

Friday Night Volleyball Scheduling is a Mess.
Report of Head Counselor Mike Malmon-Berg
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Part 1 - What a mess!

I am dismayed by the current state of Friday volleyball. I depend on this as part of my regular routine. I need my fix! Playing every other week doesn't cut it. But perhaps if we hypothesize why there seems to be such disinterest currently, we might be able to come up with a solution. After all, it wasn't so very long ago that we had so many people, we used two courts.

Part 2 - I'm really smart but not environmentally friendly

Bringing my considerable intellectual capabilities to bear on this problem (i.e., tossing crumpled up pieces of paper at my waste basket while muttering "Hmmm..." a few times), I have come up with a few ideas about why our current mess exists:

Part 3 - Identification of problems

(1) *You are all old and lazy*

Our regular players are getting older, and therefore lazier. This is not an excuse! You must fight this lethargy with every fiber of your being! After all, according to the rules set forth by our founders, playing the game is a prerequisite for the beer which cometh after, which should be all the incentive you need.

(2) *You are all old and weak*

Our regular players are getting older, and therefore more prone to injury. Witness Mike C., Rujie, and now Dan. This, too, is not an excuse. Consider the example of one of our valiant members who, with a cast on one arm, still pounded the snot out of the ball with the other.

(3) *You are all old and forgetful*

People are prioritizing other things ahead of volleyball. This option is too preposterous to consider.

(4) *You are all old and bloodthirsty*

People miss the spilling of blood on the court every week. How long until Jim returns from the dark continent?

(5) *Some of you are old and really sneaky*

There is an insidious plot to oust the current Management by making them appear inept at recruiting players. There have been rumors of reported contacts with such nefarious individuals, though none involving me personally. All I can say is that if there is such a power struggle going on behind the scenes, and it is interfering with our weekly ritual, it will only tick me off, and I may end up pulling out the ever-persuasive therapy bat.

Part 4 Solutions are for chemists, suggestions are for counselors

There may be other possibilities I'm not thinking of right now, but the key question is, what are we going to do about it? I have some suggestions:

□□□□) *The Nike suggestion*

Just play, no matter how many people show up. □□□□ Imagine what a good workout we would get with three-on-three.

□□□□) *The Oprah suggestion*

Management needs a more direct, persuasive approach. □□□□ Perhaps e-mail is too impersonal. Try phone calls, or better yet, drive to people's houses and invite them. □□□□ There's something to be said for a little badgering.

□□□□) *The Cleveland Indians suggestion*

Offer incentives, like at sports arenas. □□□□ If we had an Amy Jo bobblehead doll night, we would pack the place.

□□□□) *The Lets Show How Old We Really Are suggestion*

Open our games up to students. □□□□ When we first started Friday night volleyball many years ago, it was at least half students.

Given the creative talents in this group, I'm sure we can come up with something to make this work.

Mike "Bat-man" Malmon-Berg

*"Peace of mind is almost an unconscious state of mind, why not go all the way?
Try my Sudden Impact therapy suggestion!"*