

PAL VOLLEYBALL HISTORY

PAL Volleyball was implemented for the 5th & 6th Grade League in 1997. The Board of Directors agreed to a trial program which was organized by Sheri Eklund-Brown, a Board member, with rules adopted from USA Volleyball and the City of Plano, TX recreation youth volleyball. The program was an instant success and has continued uninterrupted for 16 years under the direction of Sheri. Participating areas have been Elko, Spring Creek, Wells, Carlin, Owyhee and Jackpot, making it a truly Elko County program. The majority of games have been played at Flagview Intermediate School, Spring Creek Middle School and Mountain View Elementary School. The program has been supported by Elko County School District and the individual schools of each community, which in turn PAL has provided needed equipment to in return for the schools' use and generosity. The 7th & 8th Grade League was added in 2006 in response to parents' requests after the Elko County School District Jr. High Volleyball Program was dissolved due to budgetary problems. This program was again funded a few years later, but the PAL Jr. High PAL League has continued because of popularity and the opportunity for all participants' ability to play. A Volleyball Committee was established during this period to assist the Volleyball Coordinator, Sheri Eklund-Brown, in the implementation of this program as well as the 5th & 6th Grade League. Volleyball Committee members are Jenn Sprout, Brandy Cashin, Teven Chandler, Michele Doren and previously Brianne Clark. Rules are implemented as per high school rules, however with minimum play times for participants. Each league has a season ending tournament, most recently in a Championship and Consolation format, with awards to the top 4 teams in each tournament. MVPs are selected for each tournament, as well as an overall All-Tourney Team and Directors' Picks of noted outstanding participants. Sportsmanship, teamwork, and interaction with adults in a positive, learning, recreational setting has been the mainstay of the programs and they have enjoyed a very successful outcome. Competition is intense, however it is not the focus of the programs and steps are taken to ensure each participant's favorable experience. PAL Volleyball has become a forum for youth superstars and recreational players to experience a mutually beneficial,

positive role on the team and within the program. Jenn Sprout will become the new Volleyball Coordinator beginning in Fall 2014.