



January 10, 2018

Media Statement

A hearing panel of the USA Volleyball Ethics and Eligibility Committee today issued a decision finding that Rick Butler had engaged in multiple acts in violation of USA Volleyball's Bylaws, and banned him for life from membership in USA Volleyball. USA Volleyball had received allegations of misconduct and abuse against Mr. Butler from a number of individuals, including several former players, which led USA Volleyball to bring a disciplinary action against Mr. Butler for violation of USA Volleyball's Bylaws and rules. A hearing was held on those allegations on January 8, 2018. Since Mr. Butler is now suspended for life, this means that he is ineligible to participate, and will forever be ineligible to participate, in any activities organized, operated, run or sanctioned by USA Volleyball.

"We are very grateful to the courageous women who came forward," said Lori Okimura, Chair of the USA Volleyball Board of Directors. "USA Volleyball is committed, through the U.S. Center for SafeSport program, to ridding our sport of coaches and others who engage in hurtful actions against athletes and young people. We will continue to have zero tolerance for this kind of behavior."

In addition, on December 11, 2017, a USA Volleyball Ethics and Eligibility Committee hearing panel found that Mr. Butler had violated a protective order - issued by the hearing panel to protect the privacy of the alleged victims - when he released the names of those alleged victims to the public. The hearing panel suspended Mr. Butler for life from membership in USA Volleyball for these violations.

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