



USA Volleyball[®]

GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIP MANUAL

(The following manual contains information regarding the National Qualifiers, the Girls Junior National Championships, and Girls 18s National Championships)

**Revised: October 2020
2020/2021 Season**

USA Volleyball reserves the right to adjust or alter the procedures and policies outlined in the Championship manuals for the 2020/2021 season. To ensure that proper safety measures are taken for all participants and staff, USA Volleyball will adhere to all required local and national guidelines, safety protocols and restrictions, including any and all regulations related to COVID-19.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	1
USA VOLLEYBALL AND THE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS.....	1
PURPOSE OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP MANUAL.....	1
CHANGING THE CHAMPIONSHIP MANUAL.....	1
GLOSSARY OF TERMS.....	2
CHAPTER 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION.....	4
USA VOLLEYBALL JUNIOR PLAYER AGE DEFINITION.....	5
<i>Age Exceptions for 2021.....</i>	6
GJNC DIVISIONS OF PLAY - OPEN, NATIONAL, USA, AMERICAN & PATRIOT.....	6
<i>Age Classification, Divisions & Team Entries.....</i>	7
NATIONAL QUALIFIER PROCESS.....	7
USAV’S ROLE IN NATIONAL QUALIFIER EVENTS.....	8
DIVISIONS & SIZE OF FIELD AT NQ EVENTS.....	8
GJNCs BIDS AWARDED BY A NATIONAL QUALIFIER.....	8
<i>Open Division Bids.....</i>	9
<i>National Division Bids (11’s -12’s Only).....</i>	10
<i>USA Division Bids.....</i>	10
<i>American Division Bids.....</i>	10
OPEN AT-LARGE BIDS AWARDED THROUGH USA VOLLEYBALL.....	10
GJNCs BIDS AWARDED THROUGH A REGION.....	11
<i>National Division:.....</i>	11
<i>American Division:.....</i>	11
<i>Reallocation Bids.....</i>	11
RULES FOR PRIORITY OF BID USE.....	11
PENALTIES.....	12
<i>Factors That Will Be Considered for Establishing Penalties:.....</i>	12
<i>Penalties for Not Using a Bid.....</i>	13
<i>Penalties for Illegal Use of Bid.....</i>	14
APPEALS.....	14
NATIONAL QUALIFIER TOURNAMENT INFORMATION.....	15
RULES OF PLAY.....	15
ARTIFICIAL NOISE MAKERS.....	15

TOURNAMENT FORMATS	15
MATCH FORMATS	15
<i>Open Division Formats</i>	16
<i>National (12's only), USA and American Division Formats</i>	16
<i>National (11's only) Division Formats</i>	16
SEEDING OF DIVISIONS	17
POOL PLAY SEQUENCE	17
PLAYING SCHEDULES	18
COURT USE	18
WARM-UP PROTOCOL	18
PROCEDURES FOR BREAKING TIES TO DETERMINE POOL FINISH	20
TIE BREAK RULES	20
TWO TEAMS TIE IN MATCHES	20
THREE-OR-MORE TEAMS TIE IN MATCHES	20
TEAM AND PLAYER POLICIES	21
PARTICIPATION IN MULTIPLE DIVISIONS	21
PLAYING UP	21
TEAM FORFEITURES	21
<i>Last Day Forfeits</i>	22
TEAM UNIFORMS	22
TEAM OFFICIATING DUTIES	22
<i>Missed Officiating Duties</i>	23
AGE WAIVERED PLAYERS	23
TEAM ROSTERS	23
<i>Rostered Athlete Requirements</i>	24
<i>Rostered Staff Requirements</i>	24
<i>USA Volleyball Age and Identity Falsification Policy</i>	25
<i>Gender Competition Policy</i>	25
ROSTER VERIFICATION AND TEAM CHECK IN	26
SAFESPORT	26
THE "FROZEN PLAYER" RULE	27
POLICY ON FOREIGN INDIVIDUAL AND FOREIGN TEAM PARTICIPATION	28
<i>NQS & GJNCS</i>	28

<i>POLICY</i>	28
<i>FOREIGN PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY</i>	29
<i>FOREIGN TEAM ELIGIBILITY</i>	29
<i>Required Individual Forms</i>	30
<i>Required Team Forms/Fees</i>	30
TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS	31
OFFICIALS.....	31
AWARDS.....	31
TEAM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR NQS	31
TEAM ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA FOR NQS.....	31
ATHLETIC TRAINERS	32
PROTEST COMMITTEE	32
ETHICS AND ELIGIBILITY.....	32
<i>Event Arbitrators</i>	32
<i>Event Appeals Committee Duties</i>	33

INTRODUCTION

USA VOLLEYBALL AND THE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

USA Volleyball (USAV), recognized by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee as the National Governing Body for volleyball, holds several national championships annually, including the USA Volleyball Girls Junior National Championships (GJNC) and the 18s Girls Junior National Championships (18sGJNC) (collectively referred to as GJNCs). The USA Volleyball Girls Junior National Qualifiers (NQ) are one avenue for Teams to gain entry into those championships.

The GJNCs provides competition by age classifications in various divisions of the Championships. Teams must qualify to play at the GJNCs for all Divisions (except the Patriot Divisions) through one of two main paths; one is the NQ process and the other is the Region Bid process. In the case of the Patriot Divisions, a Team may simply enter the Tournament through the established means.

A Team can earn a Bid to the GJNCs by finishing in a Bid award position at a NQ, through the At-Large Bid process, through a Region Bid process, or through the Region reallocation process

PURPOSE OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP MANUAL

The NQs are licensed by USAV and must operate within parameters set by USAV. Those parts of the NQs that impact play, and thus entry into the GJNCs, must adhere to standards set out in this Girls Championship Manual (GCM).

The primary purpose of this GCM is to publish the standards established by USAV for the GJNCs and the NQs. The secondary purpose is to explain the process of qualifying to play at the GJNCs.

The GCM is intended to be a resource to those hosting one of the NQs and to those organizations whose Teams attend the GJNCs and the NQs.

CHANGING THE CHAMPIONSHIP MANUAL

The GCM is a USAV corporate document. Only the USAV Events Department may authorize changes, deletions, and additions to this GCM and to the qualifying process itself.

Suggestions to change the GCM and the qualifying process can come from the USAV Junior Assembly (JA), USAV Commissions, USAV Events Department (Events Department), the National Qualifier Directors (QD) or the USAV Regional Volleyball Association Assembly (RVAA). Suggested changes must be submitted to USA Volleyball no later than July 1st to follow a review process in order to be approved; changes that have monetary or legal significance may require a review by the QDs. Once a suggested change is approved, the implementation may take up to two full seasons.

The Events Department annually updates the GCM and distributes an electronic copy of the updated version to each QD for review. The Events Department will post the updated GCM on the USAV website, no later than October 1st of each year.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

18sGJNC: An 18's National Championship that takes place in the spring with the 18 Open, 18 National, 18 USA, 18 American, and 18 Patriot Divisions.

American Division: The fourth-Tier division for 13's – 18's, and the second Tier for 12's of the GJNCs where Teams must obtain a Bid to participate.

Bid: A Bid is an invitation to a Team to play in the GJNCs either through a NQ or a Region Bid process. To use the Bid, a Team must meet all entry deadlines and other requirements set by both their USAV Region and the USAV national office.

At-Large Bid: A GJNC Bid awarded in the Open or USA Division upon the completion of the Qualifier Season (both National and Regional) by the GJNC Seeding Committee based on performance during that season, in relation to other non-qualified Teams in that age group.

Reallocation Bid: A National, USA or American Division Bid to the GJNCs that is unused and is returned for reallocation to a Region. Reallocation is performed by the USAV Events Department.

Trickle-Down Bid: A GJNC Bid awarded at a NQ to a Team finishing lower than a usual Bid award position. This happens in some situations when a higher finishing Team has previously accepted a GJNC Bid from another NQ or a Region process or a Bid is declined from the National, American, or USA Divisions. Note: 18 Open Bids may not be declined.

GCM: Girls Championship Manual

Event: Multiple Tournaments or activities associated within the same title, Sanction and host organization.

Frozen Player: A player who is restricted from participating on the roster of another Team. The specifics of the "Frozen Player" are numerous and can vary between the 18sGJNC and the GJNC. (Please see [Frozen Player Rule](#)).

GJNC: Girls Junior National Championship

JA: Junior Assembly of USA Volleyball

Match: A head-to-head competition between two (2) Teams within a specified round of a Tournament. While typically two (2) sets out of three (3), some Matches may also involve an automatic three (3) sets, or simply one (1) set (used in Tie breaking situations).

Qualifying Match: A Match that "qualifies" a Team for the GJNCs.

Seeding Match: A non-elimination Match meant to place or "seed" Teams into the next round of play.

