

Xceleration Volleyball Club  
[www.xcelerationvbc.com](http://www.xcelerationvbc.com)

### *A Message from Jim Ross*

*Hello Xceleration Friends and Families,*

I apologize upfront for the length of this message, which will also appear as “Jim Ross Speaks” in the last and upcoming issue of **XCELlent News** on the 2014-2015 season. There is a lot to go over and we have some special announcements.

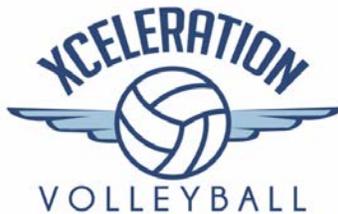
#### **IT'S A LONG SEASON – THANKS!**

It's a fact. The club volleyball season is long. We started this season's journey in early November and many of our teams just concluded their seasons. I can tell you that this issue regarding the long season is being discussed in some detail within the volleyball community and among club owners and directors. I definitely see things changing in the future and, as a club, Xceleration is discussing options to lighten the load a bit on the girls – more on that later.

But right now, I wanted to give my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of you for being so supportive throughout such a long season. Parents and players, we count on you to be at practices and events and we know that this requires sacrifice. We appreciate your making those sacrifices and committing to making yourself and your teams better. THANK YOU for making Xceleration a club that continues to rise and to garner respect from the college and club coaches that I talk to across the country.

I saw improvements in teams and players all season long. This is a testament to the hard work put in by our coaching staff and the players themselves. Every team and player will have stumbles along the way. It's a part of sports. How you handle that and how you come out of it is what is important. I truly feel that our players and teams did a good job of this all season.

To the parents who were in contact with me at certain points during the season on a variety of issues, thank you for your input, caring, and understanding. I try to be as transparent as possible with this club and I hope that you were satisfied that we were working as hard as possible for you and your daughters. We might not always agree on the process, but I know we agree that we are always working as hard as possible to make your daughter's experiences with Xceleration a positive one.



## CHANGES AHEAD FOR 2016

Work has already begun on the 2015-2016 season and there are changes ahead.

### *Xceleration under New Ownership*

First, there is a change taking place internally at Xceleration. As you may have read in the last issue of the newsletter [click here](#), **Jon Segall** has decided to step away from the club. The final date of transfer has not been established yet, but at some point in July the club will be transferred to its new ownership group. That group consists of me, **Andy Schroeder** (18Blue Head Coach), and **Jeremy Swann** (18Blue Assistant Coach).

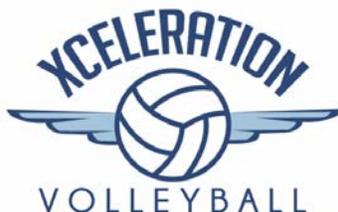
First and foremost, as new owners, we want to thank and give our heartfelt appreciation to Jon for his many years of service to the volleyball community. Jon has been involved in youth volleyball for over 15 years and with Xceleration for 10 years. During that time, he gave tirelessly of himself and his time – all with the goal of providing a club for young girls that embodied his belief that volleyball should be built around family, fun competition, and a love of the sport. When I took over as club director 6 seasons ago, I did so and I remained with Jon because of those core values and beliefs. You have heard me say at tryout meetings over the past few seasons that I would not have worked for anyone else, and that is very true. Jon has always had the best interests of the girls at heart and, for that, we all owe him a debt of gratitude.

As new owners, we will not be making sweeping changes to the Xceleration philosophies. There will be some, of course, and we will be outlining those in the days to come. But the fundamental philosophy of this being a club FOR the girls will not change. As owners, we are excited about the future of Xceleration and its members. We hope that you share that excitement.

### *New Club Director*

There will be one other internal change within the club. When the transfer becomes official, I will be stepping down as Club Director. I will still be an owner and I will still be involved with the club's College Development Program, but I am stepping away from the day-to-day operations of the club. I do this mainly because Xceleration has gotten to the point where one person cannot run the club. Thanks to all of you and to all of our programs, it has become too large for that. I will still be supervising the operation and administration of the club, but the new Club Director will be **Shannon Kussman**.

