tournament Directors from potential issues or at least raise awareness to the Board and not seemingly be “playing catchup” as the membership is pretty well connected with or without social media

Use case example:

If a player violates a BSSC rule and has a suspension or is banned from playing within that organization, then any TD's associated with BSSC would need to document this for the Yankee Board as well

BYLAW CHANGE PROPOSAL

Creation of a Standing Committee for the Ratings Committee

1) Current Section of the Bylaws That Will Be Changed

Article V, Section 3 — Appointed Positions

“Ratings Chairperson: The Ratings Chairperson shall coordinate the assigning of ratings of all members, including appointing individuals and/or committees to evaluate players and shall coordinate with the Registrar to maintain the list of assigned ratings and handle any correspondence necessary.”

*There is currently **no standing committee** established in the bylaws for ratings evaluation.*

2) Proposed Bylaws Section with Change Incorporated

Add the following as a new section in Article V:

Article V, Section 4: Ratings Committee

A. Purpose

The Ratings Committee shall evaluate players at Yankee tournaments for the purpose of determining and updating player ratings.

B. Membership

The Ratings Committee shall consist of at least three (6) members, 3 women & 3 men appointed by the Ratings Chairperson and approved by the President. The Ratings Chairperson shall serve as Chair of the Committee.

C. Duties

1. Evaluate players during Yankee tournaments in accordance with established rating guidelines.
2. Review and provide updates to existing ratings procedures when needed.
3. Provide reports and recommendations to the Executive Board and coordinate with the Registrar to ensure accurate maintenance of all ratings.
4. Perform additional rating-related tasks as assigned by the Executive Board.

D. Authority

The Ratings Committee shall serve in an advisory and evaluative capacity. All final rating decisions remain subject to oversight of the Ratings Chairperson, President or Executive Board.

3) Brief Description of the Change and Reasoning

This amendment creates a permanent Ratings Committee within the bylaws. While a Ratings Chairperson already exists as an appointed position, the work of evaluating players has not been determined. Establishing a standing committee ensures consistency, accountability, and shared responsibility in assigning and maintaining player ratings.

4) Statement Supporting the Change

A standing Ratings Committee will make the ratings process more consistent, transparent, and efficient by involving multiple trained evaluators rather than relying on a single individual. This structure improves fairness across all tournaments and ensures continuity from year to year.

5) Counter-Statement Against the Change

Some voters may feel that formalizing a Ratings Committee in the bylaws reduces flexibility and adds administrative structure that may not be necessary. Others may prefer leaving this work to the existing Ratings Chairperson without creating an additional standing committee.

DRAFT RATINGS COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

1. Purpose

The Ratings Committee is responsible for evaluating players at Yankee Volleyball Association tournaments for the purpose of determining and maintaining accurate player ratings. These guidelines establish the procedures, responsibilities, and expectations for all members of the Ratings Committee.

2. Committee Composition

1. The Ratings Committee consists of individuals appointed by the Ratings Chairperson and approved by the President.
2. The Ratings Chairperson serves as Chair of the Committee.
3. Members serve at the discretion of the Ratings Chairperson and President.
4. Committee members may be assigned to specific tournaments or events as needed.

3. Qualifications of Committee Members

Members of the Ratings Committee should:

1. Possess a strong understanding of the Yankee rating system, including rating levels and associated player characteristics.
2. Demonstrate fairness, impartiality, and professionalism.
3. Be familiar with USAV rules and competitive play.
4. Be current members in good standing of the Yankee Volleyball Association.
5. Not have significant conflicts of interest with players they are assigned to evaluate.

4. Responsibilities of Committee Members

Committee members are expected to:

1. Observe and evaluate players during Yankee tournaments using approved rating standards.
2. Record evaluations promptly, accurately, and legibly.
3. Participate in committee discussions regarding rating changes, disputes, or special evaluations.
4. Maintain confidentiality regarding all player evaluations and rating decisions.
5. Conduct themselves in a professional manner when representing Yankee Volleyball Association.

5. Evaluation Procedures

A. Observational Standards

Evaluations should include, as applicable:

1. Technical skill execution (passing, setting, hitting, blocking, serving, defense).
2. Game awareness, decision-making, and volleyball IQ.
3. Consistency of performance across multiple matches or tournament phases.
4. Ability to compete successfully at the player's current rating level.
5. Potential readiness to advance to the next level of play.

B. Standardized Rating Criteria

1. All evaluations must use official Yankee rating definitions and any tools or rubrics provided by the Ratings Chairperson.
2. Evaluations should consider both current performance and the player's established rating history.
3. Committee members should assess players objectively regardless of team result, popularity, or personal familiarity.

C. Multiple Evaluators

1. When possible, more than one committee member should observe a player before a rating change is recommended.
2. Evaluators are encouraged to discuss observations to ensure consistency.
3. Disagreements should be resolved using the written rating criteria and input from the Ratings Chairperson.

6. Documentation Requirements

1. All evaluations must be recorded using the official forms supplied by the Tournament Directors and or in writing to the Ratings Chairperson.
2. Evaluations must be submitted within the timeframe specified by the Chairperson (typically 24-48 hours after the tournament).
3. Any recommendation for rating adjustment must include specific observations supporting the recommendation.
4. Committee members must maintain accurate records and avoid making informal or undocumented rating decisions.

7. Communication Protocols

1. Committee members report directly to the Ratings Chairperson.

2. Committee members shall **not** communicate rating decisions or recommendations directly to players, team captains, or spectators.
 3. All rating decisions are communicated through the official Yankee channels (Ratings Chairperson, Registrar, or Executive Board).
 4. Evaluators must not engage in debate with players or spectators regarding ratings during tournaments.
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8. Conflict of Interest

1. Committee members must disclose any conflict of interest to the Ratings Chairperson prior to evaluating players.
2. Members should recuse themselves from evaluating players who are:
 - Teammates
 - Close friends or relatives
 - Individuals with whom the evaluator has a personal conflict
 - Opponents
3. The Ratings Chairperson may reassign evaluators when necessary to ensure impartiality.

10. Conduct and Professionalism

1. Committee members must conduct themselves respectfully and professionally at all times.
2. Members shall avoid public disputes, excessive discussion, or confrontation with players or spectators.
3. Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in removal from the committee.

11. Authority

1. The Ratings Committee provides recommendations to the Ratings Chairperson.
2. Final rating decisions remain subject to Ratings Chairperson, President and/or Executive Board.
3. The Committee does not hold independent authority to issue final rating changes unless specifically granted by the Ratings Chairperson or President.

12. Review and Amendment of Guidelines

These guidelines may be reviewed in consultation with the Ratings Chairperson and revised with the approval of the Executive Board.