National Division: The second-Tier division for 13's – 18's, and the top Tier for the 11's and 12's of the GJNCs where Teams must obtain a Bid to participate.

NQ: National Qualifier Event

Open Division: The top Tier division for the 13's – 18's of the GJNCs where Teams must obtain a Bid to participate.

Patriot Division: A non-qualifying division for 14's – 18's of the GJNCs where Teams may gain access to the Tournament by simply entering the Event through the established process in the GCM.

Playing Surface: Area deemed as "playable" by the [2019 – 2021 USAV Indoor Rules Book](#) for that court.

Region: One of 40 established member organizations of USAV governing a specific geographical area.

Round of play: A specified segment of a Tournament (typically a pool or playoff bracket). Tie breaker competition is NOT considered a round of play.

Sanction: Recognition and coverage of a given Event, and/or Tournament within an Event, by either a Region of USAV or the National Office.

Second Warm Up Period: Start of receiving Team's warm-up.

Seeding: The order in which Teams are ranked to begin a Tournament.

Seeding Committee: A committee designated by the USAV Events Department consisting of 4-7 USAV members in good standing. Seeding Committee members are responsible for Seeding of all divisions at the GJNCs, Open Divisions of NQs (if requested by QD) and selection of At-Large Bids for GJNCs.

Team: A minimum of six (6) rostered players up to fifteen (15) players and no more than five (5) staff members, including the required head coach position.

Tie: When two (2) or more Teams end pool play with identical Match records.

Tie Break: Method by which a Ties after pool play has concluded, are given a ranked order of finish to either advance to the next round of play or be placed into a competitive Tie breaking Match or series of Matches.

Tournament: Competition of a specific group of Teams (i.e. Girls 16's Open Tournament) that could also be known as a "Championship."

USA Division: The third-Tier division for 13's – 18's of the GJNCs where Teams must obtain a Bid to participate.

USAV: USA Volleyball

CHAPTER 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION



USA***Volleyball***®

USA VOLLEYBALL JUNIOR PLAYER AGE DEFINITION

For use during the 2020-2021 Season

Once a player participates (including but not limited to practicing, training, attending workouts and/or competing) in a club or varsity program for any university, college, community college, or junior college, he/she is ineligible to take part in any regional and national programming, which includes but is not limited to national JNC qualifying and championship events.

The Age Definition Policy was most recently revised by the USA Volleyball Board of Directors on June 30, 2020.

The classification cut-off date of July 1 was reviewed by the USAV Junior Assembly and the USA Regional Volleyball Association Assembly prior and during the USAV 2020 Annual Meetings and research justified the continuation of the cut-off date of July 1.

To determine the correct age division, please find the Month of Birth in the left column and then the year of birth in the same row. The heading of the column matching the Year of Birth is the correct age bracket.

	18 & Under ¹	18 & Under ²	17 & Under	16 & Under	15 & Under	14 & Under	13 & Under	12 & Under	11 & Under	10 & Under	9 & Under	8 & Under
July	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Sept	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Oct	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Nov	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Dec	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Jan	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Feb	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Mar	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Apr	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
May	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
June	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
July	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Aug	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013

¹ Players who were born on or after July 1, 2002 OR players who were born on or after July 1, 2001 and a high school student in the twelfth (12th) grade or below during some part of the current academic year.

² Female Only- Players who were born on or after July 1, 2002 (who are defined as 18 & Under by the USAV Age Definition) and are in the 11th grade for the current academic year are waived to compete in 17 & Under. (This age waiver is based on recruiting concerns for 11th grade girls previously required to participate in girls 18's qualifiers and the 18's GJNC.)

Note: These age definitions are used by domestic club programs and are NOT the same as the age definitions for the International and Domestic High Performance programs for 2021.

Age Exceptions for 2021

- An AGE WAIVER will be granted to players who were born on or after July 1, 2002, (who are defined as 18 & under by the USAV Age Definition) and are in the 11th grade for the current academic year. These athletes will be eligible to compete in the 17 & under age division with proof of age and grade sent to the USAV Events Department. For example: A 17 year old player who is considered by the Age Definition to compete on an 18s team and is still in the 11th grade for the current academic year, may compete on their 17s team in a qualifying division for GJNC with a waiver.

GJNC DIVISIONS OF PLAY - OPEN, NATIONAL, USA, AMERICAN & PATRIOT

There are five (5) major divisions of play at GJNCs – Open Divisions, National Divisions, USA Divisions, American Divisions, and the Patriot Divisions.

The goal of the GJNCs **Open Divisions** is to identify, through competition, the best Team in each GJNCs age group from among Teams (see chart below) that have earned Bids. The NQ Open Divisions are designed to select those Teams.

- To participate in an Open Division at the GJNCs, a Team must earn a Bid from participating in an NQ Open Division – either winning the Bid outright at an NQ or being selected for an At-Large Bid after competing in an NQ Open Division (see [Open At-Large Bids](#)).

The goal of the GJNCs **National, USA and American Divisions** is to showcase Region Teams and provide the opportunity for more Teams to participate at the GJNCs.

- Teams have the following avenues to receive a Bid for a GJNCs Open, National, USA or American Division:
 - Earn a Bid at a NQ (Open, USA and American);
 - Awarded an at-large Bid (Open and USA);
 - Earn a Bid through their Region's Bid process (National and American) ; or
 - Earn a Bid from their Region through the Re-allocation process (National, USA, and American).

The goal of the GJNCs **Patriot Divisions** is to allow opportunity for Teams to participate at the GJNCs without following the qualification process.

- Teams must follow the established process to participate in this division

Age Classification, Divisions & Team Entries

	18 & Under	17 & Under	16 & Under	15 & Under	14 & Under	13 & Under	12 & Under	11 & Under
Open Division	48 Teams	36 Teams	36 Teams	36 Teams	36 Teams	24 Teams		
National Division	48 Teams	48 Teams	48 Teams	48 Teams	48 Teams	48 Teams	48 Teams	48 Teams
USA Division	48 Teams	36 Teams	36 Teams	36 Teams	36 Teams	24 Teams		
American Division	64 Teams	64 Teams	64 Teams	64 Teams	64 Teams	64 Teams	64 Teams	
Patriot Division	64* Teams	48* Teams	72* Teams	72* Teams	72* Teams			

*Patriot Divisions will have a soft cap of the number listed above, but may accept additional Teams in a Tournament, in multiples of 4 Teams, dependent on available court space.

NATIONAL QUALIFIER PROCESS

The primary purpose of the NQs is to select, through Tournament competition, Open and some National (11's and 12's), USA and American Teams in various age divisions to compete at the GJNCs. Teams may qualify for a Bid outside the NQ process for the National, USA, and American Divisions.

The secondary purposes for the NQs are to:

- Promote inter-Regional play.
- Provide a high level of competition for Teams at different levels within each age division.
- Showcase junior talent for college recruiters and USAV High Performance programs.
- Promote the growth and development of volleyball in a particular geographic area.
- Provide a training ground for officials.

NQs are geographically assigned to cover a large portion of the United States to the extent that most Teams can attend at least one NQ within 8 hours drive. Locations and dates potentially may change due to COVID restrictions. Please visit our [COVID Information & Updates](#) page for the latest updates.

Currently, there are 12 NQs for 11's-17's: Big South (Atlanta), Colorado Crossroads (Denver), Sunshine Volleyball Classic (Orlando), Far Western (Reno), Mideast (St. Louis & Indianapolis), Lone Star (Dallas), Northeast (Philadelphia & Baltimore), Northern Lights (Minneapolis), Pacific Northwest (Spokane), Show Me (Kansas City), Southern California (Las Vegas), and Windy City (Chicago).

Currently there are 16 NQs for 18's: Girls Winter Volleyball Championships (Chicago), KC MLK 18's (Kansas City), Northern Lights 18's (Minneapolis), AVC Dallas (Dallas), Ohio Valley (Columbus), Music City Volleyball Championships (Nashville), Florida Girls 18s National Qualifier (Orlando), Beast of the Southeast (Atlanta), Boston Volleyball Festival (Boston), Sierra National Qualifier (Reno), Southern California 18's (Anaheim), Crossroads (Denver), Lone Star (Houston), Pacific Northwest (Spokane), Mideast (Indianapolis), and Northeast (Philadelphia).

USAV'S ROLE IN NATIONAL QUALIFIER EVENTS

The NQs are Sanctioned by the USAV National Office which develops, standardizes, evaluates, and oversees the qualification process for the GJNCs through the USAV Events Department.

