

# 2017 AAU INFORMATION #1

(May 16, 2017)

My website address is [www.omnevb.net](http://www.omnevb.net) where you can always view these documents. Please type the above website address into your browser. The link does not always work from these messages. My phone number is 402-598-4782. Texting is preferred over calling. If you need to call and I do not answer, please leave a message.

This is the first of a possible few messages that you will receive over the next few weeks. Please keep them handy and refer to them as needed.

## NEED AAU HOTEL INFO

We are just 1 month away from the start of the 2017 AAU National Volleyball Championships, so it's time to finalize your travel arrangements and hotel dates. This message is being sent to all the referees who are currently accepted. A list of accepted referees is posted on my website at [www.omnevb.net](http://www.omnevb.net) under the AAU tab. If you have not already made travel arrangements, you need to keep in mind a couple of meetings. A preliminary schedule of events will be posted to the website soon.

I closed referee registration on April 21. So I'm sorry if your friends (or roommate) did not get registered. I do not have room for any additional referees.

The hotel is:

Sheraton Lake Buena Vista Spa and Resort  
12205 S Apopka Vineland Rd, Orlando, FL 32836  
(407) 239-0444 [www.sheratonlbv.com](http://www.sheratonlbv.com)

If you are driving, directions to the hotel can be viewed on the hotel's website.

Each room has a refrigerator in the dresser beneath the TV. The hotel has laundry facilities. There is a grocery store a couple of blocks from hotel. There is normally a charge for parking, but that charge is waived for our event. Please DO NOT CALL the hotel and make special requests. If you call the hotel, they just in turn call me to verify the request. So if you have a request, please let me know.

## VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

I will be finalizing hotel rooms and roommates over the next couple of weeks. I must turn in all hotel info by June 1. Everyone must check their hotel dates immediately. AAU will cover ½ of the cost of a room that is shared with another referee starting on the day of the meeting (whichever session you start) through the last night you are assigned to work.

If you room with another referee, the entire cost of your room is covered. But if you come in early or stay later, you must cover the entire cost of any additional nights you stay. The price for any ADDITIONAL NIGHTS(s), if shared with another referee is \$40 per each referee. Referees who want a single room or are sharing their room with family members will pay \$40 for each night while they are working, but will pay \$80 for any extra nights. There could be an additional charge for referees with family who request a suite.

For referees who come in early, stay extra nights at the end or share their room with family, will be presented with a paper at OFFICIALS check in (not hotel check in) that states how much will be deducted from your final pay.

Payment for officiating will be made through RefPay (arbiterpay).

## **DEPARTURE DATE**

On the posted list of accepted officials, you will notice an arrival date and a separate departure date. The departure date listed SHOULD NOT MATCH the nights you need a hotel. The departure date should be one day later than the last night you need a hotel. If your departure date is not correct, please let me know immediately, so I can correct it.

## **AIRPORT SHUTTLE INFORMATION**

In the past, I've been able to secure a discounted shuttle rate from the airport to the hotel. I do not have that information yet, but I will send it as soon as I get it.

## **PUERTO RICO REFEREES**

There will be a meeting of all Puerto Rican referees at 6:00 pm on Wednesday June 14 at the HOTEL. The room location will be noted on the schedule of events.

## **CANDIDATE MEETING**

If you are a JN or National candidate this summer, please send me an email immediately, so I can note your candidacy and make sure you get the appropriate matches prior to your ratings. Don't forget that we also host a JN/National candidate information meeting at 4 pm on Wednesday June 14 at the hotel. Anyone is welcome to attend, but this meeting is especially helpful to candidates.

## **FIRST TIME ATTENDEES**

I will have a meeting for first time attendees prior to the general officials meeting. This meeting will give first time attendees the chance to see the layout of the facility, to hear some of the philosophies of the tournament, figure out where to go, where not to go, etc. The meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday June 14. The meeting will start at the hotel in a room designated on the schedule of events. Then there will shuttle vans taking everyone from the hotel to the convention center. Attendees will then be returned to the hotel in time for the 8:00 pm meeting. This meeting is NOT mandatory, but is a chance to familiarize yourself with the venue, etc.

