

JOHN L. KESSEL

Since 1985 John has been working for the National Governing Body of the sport, USA Volleyball (USAV), now as Director of Sport Development. He serves as the staff liaison for Disabled Programs, USA Deaflympic Teams, Starlings USA, National Parks and Recreation Assoc., the YMCA and over 30 other Affiliated Organizations working with USAV. He is Secretary of the NORCECA Technical, Coaches and Development Commission, and World Organization for the Disabled Director of Development. He was Team Leader for the 2000 USA Olympic Beach Volleyball Teams in Sydney, which brought home one gold medal, and for the 2004 USA Paralympic Women's Sitting Volleyball Team in Athens, which came home with the bronze medal. In 1995, *Volleyball Magazine's* special Centennial issue named him one of the 50 most important people in the sport in the past 100 years.

He has been coaching since 1971 at the collegiate level or above, including Women's U.S. Open titles in 1986 & 87. A sought after international lecturer, he has conducted seminars in all 50 states, and in over 30 nations, in such diverse nations as China, Denmark, Bolivia, Barbados, France, Germany, Egypt, England, Italy, Japan, Iceland, Puerto Rico, Samoa, Canada, Guatemala, Venezuela, Greece, Israel, Australia, Jamaica, New Zealand, Holland, England, Belize, Trinidad Tobago, Ireland, Tonga, Belgium, Haiti, Vanuatu, Costa Rica, Fiji and El Salvador. He is also a busy author, with over half a dozen USAV books, including the IMPACT coaching manual, the Jr. Olympic Volleyball Program Guide, and most recently the Minivolley 4 Youth, Youth Coloring Book, and countless articles. His blog called "Growing the Game Together" is the second most popular blog of the hundreds found on the US Olympic Committee's Team USA website and he promotes the "Grassroots" Button on the USAV website with material, posters, and information for clubs, schools, coaches, parents, players, and officials. He has received many awards, including USA Volleyball's Honorable Mention in 1978 and 1986, the Harry Wilson Distinguished International Service in 2004, the George Fisher Leader in Volleyball in 2006 and in 2007 was named a Sport Ethics Fellow by the Institute for International Sport.

From 1982 to 1990 he was Director and Coaches' Coach of the Albuquerque Junior Olympic Volleyball Program. For a month in the summer of 1991, he was one of four featured speakers at the first ever International Youth Volleyball Coaches Symposium in Olympia, Greece, attended by over 50 nations, and he repeated that role in the International Volleyball in the Schools Seminar in Canada in summer of 1995 and in Canada in 2007. That same year he was the principal speaker at the Centennial Advanced Teaching and Coaching Seminar in Beijing, China. He was on staff for both the 1984 and 1988 Olympics, and served as producer for both the 1996 Centennial Olympics for indoor volleyball in Atlanta, and subsequently producer and announcer for the 1996 Paralympics in Sitting and Standing volleyball. For 1999-2000 he was director of the U.S. Olympic Challenge Series, the Olympic qualifying series, which included an FIVB World Tour Grand Slam stop in Chicago with \$400,000 in prize money for that one stop alone. He also served as head coach/team leader for the 1999 and 2003 USA Pan Am Games Beach teams, with a silver medal, and 4th and 5th place finishes in the four events. In 2004 and 2005, he directed the National High Performance Beach Camp, and worked his 10th US Jr. Olympic Beach Volleyball Championships for USA Volleyball in Hermosa Beach, along with the AVP and AVPNext program.

For over a decade he served as one of 8 members of the International Volleyball Federation's Technical Commission, as Secretary, and he remains a FIVB Level IV Instructor. Since 2001 he has served on the NORCECA Technical and Coaches Commission, developing clinics and the "Leave a Ball Behind" Program to enhance zonal volleyball growth, and directed a two year State Department Sports United Grant to assist coaches in six NORCECA nations in 2011-12. He helped run the World Sitting Volleyball Championships in 2010, is was voted in as Director of the World Organization of Volleyball for the Disabled (WOVD) Development Commission for 2012-2016, and will serve on Jury at the London 2012 Paralympics for Sitting Volleyball. He pioneered USA Volleyball on the Internet, helping Tom Jack develop the original site, one of the first 1,000 websites listed on Yahoo, and still contributes the usenet group Rec.Sport.Volleyball. From 1987 to 1991 he was the tournament director for the U.S. Jr. Olympic Volleyball Championships and began the U.S.

Junior Olympic Beach Volleyball Championships in 1993, directing them until 2000. He also designed and directed the Nike VolleyVan program with 4 years of daily clinics in the lower 48 states, and currently directs the MVP project, working to get a “Million Volleyball Participants connected to USA Volleyball. For that, he has developed a series of CDs, with animated drills, skill posters, videos and dozens of articles for growing the game for – JO Girls, JO Boys, Youth, Disabled, Beach, and NIRSA programs.