USAV and the Events Department monitor the qualifying process each season, and, with their various committees:

- Approve formats and flow charts for the NQ divisions
- Determine the process by which Teams are accepted or denied entry into a NQ division
- Approve each NQ competition schedule grid
- Approve systems to seed the NQ Open Divisions
- Review and recommend improvements for NQ operations
- Establish and verify individual eligibility requirements for all participants in both Bid and non-Bid divisions

DIVISIONS & SIZE OF FIELD AT NQ EVENTS

The USAV Events Department, with input from the QDs of each of the NQs, determines the maximum number of Teams a NQ may host in each Open, National (11's and 12's), USA and American Division. Currently, a NQ may host a maximum of 48 Teams in each Open Division and 128 Teams in each National (11's and 12's only), USA and American Division. On a case-by-case basis, the USAV Director of Events may grant a waiver for a NQ division to exceed these numbers, except that no waivers will be granted for the NQ Open Divisions.

NQs are permitted to host competition in age divisions that do not currently have a Junior National Championship (i.e. 10 & Under or "Select" divisions). The NQs shall not institute these additional divisions without the approval of the USAV Director of Events.

GJNCs BIDS AWARDED BY A NATIONAL QUALIFIER

USAV allows each NQ to award a certain number of Bids to the top finishing Teams in Open, National (11's and 12's only), USA and American Divisions. The number of Bids a NQ has to award is pre-determined according to the number of Teams entered in the NQ division on the NQs deadline date or the date the division's Seeding is finalized; whichever number is larger (see the chart below).

OPEN: 18's		OPEN: 13's		OPEN: 14's - 17's		NATIONAL: 11's - 12's	
Number of Teams	Number of Bids	Number of Teams	Number of Bids	Number of Teams	Number of Bids	Number of Teams	Number of Bids
< 8	0	< 6	0	< 8	0	< 8	0
8 - 11	1	6 - 11	1	8 - 15	1	8 - 128	1
12 - 15	2	12 - 48	2	16 - 23	2		
16 - 48	3			24 - 48	3		

USA: 14's - 18's		USA: 13's		AMERICAN: 12's - 18's	
Number of Teams	Number of Bids	Number of Teams	Number of Bids	Number of Teams	Number of Bids
< 8	0	< 8	0	< 8	0
8 - 15	1	8 - 11	1	8 - 128	1
16 - 23	2	12 - 48	2		
24 - 128	3				

The total number of Bids distributed among the NQs to award in a GJNCs division is determined by the number of Teams permitted to play in the division at the GJNCs. Some Open Bids may be reserved for the At-Large Bid selection, National and a number of American Bids are awarded through the Region Bid process.

Bids awarded at NQs must be accepted in writing at or prior to the time of the Bid award (see [Rules for Priority of Bid Use](#) and [GJNC Bids Awarded Through a Region Process](#)). NQs will determine the timing of written declaration of a bid, this may occur as early as team registration.

For a Team to use a Bid earned in any qualifying process, the Team must complete all entry requirements for their Region and for the GJNCs by the deadline dates provided by the USAV Events Department. If a Team has not met all the entry requirements by the deadline date, that Team may lose its Bid and may be subject to additional Sanctions (see [Penalties for Not Using a Bid](#)).

Teams that earn and accept a Bid at a NQ will receive an email from the USAV Events Department by the Thursday following their qualification. This email will detail the requirements for entry into the GJNCs.

Open Division Bids

In the NQ Open Divisions, Bids go to the Teams that finish the competition in a Bid award position.

If one (1) or more Teams wins a Bid award position at a NQ and previously earned an Open Bid at another NQ, the Bid(s) can trickle-down to the next highest finishing Team, provided the next highest finishing Team finished no lower than eighth place or 50% of the field size, whichever is smaller, in the Tournament.

A Team may not decline an Open Bid. By playing in the Open Division, a Team is acknowledging and confirming its participation in GJNCs if a Bid is earned. Please Note: New to the 2020/2021 season an 18 Open bid may not be declined.

If a Team previously or subsequently earns a National, USA or American Bid either from a Region or a NQ, the Team must use the Open Bid. The [Rules for Priority of Use of a Bid](#) (see section below) determine which Team receives the National, USA or American Bid.

National Division Bids (11's -12's Only)

At a NQ, both a National Division and an American Division will be offered for the 12's age division and a National Division will be offered to the 11's age division.

- Each NQ will receive one (1) National Bid to award, provided they have a minimum of eight (8) Teams registered in the division. A Team must accept or reject a National Bid in writing upon earning the Bid. If rejected, the Bid will trickle-down to the next eligible, highest finishing Team, provided that Team finished no lower than eighth place in the Tournament (see [GJNC Bids Awarded Through a Region](#)).
- Should the 12 National Division fail to receive the minimum number of eight (8) registered Teams, the 12 National and 12 American Divisions will be combined and will be called the National Division.
 - In order for the combined National Division to retain one (1) National Bid and one (1) American Bid, the division must have a minimum of sixteen (16) registered Teams.
 - If the combined National Division has less than sixteen (16) registered Teams, the NQ will award only one (1) National Bid.
- Should the 11 National Division fail to receive the minimum number of eight (8) registered Teams, a waiver may be granted by the USAV Director of Events provided a minimum of six (6) Teams are registered. If there are less than six (6) Teams registered, the division may be canceled or played without a Bid being awarded and the one (1) 11 National Bid will be placed in the Region reallocation process.

USA Division Bids

At a NQ, the USA Division has up to three (3) Bids in the 14 's-18 's age groups & up to two (2) Bids in the 13's age group. A USA Division must have at least eight (8) Teams to be able to award a Bid in that respective Tournament. A Team must accept or reject a USA Bid in writing upon earning the Bid. If rejected, the Bid(s) can trickle-down to the next highest finishing Team, provided the next highest finishing Team finished no lower than eighth place or 50% of the field size, whichever is smaller, in the Tournament. The [Rules for Priority of Use of a Bid](#) (see section below) determine which Team receives the USA Division Bids.

American Division Bids

At a NQ, the American Division has one (1) Bid. An American Division must have at least eight (8) Teams to be able to award a Bid in that respective Tournament. A Team must accept or reject an American Bid in writing upon earning the Bid. If rejected, the Bid will trickle-down to the next eligible, highest finishing Team, provided that Team finished no lower than eighth place in the Tournament (see [GJNC Bids Awarded Through a Region](#)). The Rules for Priority of Use of a Bid (see section below) determine which Team receives the American Division Bids.

OPEN AT-LARGE BIDS AWARDED THROUGH USA VOLLEYBALL

The USAV Events Department, with the assistance of its Seeding Committee, awards some GJNC Open Bids as At-Large Bids. Teams will automatically be considered for an At-Large Bid provided that the Team:

- Has played in at least one NQ in the same GJNC Open Division age group for which the Team is applying;
- Teams must have at least one finish in the top 50% of an Open Event;
- Is registered for GJNCs in the GJNCs Event registration system;
- Complies with both their Region's and USAV's GJNCs deadline dates and application processes;

- Submits accurate and up-to-date electronic results in the GJNCs Event registration system no later than the end of business on the Tuesday after the finish of the last NQ offering their age group.

The USAV Events Department will announce the Teams being awarded the GJNCs Open At-Large Bids no later than the second Tuesday after the last NQ. The Events Department will notify Teams awarded an At-Large Bid by email, sent to the Coach and Club Director at the email addresses provided in the GJNCs Event registration system.

For full criteria on how At-Large Bids are awarded please see the GJNC Pre-Tournament Manual on the GJNC website.

GJNCs BIDS AWARDED THROUGH A REGION

Regions are allocated Bids to two Divisions at the GJNCs – National and American. Regions have the authority to establish their own process for awarding these Bids. Bids awarded through a Region must be accepted in writing at or prior to the time of the Bid award

National Division:

Each Region will receive at least one (1) National Bid to award at their discretion for the 13's – 18's. As there are a total of 48 Bids to be allocated to 40 Regions, the eight (8) largest Regions based on Girls Junior registrations from the previous season will be awarded a 2nd Bid to the National Divisions at the GJNCs.

For 11's, and 12 's, the original allotment of Bids and any reallocation Bids a Region receives depends on the number of 12 and under Girls Junior registrations from the previous season, *not* on the total number of Girls Junior registrations in the Region. Given there are 40 USAV Regions and only 36 National Bids allocated to Regions not all will receive an allocated Bid. Regions not receiving an automatic Bid will be prioritized in the process of reallocating unused Bids.

American Division:

Regions may receive up to three (3) American Bids to award at their discretion for the 12's – 18's. There are a total of 64 Bids to be allocated to GJNCs, 12 Bids for 12's-17's and 16 Bids for 18's will be awarded at NQs. The remaining American Bids will be allocated to the Regions. Bids allocated to Regions are determined through a junior girls membership benchmark that is defined in the Bid allocation chart posted on the USAV website.

The number of Bids received by a particular Region may change from year to year.

Reallocation Bids

When a Bid is returned, the USAV Events Department distributes Reallocation Bids to the Regions in an order determined by the number of junior girls members (National Division) and the proximity of that number to certain benchmark membership numbers (American Division). When a Team earns a higher ranking Bid the vacated Bid will stay with the Region(see Rules for Priority of Bid Use).

