

# HALL OF FAME NOMINATION APPLICATION

## COLORADO VOLLEYBALL OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION

### Individual Submitting Nomination (Please print):

Name: Thomas Olnowich  
Title: Vice-President, CVOA Date: June 15, 2022  
Cell Phone: 303.748.8341 Home Phone:  
Email: tomosdroid@gmail.com  
Signed: *Thomas S Olnowich* (TSO)

Name: Larry Ruane  
Title: Member, CVOA Date: June 15, 2022  
Cell Phone: 303.817.3870 Home Phone:  
Email: larryruane@gmail.com  
Signed: *Larry Ruane* (LR)

### HALL OF FAME NOMINATION INFORMATION

(Please add additional pages as needed)

Nominee's Name: George Barrows  
Cell Phone: 720.328.4144 Home Phone:  
Mailing Address: 2159 S. Ouray St.  
City, State, Zip Code: Aurora, CO 80013  
Email: gbarrowsvb@gmail.com  
Number of Years as a CVOA Member: 26 Years  
Current Position with CVOA: Member

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## **BASIS FOR NOMINATION OF GEORGE BARROWS**

June 2022

It is our honor to nominate George Barrows to the Colorado Volleyball Officials Association Hall of Fame.

George has been a CVOA member and high school official for over 25 years. During this time, George has and continues to contribute greatly to both the organization and its members.

Shortly after first becoming a CVOA member in 1997, George had his first tour of duty serving as an Area 1 (Denver) Director from 2000 until 2006. George again served as the Area 1 Director another 6 years from 2015 to 2022.

During his time as Area Director, George was primarily responsible for training new officials as well as mentoring both new and veteran officials on and off the court. George has presented at numerous CVOA Annual Regional Clinics on the Front Range. George also has the distinction of being asked to present an Annual Region Clinic in New Mexico.

George was first selected to officiate State in 2001 and has been selected to return to State nearly every year since. The two exceptions were due to a one-year temporary relocation to Oklahoma and in 2019, when he forgot to register for post-season (oops!). George has officiated a State Final nine times in various capacities. George has also officiated at 2 Boys State Tournaments under the CHSAA Banner and approximately 20 times before Boys being State sanctioned.

George's volleyball career began over 45 years ago in 1974 when he started playing in an Aurora adult league. Five years later in 1979 he started officiating USVBA (the precursor of USAV) adult tournaments and adult recreational leagues in Aurora.

In 1983 George received his USAV Regional Officials' Certification, and his USAV National Scorer Certification in 1984. Beginning in 1984 and continuing through the present, George was tasked with running the Rocky Mountain Regional (RMR) Officials' Clinics, which numbered between 12 - 15 clinics each year. George was also the Men's Representative on the RMR Board of Directors from 1985 - 1989.

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Not many are aware of the fact that George was also the junior varsity head coach at Cherry Creek High School under the leadership of Sally Moos from 1984-1989.

In 1999 George received his USAV Junior National Officials' Certification and was appointed the Junior Referee's Chair on the RMR Board of Directors, a position which he held until 2020. George is currently an RMR Board of Director At-Large. George has also been the Head Official of the RMR Showdown Tournament since 2003.

In addition to being a CVOA and USAV official, George was also an NCAA official from 2000-2002, during which he officiated Division II (RMAC) and NAIA level matches.

We hope we can agree that George's contributions to CVOA over a 25-year period and his accomplishments over a 40-year volleyball career in the State of Colorado are more than worthy for the CVOA Hall of Fame.

For these reasons, we would like your support to elect George Barrows to the CVOA Hall of Fame.

Respectfully,

Tom Olnowich and Larry Ruane

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## **ADDITIONAL PERSONAL NOTES**

I first met George at a USAV scorers' clinic in January 2011. I am sure that George does not have the faintest recollection of me being at that clinic but I can totally remember vivid details of that day. George presented that clinic in a very stern but professional manner. I remember that I was going to ask a question but I chickened out as I did not wish to come on his radar!

George shortly thereafter relocated to Oklahoma and I thought that I was forever spared. But alas, George did return and it was inevitable that I would eventually have to interact with him in either high school or USAV events.

I eventually found out that George is actually a good-hearted and giving individual. And ten plus years later, I can truly call George a very near and dear friend and mentor.

For these reasons in addition to his contributions to volleyball in general and CVOA in particular, please join me in electing George to the CVOA Hall of Fame.

Tom

I saw George referee an extremely intense high school varsity match in 2004 or 2005. Without naming names, anyone familiar with that particular home school coach knows how challenging this assignment can be. I was amazed how in-control George was under intense pressure. I had just started officiating, and clearly remember thinking, "How does he do it? How does he stay so calm and collected?" After getting to know him, it's pretty clear that that's just who he is. He doesn't need to fake it. He strikes the perfect balance between approachability and professionalism.

I didn't see George very often for a few years (because I was too new to do Varsity matches) but got to know him when I started in USAV because George taught a huge number of clinics, as he also has for CVOA. He's well known for knocking on the table just after saying something that will be on the test.

This one small gesture encapsulates why George should be in the CVOA Hall of Fame: He truly wants those around him to succeed! He has mentored me in more times and ways than I can count, even when I was just a "Bambi" starting out. He's always generous with his time, and never had the attitude that he's too important to help anyone become a better official. Please help me to make sure George is voted into the CVOA Hall of Fame!

Larry