For those of you who don't know it, Shannon's maiden name was Ross and, yes, she is my daughter. She was a coach in the club for a few years and was the Head Coach at Miramonte High School. Since that time she has been working in Human Resources and administration and is eminently qualified to take over as Club Director. She shares my philosophies about club volleyball and it will be a seamless transition. In fact, all that



you may notice on that end is that all those e-mails that you used to get from me, you will now get from Shannon.

I hope that you will give her the same cooperation and generous support that you have given me over the past 6 seasons. I have enjoyed every minute of being the Club Director, and I am looking forward to working with Shannon to continue to improve Xceleration.

### *2016 Coaches*

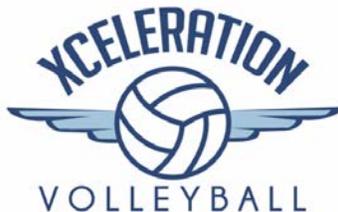
We are holding review meetings with our coaching staff. I was personally very pleased with our staff this season. We will be going over performance evaluations and making decisions on next year's staff. You will see some changes, but we do not anticipate them to be widespread. Details on this will be posted on the website as soon as they are finalized.

### *USAV Changes for 18s Age Division*

There is a MAJOR change being implemented for next season by USA Volleyball (USAV), who is the governing body of our local Northern California Volleyball Association (NCVA). This change is ONLY for the 18s age division, but it could impact other divisions. Getting back to my earlier point of the season being very long, USAV has decided to move the 18s division of the Junior Nationals (JNs) to the end of April. This will affect ONLY the Open, Nationals, and USA divisions at the 18s age group. The 18s American, Patriot, and a new Continental division, along with all other age divisions, will stay on the current schedule and occur in late June.

While the concept to address the length of the season for the 18s who are getting ready for college, etc. is a good one, we do feel that this major switch creates other issues as well. The biggest one is that per USAV guidelines, all JN bids must be finalized 6 weeks prior to a JN tournament. This means that all JN qualifiers and our own NCVA league MUST be completed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March (again, for the 18s age group only).

The impact this has on the dates of the JN Qualifiers and the structure of our own NCVA Power League is still being discussed and has yet to be finalized. Will they be having 18-only qualifiers and Power Leagues? We will keep you all posted via our website. Another issue it raises is the situation of how a team handles it if they do NOT qualify for JNs. Again, as a club we are analyzing all scenarios and will keep you posted as developments are finalized.



## **SUMMER AND FALL OPEN GYMS/CLINICS**

Please save these dates, sign up, and spread the news regarding the following sessions.

### *Summer Clinics and Open Gyms – July 8-August 20*

Our summer series of clinics/open gyms will be starting next week through late August. These sessions will be run by our excellent coaching staff and are highly beneficial for your player. These open gyms are open to all, so spread the word. Details are posted on our website or [click here](#).

### *Fall Ball Program for Grades 4 through 8 – August 24-October 21*

In late August, and running through late October, Xceleration is introducing our first Fall Ball program for players in grades 4 through 8. This is an excellent opportunity for players to learn, or improve upon, their volleyball skills. Once again, this is open to all so if you have friends or neighbors who might benefit from or enjoy this program, please let them know. The flyer is posted on our website or [click here](#).

### *Sunday Open Gyms Begin in October*

We will once again be running our open gyms on Sundays in October that lead up to club tryouts in early November. These are an excellent way to get some great volleyball touches, get to know our coaching staff, and for our staff to get to know you. Tryouts at Xceleration have been large and will grow again. Letting the coaches see you prior to tryouts is advantageous for you, as there are a lot of players to be seen in a 3-hour tryout. Keep an eye on the website for dates and times.

More news to come in the next few months, so stay tuned in our website and our Facebook group page. Andy, Jeremy, Shannon, our wonderful staff and coaches, and I are looking forward to the years ahead!

Thanks again for a wonderful 2014-2015 club season.

*Jim*