RULES FOR PRIORITY OF BID USE

Some Teams participate in more than one qualifying process in a season, either through their Region, by attending NQs, by applying for an At-Large Bid, or by some combination of these processes. If the Team earns more than one (1) Bid, the following rules apply as to which Bid the Team must use, and what happens to the other Bid(s).

The priority of Bid use is as follows:

1. Open

2. National
3. USA
4. American

When an Open Bid is the second Bid a Team earns, from either a NQ or the At-Large Bid process:

- If a Team previously accepted a USA Bid, the Team must use the Open Bid. The USA Bid will remain in the Region of the Team that originally accepted the USA Bid. If the Region is unable to allocate this USA Bid, the USA Bid will go into the At-Large Bid process.
- If a Team previously accepted a National or American Bid, the Team must use the Open Bid. The National or American Bid will remain in the Region of the Team that originally accepted the National or American Bid. If the Region is unable to allocate this Bid, the Bid will be reallocated to the next Region in line.

When a National Bid is the second Bid a Team earns and accepts:

- If a Team previously accepted a USA Bid, the Team must use the National Bid. The USA Bid will remain in the Region of the Team that originally accepted the USA Bid. If the Region is unable to allocate this USA Bid, it reverts to the At-Large Bid process.
- If a Team previously accepted an American Bid, the Team must use the National Bid. The American Bid will remain in the Region of the Team that originally accepted the American Bid. If the Region is unable to allocate this Bid, the Bid will be reallocated to the next Region in line.

When a USA Bid is the second Bid a Team earns and accepts:

- If a Team previously accepted a National Bid from a Region, the Team must keep the National Bid. The USA Bid will trickle-down to the next eligible Team.
- If a Team accepts a reallocated USA Bid through a Region Bid process and then earns a USA Bid at a NQ, the NQ USA Bid will supersede the Region reallocated USA Bid. The vacated USA Bid will revert to the Region of origin for reallocation. If the Region is unable to allocate this USA Bid, it reverts to the At-Large Bid process.
- If a Team previously accepted an American Bid from either an NQ or a Region, the Team must use the USA Bid. The American Bid will remain in the Region of the Team that originally accepted the American Bid. If the Region is unable to allocate this Bid, the Bid will be reallocated to the next Region in line.

When an American Bid is the second Bid a Team earns and accepts:

- If a Team earns and accepts an American Bid through a Region Bid Process and then earns an American Bid at a NQ, the NQ American Bid will supersede the Region American Bid and the Region American Bid will return to the Region it was originally awarded from for reallocation.
- If a Team that wins an American Bid and accepted an American Bid from a previous NQ, the current American Bid goes to the next eligible, highest finishing Team, provided the next highest finishing Team finished no lower than eighth place in the Tournament. The trickle-down process must be applied at the conclusion of the division's competition.

USAV reserves the right to fill Bids as necessary to ensure a quality Event with maximum participation.

PENALTIES

To ensure the integrity of GJNCs and to promote fair play, it may be necessary for USAV to impose penalties. USAV will convene an Event committee to review each case and impose a proper penalty(ies) if warranted.

Factors That Will Be Considered for Establishing Penalties:

- Compliancy with deadlines and requirements

- Time of notification from the start of GJNCs
- Previous club/member behavior
- Level of play (Open vs. American)
- Where Bid is earned and accepted (NQ vs. Regional)
- Severity of offense
- Age and Experience
- Region Input

Penalties for Not Using a Bid

It is disruptive to the quality of the Event when Bids are returned after being accepted. There are financial consequences, administrative challenges, and logistical delays for Teams, Region administrators and USAV personnel. Inevitably this takes opportunities away from other Teams participating in the qualification process.

A Team that does not use a GJNCs Open Bid (13's-18's) which it has earned, or a GJNCs National, USA or American Bid which it has earned and accepted may be subject to the following penalties:

Financial Penalties

- From date of qualification up to the dates listed below prior to start of GJNCs - payment of entry fee.

Event	Date
18sGJNC	March 1, 2021
GJNC	April 30, 2021

- 2 months prior to the start of GJNCs– payment of entry fee and \$1,000 fine
- If the payment is not received for the GJNCs Event Entry Fee and/or fines, the club director(s), coaches affiliated with official qualification roster will be prohibited from participating in NQs and GJNCs until the fee is paid in full. Further legal actions may be taken to ensure payment is received.

Suspension of Participation:

- Club Director suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- Head Coach listed on the official qualification roster suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- All members listed on the official qualification roster suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- Specific age group from club suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- Club or specific team suspended from participation in all NQ and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- All suspensions will be published and updated on the USAV website.

Additional Penalties:

- USAV reserves the right to impose additional penalties as deemed necessary.
- Regions reserve the right to impose additional penalties to Teams within their Region.

Penalties for Illegal Use of Bid

If a Team is deemed ineligible or have ineligible participants (age falsification, frozen player, foreign participation, ethics/eligibility, gender competition policy, SafeSport violations etc.) the following penalties may be applied:

Financial Penalties:

- Loss of entry fee and a \$2,500 fine.
- If the payment is not received for the GJNCs Event entry fee and/or fines, the club director(s), coaches affiliated with official qualification roster will be prohibited from participating in NQs and GJNCs until the fee is paid in full. Further legal actions may be taken to ensure payment is received.

Suspension of Play:

- Club Director suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- Head Coach listed on the official qualification roster suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- All members listed on the official qualification roster suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- Specific age group from club suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- Club or specific team suspended from participation in all NQ and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- Suspended membership or probation.
- All suspensions will be published and updated on the USAV website.

Additional Penalties:

- Revocation of bids, past awards, winnings and titles.
- USAV reserves the right to impose additional penalties as deemed necessary (see [USA Volleyball Age and Identity Falsification Policy](#))

Regions reserve the right to impose additional penalties to Teams within their Region.

APPEALS

When a penalty(ies) is imposed on a club/Team/individual by USAV, they may file for an appeal. Appeals may be filed with the USAV Ethics and Eligibility Committee by sending all relevant documentation to the USAV Staff Attorney by deadlines outlined in the initial Sanction letter. All appeals shall be accompanied by a non-refundable \$100 fee made payable to USA Volleyball.

NATIONAL QUALIFIER TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

All NQs must use competition formats approved by the USAV Events Department two weeks prior to the start of the NQ. The information in this section applies to *all* NQ Tournaments as well as the GJNCs.

RULES OF PLAY

The rules of play are as prescribed in the USA Volleyball Rules Book. Below are key editorial corrections, clarifications and new rules pertaining to the 2020/2021 season (underlined words, phrases or sentences indicate an editorial correction or rule change).

- USAV 4.1.2: The Libero can be team or game captain.
- USAV 4.3a: A player's uniform consists of a jersey and shorts or athletic/sport pants. When undergarments, including but not limited to T-shirts, boxer shorts, tights, leotards, body suits, bicycle shorts, sports bras, etc., are worn in such a manner that they are exposed, they will be considered a part of the uniform. In that case, they must be similar and the same color for any team members (except the Libero) who wear such an undergarment. Socks and sport shoes are not part of the uniform.
- USAV 4.3.1: The color and design for the jerseys and shorts or athletic/sport pants must be uniform for the team (except for the Libero).
- USAV 4.5.1: It is forbidden to wear hats or casts (even if padded). Braces, prosthetic limbs or other headgear that may cause an injury or give an artificial advantage to the player must not be worn. If a brace, prosthetic limb or headgear is used, padding or covering may be necessary. Jewelry may be worn provided its nature does not present a concern for safety, such as extremely long necklaces and/or necklaces with large medallions, or large hoop earrings.

ARTIFICIAL NOISE MAKERS

Due to their disruptive nature, artificial noise makers are prohibited at NQs and GJNCs.

TOURNAMENT FORMATS

The Tournament format determines the number of pools in a division, the number of Teams in each pool and the sequence of play, from pool play through playoffs. A Tournament "flow chart" illustrates the sequence of the format components. Due to COVID restrictions and safety measures, for the 2021 season, tournaments may implement an alternate format that has been previously submitted and approved by USA Volleyball.

MATCH FORMATS

The preferred Match format is pools of four (4) playing the best 2-out-of-3 sets.

- The first two (2) sets play to 25 points, rally scoring, with one (1) Team winning by two (2) points and no point cap.
- If a 3rd (deciding) set is necessary, it is played to 15, rally scoring, with one (1) Team winning by two (2) points and no point cap.
- Some pools of three (3) may play all three (3) sets to 25, regardless of whether a Team wins the first two (2). This exception depends on the number of pools of three (3) in a division.
- In a three (3)-Team pool, where three (3) sets to 25 are played instead of 2 out of 3, and the final finish in the pool is determined by Match record. Should one (1) Team win the first two (2) sets of the Match, that Team

has won the Match, but Teams will still play the 3rd set. Should there be a 3-way Tie in the pool with all three (3) Teams having a 1-1 Match record, ALL sets played will be used when determining set percentage when going to a Tie-breaker. When playing the 3rd set, there will be a coin flip between sets two (2) and three (3) to determine side, serve and receive, and Teams will switch sides when a Team reaches 13 points.