As a player he has participated in 16 U.S. Open Championships, and was a 7 time Regional Champion. He also has played professionally with the Denver Comets in the old International Volleyball Association, and a year in Italy for the Alessandria Volleyball Club. Recently he competed for the Time Lords in the 55 & over division, 36 years after his first US Open in 1973. In 2004, he finished in the USA Outdoor National Championships, in the top 15 of the Men’s BB, playing with his son, Cody, and has won several King of the Mountain Father Son Doubles tournaments in Colorado. He returned to Junior Olympic coaching when his children wanted to play, and his daughter McKenzie’s 13 and under team in the Stellar VBC won the Bronze medal at the 2007 US Jr. Olympics in Minneapolis, MN. She was a member of Cheyenne Mountain High School’s volleyball team which won state titles in 2008-2011 and will play volleyball for Bowdoin College 2012-2016. He coached his son Cody’s 2010 Palmer High School team in the Colorado State Boys HS league. Cody was a member of the 2010 USA Junior National Training team, and starts as a freshman for Princeton’s men’s varsity program. John also has coached lacrosse for the Cheyenne Mtn LAX Boys and Girls teams since 2000.

His main goal is to help make coaches more efficient, positive and creative, no matter what level - 7 year olds in an elementary school program or National team players and programs. He challenges old ways of thinking and help coaches create what they need, while having fun in the process. John has a BA in Biology and Economics received from The Colorado College in 1974, and is a single dad, raising his kids alone since 1996. His pastimes beside volleyball include fly-fishing, writing, skiing, lacrosse, upland game hunting, deep-sea fishing and travel.

John can be reached at USA Volleyball – 719.228.6800 and john.kessel@usav.org



Current Activities:

International Volleyball Federation Level IV/Course Instructor (since 1986) www.fivb.org

Director, World Organization of Volleyball for the Disabled (WOVD) Development Commission – www.wovd.info

Secretary, NORCECA Technical, Coaches and Development Commission, 2000-2012.

Jury member, London 2012 Paralympics –Sitting Volleyball Competition.

USA Volleyball Director of Sport Development - Staff liaison to the USA Deaf National Volleyball Teams and the World Organization for Disabled Volleyball, Special Olympics International, National Parks and Recreation Assoc., Positive Coaching Alliance, Girl Scouts USA Sports, Starlings USA, YMCA/YWCA, and many other national volleyball programs (including the Leave a Ball Behind program), and the USAV Diversity, Grassroots, Sports Medicine and Performance, and Disabled Volleyball Commissions www.usavolleyball.org

Author of The Coach's Encyclopedia, the Coaches Guide to Beginning Volleyball Programs, The Junior Olympic Volleyball Program Guidebook, Collegiate Recruiting Guide, IMPACT Manual, IMPACT Plus Manual, Summer Camps Success, Thoughts & Quotes for Coaches, Kessel's Krazy Kollection, Places to Play, Minivolley 4 Youth, USAV Boys/NIRSA/Youth/Beach/Disabled/Girls Development CDs, and more.

USOC/US Paralympics – Sponsor Trainings, Olympic University lecturer, Symposium speaker for Developing Amazing Leaders (2007-12), Paralympic Military Sports Outreach training for coaches and players, Tournament Director – Wounded Warrior Games (2010-2012)

Director U.S. State Department Sports United Grant for Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Barbados and Trinidad Tobago.

USAV Blog on Growing the Game www.usavolleyball.org/blog/blog/220 - 2nd most popular blog on the US Olympic Committee Team USA website for the last 3 years.

USA Coaches Accreditation Program Level III Charter Cadre Instructor since 1988.

Positive Coaching Alliance Double Goal Coach Instructor – www.positivecoach.org

Parents for Good Sports Fellow and National Instructor www.parentsforgoodsports.org

Clinician for the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, Native American Sports Council, National Parks and Recreation Association, AAHPERD Regional & National Sessions, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Boys Scouts of America, National High School Federation, AVCA, YMCA, YWCA, USA Disabled Sports, Athletic Business Convention, Positive Coaching Alliance Against the Grain, Character Counts Youth Summit, Girl Scouts USA, NCAA National Youth Sports Program, Police Athletic League, USA Volleyball/US Olympic Committee national clinics, USAFA National Character and Leadership Symposium, Olympic University Lecturer on Listening and Change topics.

Head Coach - USA National Development Camps -18 years

USAV Regional Official, since 1975

Member of Mensa, AAPHERD, National Strength Coaches Association, American Volleyball Coaches Association