Seminar Title:
DIRECTING OPERATIONS: A DISCUSSION OF NAVIGATING THE ROLE OF THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Speaker(s):
Alesha Busch (University of Florida)
Kyle Homeyer (University of Virginia)
Nao Ikeda (University of Minnesota)
Virginia Pham (Oklahoma University)
Shane Wilkinson (Indiana University)

Learning Objectives:
In 2008, the relatively new role of a Director of Volleyball Operations was already on the brink of elimination due to the country’s recession and a lack of resources to properly fund the position. Nine years later, programs are actively bringing this vital role back into a full-time position.

As awareness increases and the role continues to grow, what are the traits of a good DOVO? What skills are necessary to be successful in the role? Let’s have a conversation about what is a Director of Operations featuring DOVO’s from around the country with 40+ years of combined experience. We’ll discuss varying opinions on what works vs. what doesn’t work while comparing hard lessons learned and successes along the way.

Key Points:
➤ It's Not The Destination…It’s The Journey
  o How we arrived to today
➤ Experiences
  o What works vs. what doesn’t work
➤ Various Hats Worn / Responsibilities
  o Coaches Train….Scout….Recruit….Mentor
  o What about everything else?
➤ Pressure
  o Being “on” all the time
  o Serving as the “go-to” person
➤ Hard Lessons Learned
➤ Great Stories
➤ Future Vision
  o How will the role continue to grow?
  o What can we do to help?

Conclusion:
As a Director of Operations…you will not be on the team poster. You will not be on the gameday program. You will not participate in interviews. You are lucky if you are introduced during starting lineups. It is not your job to be the face of the program – it is your responsibility to be the anchor that holds everything together.

There is no such thing as “small work.” Take pride in your role…always.