- For division sizes of 8-16 Teams, pools comprised of more than 5 Teams may be utilized.

Open Division Formats

The top four (4) to twelve (12) Teams in an Open Division play three (3) rounds of pool play, and, if necessary, a single elimination bracket to determine the overall winner of the Tournament.

- The 3rd round of pool play is known as the Gold Pools.
- If a Team in one of the top three (3) positions in an Open Division previously qualified for the GJNCs, additional Matches may be required to determine which Teams are awarded Bids via the Trickle-Down Bid process.
 - The USAV Events Department approves formats for additional trickle-down Matches prior to the start of the NQ; and,
 - The formats are announced in the Tournament information prior to the start of the NQ.

Teams in finish positions lower than the Gold Pools play two rounds of pool play followed by a single elimination bracket.

Some Teams may have an additional qualifying, crossover or Seeding Match prior to Gold Pools or playoff brackets, depending on the number of Teams in a division.

- For a field of less than 17 Teams, should large pools (more than 6 Teams) be used, one round of pool play followed by single elimination brackets is allowed.

National (12's only), USA and American Division Formats

All Teams in 12's National, USA or American Divisions play two (2) rounds of pool play, followed by single elimination playoff brackets.

Some Teams may have an additional qualifying, crossover or Seeding Match prior to Gold bracket or other playoff brackets, depending on the number of Teams in a division.

National (11's only) Division Formats

The 11's National Division may be contested as a two (2) or three (3)-day championship. For a two (2)-day format, one (1) round of pool play followed by playoffs is acceptable. Should the field size warrant, a challenge round after pool play may be necessary.

Divisions using a three (3)-day format should follow the 12's requirements.

USA and American Division Formats

All Teams in National USA or American Divisions play two (2) rounds of pool play, followed by single elimination playoff brackets.

Some Teams may have an additional qualifying, crossover or Seeding Match prior to Gold bracket or other playoff brackets, depending on the number of Teams in a division.

SEEDING OF DIVISIONS

The Seeding of divisions within a NQ may be either done by the NQ or the NQ may request that the Open divisions be done by the USAV Seeding Committee. Should the NQ choose to seed the Open Divisions, the seed order must be approved by the Committee prior to the release of the competition schedule. Alterations to these guidelines must be approved by the USAV Director of Events.

Seeding for the GJNCs is determined by Team results throughout the year as collected by USA Volleyball and entered into the official registration system using Team codes. According to these results, the top quarter of all participating Teams in a Tournament (first seeded Teams in the first round of pool play) are seeded numerically by strength. For accuracy team codes should stay the same from season to season.

POOL PLAY SEQUENCE

Pool play sequences, listed below, are allowable for use with all respective pools in a NQ, unless another sequence is approved by the USAV Events Department:

Round	Four-Team Pools	Three-Team Pools	Five-Team Pools on 2 Courts
Match 1	1 vs. 3 (ref 2)	1 vs. 3 (ref 2)	1 vs. 5 and 2 vs. 4 (ref 3)
Match 2	2 vs. 4 (ref 1)	2 vs. 3 (ref 1)	1 vs. 4 and 2 vs. 3 (ref 5)
Match 3	1 vs. 4 (ref 3)	1 vs. 2 (ref 3)	1 Hour Break
Match 4	2 vs. 3 (ref 1)		1 vs. 3 and 4 vs. 5 (ref 2)
Match 5	3 vs. 4 (ref 2)		2 vs. 5 and 3 vs. 4 (ref 1)
Match 6	1 vs. 2 (ref 4)		1 vs. 2 and 3 vs. 5 (ref 4)

Round	Four-Team Pools Court 1	Four-Team Pools Court 2
Match 1	A 1 vs. 3 (ref B3)	A 2 vs. 4 (ref B2)
Match 2	B 1 vs. 3 (ref A3)	B 2 vs. 4 (ref A4)
Match 3	A 2 vs. 3 (ref B3)	A 1 vs. 4 (ref B4)
Match 4	B 2 vs. 3 (ref A2)	B 1 vs. 4 (ref A4)
Match 5	A 1 vs. 2 (ref B4)	A 3 vs. 4 (ref B1)
Match 6	B 3 vs. 4 (ref A1)	B 1 vs. 2 (ref A3)

A Team's final pool finish is determined by Match results. If Team(s) are Tied at the completion of pool play, Tie breaker procedures will apply (See [Procedures for Breaking Ties](#)).

PLAYING SCHEDULES

- All pool play Matches are scheduled at least one (1) hour apart. Some pools may have play on two (2) days to complete the pool (for example, begin play one day in the evening and finish the next morning).
- The first Match of a pool must begin at its scheduled time. Within a pool, and after the first Match, a Match may begin up to 15 minutes before the scheduled starting time provided the two (2) Teams competing, the officials and the Tournament staff all agree to it, and provided that there is sufficient time for the warm-up protocol.
- For NQs, trickle-down Matches are required to be played only if necessary to determine Bid awards.
- Playoff brackets may not be larger than 24 Teams.
- All Teams will be scheduled for at least one (1) Match on the final day of competition.

COURT USE

- Events may not schedule more than 13 Matches on a court in one day, unless otherwise approved by the USAV Events Department. Tie-breaking sets do not count as scheduled Matches.
- Final Matches of the day must be scheduled to begin no later than 9:00 p.m. (with an 8:00 a.m. start) or 9:30 p.m. (with an 8:30 a.m. start).
 - For NQs Matches on day 3 of competition, Matches may not be scheduled to begin later than 3:00 p.m.
 - For NQs if a division is larger than 64 Teams, the first round of playoffs can be scheduled for the second day. Teams must still be given a minimum of 1 Match on the third day.

WARM-UP PROTOCOL

For Junior competition, when one (1) Team has exclusive use of the court, the other Team must either be at its Team bench or out of the playing area. Warming up with balls at the Team bench or in the spectator walkways is not permitted. Teams must shag their own balls during warm-ups for the 2020/2021 season.

Primary Warm-up Protocol – (5-4-4): – For all Teams in their first Match of a round of play.

- Five (5) minutes of shared court time for ball handling; and
- Four (4) minutes of exclusive court time for the serving Team;
- Four (4) minutes of exclusive court time for the receiving Team.
- There will be no shared hitting time.

Secondary Warm-Up Protocol (2-4-4): For all other Matches within the round of play.

- Two (2) minutes of shared court time for ball handling; and
- Four (4) minutes of exclusive court time for the serving Team; and
- Four (4) minutes of exclusive court time for the receiving Team.
- There will be no shared hitting time.

A crossover Match or Tie-breaking Match that immediately follows pool play is part of that previous single round of play; Teams follow the Secondary Warm-Up Protocol set out below.

A crossover Match, Seeding Match or qualifying Match that occurs after a scheduled break, after the conclusion of pool play, is a separate round of play; Teams in this round follow the Primary Warm-Up Protocol. If all parties agree, the warm-up time may be shortened.

PROCEDURES FOR BREAKING TIES TO DETERMINE POOL FINISH

For the 2020-2021 season, all Playoff Tie Breaker Sets described in the Championship Manual will be eliminated for all Indoor National Qualifiers and National Championship events due to safety measure and COVID limitations.

At the conclusion of a pool, the pool finish position of the teams is determined by their pool match records.

If there is a tie in match record among 2 or more teams in the pool, tie(s) are resolved using the Tie Break Rules, even in 3 team pools where all 3 sets are required to be played.

TIE BREAK RULES

Ties in Matches are broken by the following steps:

TWO TEAMS TIE IN MATCHES

Always broken head to head. No exceptions.

THREE-OR-MORE TEAMS TIE IN MATCHES

1. Head to head results are used to determine pool finishes for teams that are tied in Match Record.
 - a) A team that beats all the other teams with which it is tied in Match Record will finish ahead of the other teams in the pool.
 - b) A team that has lost to all of the other teams with which it is tied in Match Record is placed behind the other teams in pool finish.
 - c) If there are only two teams tied in matches after steps 1(a) and 1(b) have been applied, the head to head winner of those 2 teams earns the higher pool finish.
 - d) If after applying steps 1(a), 1(b) & 1(c), teams remain tied, then the ranking of those remaining teams follows the procedure in step 2.
2. Set percentage is the 2nd level of breaking ties and is used to rank a pool in which teams remain tied after applying the rules in step 1.
 - a) Teams with a higher set percentage finish ahead of teams with a lower set percentage.
 - b) If only two teams are tied in both match percentage and set percentage, the team that won head to head receives the higher finish in the pool.
 - c) If three teams (or more) are tied in match percentage and set percentage after applying steps 2(a) & 2(b), the tie breaking procedure is as followed in step 2[d].
 - d) Pool finish among the teams tied in Match percentage and Set percentage is determined by Point percentage. If two teams are still tied in point percentage, the head to head winner finishes higher.