## **REFEREE CHECK-IN**

Hotel check in and Referee check in are two different processes. Upon arrival at the hotel, check into your hotel room. Then check into the tournament. Referee check-in is on Wednesday, June 14, from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm at the hotel in the Royal Palm 3 room. REGISTRATION THIS YEAR IS NOT IN THE SAME PLACE AS LAST YEAR. The Royal Palm 3 Room is on the first floor near where the busses load. At referee check-in, you will complete your forms and pick up your shirts and nametag. Please check in as soon as you arrive. There will be a separate room near the check-in room for socializing.

You CANNOT check-in for your roommate, unless you have received prior permission from me. Contact me if you will not make the posted check-in times.

## **NAMETAGS**

Each referee will receive a nametag that will be worn at **ALL** times (yes, even when you are officiating). It is impossible for anyone to remember all of you. If you did not return your nametag at checkout last year, make sure you bring it with you this year. All nametags will be returned at checkout this year. If you want to keep yours, I will order you another one for a \$5 charge.

## **OFFICIATING UNIFORMS**

You will receive a jacket (navy ¼ zip), one white polo shirt, and one AAU t-shirt this year. Make sure you bring enough regular white (or the new gray or blue) uniform shirts for at least 2 days in each session. A specific uniform shirt will be designated to wear each day. A schedule of assigned shirts will be noted on the referee schedule of events. **NEW THIS YEAR:** AAU will be participating in DIG PINK. On Dig Pink day, you can wear a pink shirt (that does not have a competing logo on it from another event). Dig Pink days are noted on the schedule of events.

If you have a white AAU shirt from another year, you may bring it to the tournament as we might do a 'chop suey' day, which means you will be able to wear any WHITE AAU shirt. If you do not have another white AAU shirt, you can wear your regular white officiating polo.

**Referees are NOT allowed to wear shorts.**

The rest of the uniform is navy dress pants, white socks, and white shoes. Any pants that have belt loops must be worn with a navy or black belt.

All of the sites are air-conditioned, so you should be prepared for cooler temperatures. You will be allowed to wear the new AAU jacket, the navy or white AAU jacket from prior years, or any of approved white certified officials' outerwear.

If you are not comfortable wearing a t-shirt as your uniform, you may wear a collared or long sleeve white shirt (or matching shirt color) under your t-shirt.

Do not be offended if one of the lead referees talks with you about the condition of your uniform. Any referee wearing faded, worn out (Dockers) pants will be asked to find new pants.

White shoes means just that – all white with no other color markings. This is a national championship, and we expect all referees to be dressed in their best uniform.

**FLAGS**

The tournament does not provide flags for line judges to use. It's okay if you have your own set of flags and want to use them. Usually someone at check-in or at the meeting has flags for sale. The price is \$20 -\$25. It is not mandatory for line judges to use flags, but it is preferred. Line judges can use hand signals if flags are not available.

**AAU CARES – FEEDING CHILDREN WORLDWIDE**

Last year, some referees volunteered to assist with a new AAU program called AAU CARES. The volunteers helped pack meals for feeding children in underserved areas. The program last year was on the day prior to the start of the tournament, but this year, the program will be on Friday June 16 from 1 – 4 pm. The program will be held at the convention center, so if you are interested in giving one hour to this worthwhile program, just let me know.

**OFFICIALS' LOUNGE at OCCC**

The officials' lounge at OCCC will be on the third floor this year in room N320. From the playing floor, you will be able to take the escalators up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, and the rooms are to left. There is a public elevator across the hall by last year's rooms, so you will need to be aware of parents with strollers and wheelchairs. The officials lounge on the south side will be room S310.

**DON'T FORGET TO BRING:**

As you pack to come to this event, it's wise to bring a few things that you wouldn't normally bring.

- Umbrella (it rains almost every day in Orlando in the summer)
- A small portable cooler (to bring your lunch with you, if you want)
- Flags

I am using a new email sending program this year (mailchimp), so if you see a message from them to opt out, etc, please don't opt out, otherwise you will not receive any messages from me.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to seeing you soon,

SUE