

Bayou Regional Volleyball Association

Zero Tolerance Policy regarding threats made to USAVolleyball member coaches, match officials and tournament directors.

Coach – Any person regardless of age, in charge of directing a team during any USAVolleyball sanctioned event through the BayouRVA, including but not limited to tournaments, practice, etc.

Match Official – Any USAVolleyball member (not limited to referees, scorekeepers, line judges, ball “shaggers” and other personnel) involved with officiating during a USAV sanctioned event.

Tournament Director/Personnel – Any USAVolleyball member involved with the operation of a USAV event sanctioned through the BayouRVA.

Threat - a declaration of an intention or determination to inflict punishment, injury, etc., in retaliation for, or conditionally upon, some action or course...

The Bayou RVA acknowledges the right for spectators to voice their opinion of the action which takes place during a volleyball tournament. We wish it could always be applause and cheering for a good play, or compliments for a well run tournament but too frequently it is negative in response to decisions made by coaches, match officials or tournament directors/personnel.

Voicing an opinion of a coach or tournament director’s decision or match official’s judgment is certainly part of the game. However, on occasion, spectators may go beyond just voicing their opinion to the point of making a **threat**.

The Bayou RVA has, **effective immediately**, has a **zero tolerance policy** for any person making any type of **threat** to any USAV member coach, tournament director/personnel or match official during any BayouRVA sanctioned USAV event.

On occasion the opinion may be by a junior player’s parent or guardian, dissatisfied with the decisions of a coach resulting in negative consequences for the player and/or team.

It may be a spectator informing a match official that his/her calls were bad or they are a terrible referee, and while rude, insensitive, boorish, scurrilous, etc., may have to be unfortunately endured and tolerated by all near the person making the comment(s).

However, when comments such as “After the match, ref”, “I’ll break your face”, “In the parking lot after the match”, etc. occur, ***an imminent threat has been made.***

Any threatened match official, tournament personnel or coach are now required to immediately remove themselves from the area **without response** (make no attempt to respond or engage the person making the threat) and report the incident to the nearest tournament director, facility manager or security officer who will provide a safe haven (a secure area away from the person making the threat).

There will be no acceptable reason or excuse which will allow the person making the **threat** to remain on the premises. He/she must be asked to remove themselves from the premises immediately without further comment and not return to any facility being used for the remainder of the event, regardless of length.

Should the person not comply with the request for removal or the tournament director/personnel or facility manager also not feel safe, the appropriate law enforcement agency must be called to assist in the removal of the offender.

All matches in the facility will be interrupted until the offender has left the premises. The entire incident must be reported to the BayouRVA Commissioner in writing within 24 hours.