TEAM AND PLAYER POLICIES

PARTICIPATION IN MULTIPLE DIVISIONS

Exception for the 2020-2021 Season due to COVID-19, it will be allowable for a team or athlete to play on more than 1 weekend of a multi-weekend Girl's National Qualifier provided the divisions are held on separate weekends and all other eligibility requirements are met.

A team or athlete can still only play in 1 division on a particular weekend. ***All Frozen Player rules still apply.**

For the 18sGJNC and GJNC policies for multiple division participation are as follows:

- Athletes meeting the age definitions for age groups younger than 18 may participate in both Events, but only one (1) championship division per Event (18sGJNC or GJNC). The qualification divisions for the 18's age group are Open, National, USA & American.
- A Team represented by a specific Team code may participate in no more than ONE (1) division that requires qualification of the 18sGJNC and GJNC combined. EXAMPLE: A 17's Team that qualifies and accepts a position for an 18s' division in the 18sGJNC may NOT play in a 17's qualification division of the GJNC.

PLAYING UP

A Team should play in the division that conforms to the USAV age requirements for the Team's players. The Team's 11digit code stipulates its proper age division. If a Team desires to play up an age division AND there is space available without denying an entry position to an age appropriate Team that has met the entry requirements the Team may play in an upper age division. A Team may play up a maximum of two age divisions (i.e. a 15's Team could only play up to 16's or 17's).

A Team may be moved up at the request of the Tournament, but if this Team is accepted in the proper age group, they must agree to the move. A Team unable to gain access may be offered the opportunity to play up by the Tournament.

TEAM FORFEITURES

A Team that intentionally forfeits a Match at an Event will be excluded from further participation in that NQ.

- The forfeit is intentional unless the Team shows good cause for the forfeit, such as illness and emergency circumstances.
 - The Event Arbitrator will determine if good cause exists.
 - The Event or Arbitrator will report any Team that intentionally forfeits a Match to the USAV Events Department.
- Forfeiting Teams may be subject to a fine paid to the Event in the amount not to exceed that as posted by the Event in its pre-Tournament information.
- For all NQs, if a Team intentionally forfeits a Match in a Gold Pool or Gold Bracket in any division Open Division Match the Team's penalty will be:
 - The forfeiting Team is ineligible for participation in that year's GJNCs. ALL Adult Members listed on the verified Event competition roster and the Club Director will be suspended from participating in all NQs, Regional Qualification Events and the GJNCs for the remainder of that season and the following season.

Last Day Forfeits

Teams that enter a NQ are committing to participating in the full Event. Teams have control over their travel plans and those plans should be made so that a Team will not have to forfeit any Matches.

A Team that forfeits a Match for any reason other than illness, injury or emergency is denying another Team a Match. Additionally, in a single elimination format, it is poor sportsmanship to deny a Team the right to move on by beating them and then forfeiting out of the Event. Furthermore, it is even more unacceptable to forfeit and then, as loser of the Match, not to remain and officiate the next Match.

Teams that have no flexibility in their travel plans and know they will need to leave before their division completes play will report to the Tournament Director no later than the end of play on the day prior to the final day of Tournament.

The Event Arbitrator with the input of the Tournament director will decide what forfeitures are needed. Teams forfeiting should recognize that additional penalties may be imposed.

- Teams that refuse to play a Match to determine 3rd and 4th place in the Tournament will both finish 4th, and there will be no 3rd place awarded in the Tournament.
- Teams that forfeit a last day Match are still responsible to officiate the next Match scheduled on their court. Teams playing the next scheduled Match may not be required to begin play early.

TEAM UNIFORMS

Team players are required to wear uniforms that are in full compliance with the USAV regulations. If two (2) or more sets of uniforms are used, players are required to wear the identical number for each set of shirts.

- The numbers "0" and "00" are not permitted.
- The numbers must be centered.
- Front numbers must be a minimum of 4" and back numbers a minimum of 6"
- All Libero shirts are required to be numbered and must be contrasting with the non-libero uniform shirts.

Team members need to be in proper uniform when warming up. If an individual competes in a position other than Libero as well, his/her number must be the same as their regular uniform.

TEAM OFFICIATING DUTIES

The NQ must publish an officiating assignment schedule for the Teams; the Teams must fulfill all their scheduled officiating assignments.

Teams are responsible for providing an officiating/work crew for Matches in which they are not scheduled to play. Those work assignments can be found in the official play schedule. For planning purposes, be prepared to provide the following officials:

- Second Referee (GJNCs provides R2 for Championship Matches)
- Must be a rostered adult for **ALL** age division Matches
- Certified Scorer (PENALTIES NOTED BELOW)
- Scoreboard Operator
- Libero Tracker
- 2 Line Judges

Non-rostered personnel may be allowed to work on the officiating Team, with the exception of the R2 position, provided they can provide documentation that they are registered with a Region of USAV to include a current membership, cleared background screening, and is SafeSport trained, as well as have the appropriate certifications. Appropriate paperwork would need to be provided for Foreign Team personnel.

Missed Officiating Duties

- A Team's failure to have a complete officiating crew—including a rostered adult for that Team—available and on time for an officiating assignment will result in the Team having to forfeit the first game of its next Match.
- For every minute an officiating Team is late to fulfill its assignment, one (1) point will be awarded to that Team's next opponent in the first game of the next Match for up to 25 points. No more than 25 points will be awarded to the Team's next opponent, even if the Team designated to officiate misses the entire Match. The time that determines how many penalty points are assessed begins at the start of the receiving Team's warm-up.
- A Team will forfeit its entire next Match for failing, a second time, to have an officiating crew available on time for an officiating assignment.

AGE WAIVERED PLAYERS

Teams competing in a NQ Bid award division **MAY NOT** use any players who have an age waiver from their Region unless those players are otherwise age-eligible to play in the division. NQs may allow Teams using players who have a waiver from their Region for age requirements in any division that does **NOT** have a Bid for the GJNCs.

Exception: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2002, (who are defined as 18 & under by the USAV Age Definition) and are in the 11th grade for the current academic year are eligible to compete in 17 & under. **Example:** A 17 year old player who is considered by the Age Definition to compete on an 18s team and is still in the 11th grade for the current academic year, may compete on their 17s team in a qualifying division at a NQ and at GJNC. **Please note:** *This is a National Age Waiver approved by the National Office.* The frozen player rule would still be enforced. A player can play on both a 17s & 18s teams during the season but would become frozen to a roster with whichever team they qualify with and would no longer be eligible to play for both teams in qualification.

With region approval only, teams with waived players may be eligible to participate in the non-qualifying Patriot Division of the GJNC. USAV will fully support the region's decision on whether or not to allow waived players in this division. Waivered players must be waived the entire season in order to participate in the Patriot Division of GJNC. Players **MAY NOT** transfer clubs prior to the GJNC to participate in the Patriot Division.

TEAM ROSTERS

A Team must have a minimum of one (1) head coach and six (6) players. A Team may have a maximum of fifteen (15) players and five (5) additional personnel on their roster, one of which must be listed as the Head Coach. The other four (4) roster positions may be any combination of the following:

1. Assistant Coach
2. 2nd Assistant Coach
3. 3rd Assistant Coach
4. Chaperone
5. Team Representative
6. Team Manager

Rostered Athlete Requirements

All rostered players must be FULL MEMBERS of a Region of USA Volleyball. Athletes turning 18 during the season, whose teammates are minors, will be required to take "Core" Center for SafeSport training upon turning 18. To prevent any disruption in play, the center will allow athletes who are 17, turning 18 during the season to take "Core" given parental consent. Once a player turns 18, he or she will not be permitted to continue play until "Core" SafeSport training has been completed. [Complete the parental consent form](#) before registering for training if you have a minor athlete who needs to take the training. Once the form is completed, your child will be enrolled in SafeSport training. A notification of registration will be sent to the email address on file to access the course.

For all Events, each player is required to wear the same jersey number as listed on the official roster throughout the entire Event, with limited exceptions as required by emergency or blood rule applications. If a player is found playing in the wrong numbered jersey the Event Arbitrator, with the input of the Tournament Director, will determine the penalty(ies) to be imposed. Penalties should be assessed on a case by case basis. Penalties for an illegal number are listed below:

- If the error is discovered prior to or during the match, the player may not compete for the remainder of the match and the roster may not be adjusted until the conclusion of the match
- If the error is discovered at the completion of the match, the player in question may not play in the following match and the roster may be adjusted prior to the match, but must be noted on the scoresheet that the player is ineligible for that match
- A \$50 fine and a roster change fee will be imposed to the team by the tournament. In order for the player to be eligible for play, the penalty must be paid in full. Teams found with a wrong jersey numbers should recognize that additional penalties may be imposed.

The addition of players and/or staff to an official roster is not allowed once a Team has begun Match play in the Event.

Rostered Staff Requirements

All rostered personnel (non-players) must be FULL MEMBERS of a Region of USA Volleyball, be SafeSport trained, and have a current, cleared background screening if applicable. Junior level members under the age of 18 do not need to be background screened and can only serve as a manager on the roster. Junior members 18 years old and above, serving in non-player capacity on a junior Team, must have submitted, and cleared a background screening within 30 days of their 18th Birthday and must be SafeSport trained.

In order to be listed as a coach, serve in a coaching capacity, and/or sit on the Team's bench, one must possess a minimum coaching certification level of IMPACT (Entry Level). An IMPACT certified person, listed on the roster, must be present and on the bench at all times. It is strongly recommended that Teams have more than one IMPACT certified person on their roster and present with the Team at all times. In the Event an IMPACT certified person is not present (late, sick, ejected or disqualified), the Team must have another IMPACT certified person on their roster and on the Team bench for play to begin or continue without forfeit. No additional time will be allowed to comply with the IMPACT certified person requirement to continue play except for unused time outs and/or time allowed between sets.

The Head Coach listed on the Official competition roster must have no other head coach designation with any other Team concurrently within the same Event, with the exception being a single NQ taking place over two weekends.

IMPACT certification rating may be met by successfully completing one of the following programs:

- USA Coaching Accreditation Program (CAP), Levels I, II or III
- RVA IMPACT course (Region or National Office verification required)
- Canadian Volleyball Associations Levels 1-4
- FIVB International Courses Levels 1-3
- ACEP "Principles of Coaching" course with proof of purchase of the USAV IMPACT Manual

The Team Manager position is primarily reserved for, but not restricted to, junior level members (members who are registered in a junior level membership category or are under the age of 18) participating with a junior Team in a non-player capacity. These members cannot be placed in any Team staff position other than “Team Manager”. Junior level staff members must be at least 10 years of age. USA Volleyball, the Event arbitrators, and the NQ designee reserve the right to conduct random ID checks on any staff person listed on the roster at any time.

Individual participation eligibility requirements (membership, background screening, IMPACT, minimum age, SafeSport trained etc.) are subject to verification by USAV, including use of random ID checks by the Event Arbitrator and/or the NQ or GJNCs designee.

USA Volleyball Age and Identity Falsification Policy

Any member in question must provide proof of identity and age eligibility if requested by an Event staff member or a USAV Arbitrator.

The following constitutes as proof of identity and age:

- Current Driver’s License or Identification Card
- Birth Certificate – Junior Members Only
- Military Identification Card
- Current Passport

For all USAV Sanctioned Events, any person who alters a document that certifies the age or identity of a participant, or falsifies any statement that lists the age or identity of a participant, will be penalized as follows:

- A junior player who knowingly plays in a lower age classification than he or she is actually eligible for, or an adult player who knowingly plays in a higher age classification than he or she is actually eligible for, or any player who knowingly misrepresents his or her identity shall be:
 - Immediately suspended from registration with USAV and barred from further participation in the Event; and Barred from participation in any USAV Events, in any capacity, for a minimum of two (2) years; and
 - Placed on a minimum probation of one (1) additional year, to run consecutively with the suspension.
- Any Team Representative, Coach, Club Director or responsible adult found to be a party to such action shall be subject to the same penalties.

When age or identity falsification is discovered and confirmed during an Event, these penalties shall be the required minimum penalty imposed by the Event Arbitrator or the Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee. Additional penalties will be imposed to include forfeitures.

The Event Arbitrator shall file a report detailing the incident of any age or identity violation, to USA Volleyball. USA Volleyball shall notify the Region of the penalty and further actions required.

Gender Competition Policy

To receive the complete USAV Gender Competition Policy, a gender ruling or ask any questions, please contact the USAV Gender Committee at ChairGenderCom@usav.org.

For more information please refer to the USAV website at <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Volleyball/Events/Gender-Competition-Guidelines>.

ROSTER VERIFICATION AND TEAM CHECK IN

Each Event will publish information about the process and requirements for roster verification registration and Team check in.

An adult staff member listed on the roster is required to have a copy of, or access to each player's medical release form at all times. These forms may or may not be required at Team check in depending on each Events policies

For the GJNCs, an adult staff member listed on the roster will need to sign that the club has and abides by a Team travel policy and all other SafeSport policies.

Prior to beginning play an adult staff member (Coach, Club Director or other designated adult) listed on the roster must confirm a Team's presence at the Tournament by signing an Official competition roster (Official Roster). Some NQs may allow another designated adult to check in the Team.

No additions or changes for players or staff on a Team's roster are allowed once a Team has begun match play in the event, except as specifically stipulated elsewhere in this document or outlined in the USAV Rules Book. The person who signs the Official Roster, whether the Coach, Club Director or other designated adult (Signing Agent), assumes all responsibility for verifying that:

- All of the information contained on the Official Roster is both complete and correct, including that:
 - All rostered positions adhere to the requirements listed under TEAM ROSTERS (Please see [Team Rosters](#)) OR have fully completed the necessary process established for Foreign Teams (Please see [Policy on Foreign Individual and Foreign Team Participation](#)).
 - All reported Team competition results are complete and accurate.

If a Team wins an Open Bid or accepts a National, USA or American Bid at a NQ, the players on the Official Roster, as signed by the Signing Agent, are frozen to that Team.

NQs will send the Official Rosters of the Bid winners, Bid acceptance forms and official results for each division of the NQ to the USAV Events Department at the conclusion of the Event (no later than two days post Event). The Events Department will post the qualified Team rosters and results on the USAV website.

(See [Frozen Player Rule](#) below for additional information about Region Bids and At-Large Bids in regards to Official Rosters.)

SAFESPORT

Participation in nationally sanctioned events will require that SafeSport training be completed by all registered adults (note, foreign teams are exempt but we strongly recommend you take the course). Individual regions may set earlier deadlines for their respective regional events.

SAFESPORT TRAINING REQUIREMENT:

SafeSport certification is required for those having frequent contact or authority over athletes. Regions may set earlier deadlines for their respective regional events.

To register for SafeSport training:

Parental consent is required for minor athletes to register for SafeSport training. [Complete the parental consent form](#) before registering.

1. Go to <https://webpoint.usavolleyball.org/>.
2. If you are a new user, click on the "request a login" tab otherwise log in to your USAV account.
3. In the navigation menu, click on USAV Clinics and select either USAV Coaching Clinics.
4. Select SafeSport On-Demand: Two-Season Certification.

5. Complete registration.
6. To access coursework, click on the “Log into USAV” Academy button.

Should you need to return to your coursework at a later time, log in to your USAV account and click on the “Log into USAV” Academy button.

For technical issues, while completing the course, please visit: <http://help.usavolleyballacademy.org/>.

THE “FROZEN PLAYER” RULE

Once a female junior player has participated in a GJNCs qualifying Event (Regional or NQ), she may not be on the Official Roster of, or participate in, another GJNCs qualifying or Championship Event with a different club. Example: a player plays on a club in a national qualifier in an attempt to qualify. The player’s Team does not qualify. That player may not transfer to another club to attempt to qualify.

Earning and accepting an Open Bid, submitting an Open At-Large Bid application or accepting any National, USA, or American Bid defines the Team as “qualified” for the GJNCs. Once a Team is deemed qualified, the players on the qualified Team’s Official Roster are frozen to that Team. The players on the Team’s Official Roster are subject to the following restrictions:

- A Frozen Player cannot be on the roster of, or play for, another Team in a Regional Qualifier or NQ Event, the roster of a Team applying for an Open At-Large Bid, or another Team playing at the GJNCs.
- A club may add player(s) to the Official Roster of one of its Teams qualified for the GJNCs, provided the additional player(s) are members of the club and are not on the Official Roster of another of the club’s Teams at the GJNCs.
- No player may switch from one qualified Team to another qualified Team, even within the same club at the same National Championship (i.e. 18sGJNC or GJNC). **NOTE:** A player under the age of 17 can switch between a Team that has qualified for the 18sGJNC and another Team that has qualified for the GJNC as long as both Teams are within the same club. A player may not help multiple Teams qualify for either GJNCs.
 - a. **EXAMPLE 1:** A player in the 17’s age division plays on an 18’s Team at a national qualifier and that Team Qualifies for the 18sGJNC in the Open Division. That player may not play on any other Team (e.g. a 17s Team trying to qualify for 17 Open) at any National Qualifying Events to help that Team qualify for the GJNC for the remainder of that club season. She may, however, be added to the 17 Open roster to play in the GJNC within that club after the team has already qualified.
 - b. **EXAMPLE 2:** A club has a Team that has qualified for the 18 USA Division of the 18sGJNC, they may add a player from their club who plays on a younger Team to play in the 18sGJNC even if the younger Team has qualified for the GJNC.

Violations of the Frozen Player Rule may result in Sanctions being imposed on the already qualified Team, its club, the Team’s coach, the player and/or the club’s director.

The USAV Events Department will determine Sanctions for violations of the Frozen Player Rule. (See [Penalties for Illegal use of Bid](#))

POLICY ON FOREIGN INDIVIDUAL AND FOREIGN TEAM PARTICIPATION

Definitions	
“Foreign Participant”	A participant who is not a citizen of the United States OR a citizen residing in a U.S. Territory having its own National Volleyball Federation to which the participant is affiliated.
“Non-Resident” Foreign Participant	A person who is not a citizen of the United States residing outside the 50 United States OR an individual residing in a U.S. Territory, having its own National Volleyball Federation to which the participant is affiliated.
“Resident” Foreign Participant	A person who is not a citizen of the United States and resides in one of the 50 United States and holding “resident” versus “visitor” status. Proof of “Resident” status includes providing documentation substantiating enrollment and attendance in an educational institution in the United States (excludes on-line courses) OR proof of employment in the United States AND a corresponding physical residence address (excludes a P.O. Box or “care of” address). A copy of a current student or work visa is required for the duration of eligibility.
Foreign Participant “Release”	Written approval by a foreign participant’s National Volleyball Federation of origin for that person to affiliate or participate with USA Volleyball.

NQS & GJNCS

Only U.S. Territories (American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands) and their associated Federations are eligible to participate in any division of the NQs and the GJNCs.,

A non- U.S. territory Team (from a country not included in the U.S. Territories list) may participate in any non-qualifying division at a Tournament at the Tournament director’s discretion but cannot participate in a qualification division at a NQ or GJNCs (to include the Patriot Divisions).

POLICY:

Concurrent registration with more than one National Volleyball Federation is prohibited.

- A **Resident Foreign Participant**, who has competed in international competition representing his/her country/federation of origin (i.e. Youth National Team, Junior National Team, Senior National Team, or other "elite" Team that has represented that country in international competition) is required to have a written release from that volleyball federation of origin before he/she can become a registered member of a Regional Volleyball Association.
- This would not apply to a participant who has been in continuous legal residence in the United States and unaffiliated with a foreign national volleyball federation for greater than two (2) years.

FOREIGN PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

Subject to the above Table of Definitions and Policy, a **Resident Foreign Participant** (residing legally in the United States, e.g. exchange student) may participate if she/he is a duly registered member of a USA Volleyball Regional Volleyball Association (RVA) and follows all Event participation policies and registration procedures.

A **Non-Resident Foreign Participant** shall not be eligible to participate (see the *Foreign Guest Coach Policy* for exceptions).

FOREIGN TEAM ELIGIBILITY

Foreign Team Participation (this only includes U.S. Territories for qualification divisions of the NQs and GJNC) for National **Junior** Competitions (e.g. USA Volleyball Girls Junior National Championships, National Qualifiers and all Qualifying Events):

- A Foreign Team (registered with its National Volleyball Federation) may participate if it duly applies for and is accepted in compliance with the Event's regulations, is not representing its country in an official capacity, and the federation of origin grants permission for participation.
- Foreign Teams must purchase foreign participant insurance, which will be provided by USA Volleyball. The expense shall be debited to the Event at cost and shall be added to the entry fee.
- Each member of a Foreign Team shall have in his/her possession(s), and shall have previously filed with the Event Director, the following documents:
 - Photo identification (Driver's license, passport or comparable government issued document); and
 - A signed copy of the USA Volleyball Code of Conduct and Waiver and Release of Liability (provided on page 2 of the Foreign Participant Registration form).
- Additionally, for junior-age competitions, each foreign player (of a foreign Team) must also possess and have on file with the Event Director:
 - Copy of birth certificate or Government Issue Identification with birth date; and
 - USA Volleyball's "Consent for Medical Treatment & Release" form, signed by the player's parent or legal guardian.

FOREIGN TEAM REGISTRATION

This applies to **ALL NON-USA** Volleyball members or Member Organizations (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, Canada, Mexico, etc.):

Required Individual Forms

- **Players and Staff:** Foreign Participant Registration Form, which includes the Code of Conduct on page 2
- **Coaches Only:** Proof of Coaching Certification equivalent to IMPACT
- **Players and Staff:** Copy of photo ID (i.e. Passport)
- **Players Only:** Copy of Birth Certificate (note, a passport will also fill this requirement)

Required Team Forms/Fees

- Entry Form
- Foreign Summary Team Participation Form
- \$100 US Dollars for Insurance
- A letter of good standing from their volleyball federation

NOTE: If any foreign Teams attend your Tournament, please collect all of the required paperwork and insurance checks. You will then forward the paperwork and insurance checks to the USAV Office, Attention: USAV Events Department Foreign Teams are required to complete the paperwork and pay the insurance fee only once during the current season.

TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS

OFFICIALS

All pool play and playoff bracket Matches must have a USAV-certified official as the first referee.

All gold level (3rd pool) Matches in Open Division, and semifinal and final Matches of gold level National, USA and American Divisions, must have USAV-certified first. It is recommended to have second referees provided.

NOTE: It is recommended that there be first and second referees for gold level quarterfinals in National, USA, or American Divisions.

AWARDS

It is the obligation of the head coach to be aware of his/her individual State High School Association rules regarding the acceptance of awards. If necessary, present the properly signed papers as required by your State High School Activities Association.

All Events will, at a minimum provide the following awards:

- A Team plaque or trophy to each first, second, and third place Teams in the gold level of each Open, National, USA, American and Patriot (GJNCs only) Division that is hosted by the Event.
- Individual awards of minimal value (non-merchandise such as a plaque, trophy or medal) to each player on each first, second, and third place Teams in the gold level of each Open, National, USA, American and Patriot (GJNCs only) Division that is hosted by the Event.
- NQs will not select or give awards for All-Tournament Teams.
- For the GJNCs, All-Tournament and Most Valuable Player (MVP) awards will be given in the following age divisions: 18, 17, 16 and 15 Open, National, USA, and American Divisions.

TEAM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR NQS

The date a NQ receives an entry application does not automatically determine the Team's acceptance into the Tournament. All entry requirements must be met.

Each individual NQ may have additional entry requirements. These requirements shall be clearly specified in the respective NQs entry procedure documents and information.

TEAM ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA FOR NQS

NQs will accept Teams who have met all entry requirements until available space is filled, or the deadline date, whichever comes first, based on the following criteria:

- Postmark or electronic date of complete entry requirements, as specified by each Event.
- Strength.
- If the NQ limits the number of accepted Teams per club, per division, that limit can be no less than two (2) Teams per club, per division, but may be higher (maximum number of accepted Teams per club, per division to be set by each NQ and clearly stated in the NQs pre-Tournament information).
- Entries from the host state where the NQ is conducted.

A NQ may prioritize the criteria points above as it best meets the needs of that NQ, however, the method by which a NQ will turn Teams away should the Event, or a Division of the Event, be oversubscribed must be clearly stated in that NQs published Tournament information.

After the deadline date Teams may be accepted at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

If a division is filled to capacity by the time a Team completes the entry process, the NQ may offer Teams denied entry into the opportunity to move into another offered division where space is available.

Under no circumstance is a Team that is denied entry into any division guaranteed a berth in any other division.

ATHLETIC TRAINERS

Each NQ and the GJNCs will provide athletic trainers during all hours of competition and for at least 45 minutes prior to the beginning of competition each day. All trainers are required to be SafeSport trained and successfully pass a USAV background check.

PROTEST COMMITTEE

Each Event must have an on-site Protest Committee consisting of one (1) to three (3) members, one of which will be the Head Official or Head Scorer depending on the nature of the protest. Other members may consist of the Tournament director or his/her designee, and another qualified person to rule on protests lodged by Teams regarding officiating.

- No Protest Committee member can coach a Team in the Tournament.
- All rulings of this committee are final and not subject to appeal.
- All protests will be settled at the time they are lodged.
 - No Match will be allowed to proceed until the protest is settled.
- Protests can be related ONLY to the rules of play. Judgement calls are NOT subject to protest
 - Misinterpretation of a playing rule
 - Failure of the first referee to apply the correct rule to a given situation
 - Failure to charge the correct penalty-Sanction for a given fault.

ETHICS AND ELIGIBILITY

All Junior National Championship Events offer participants the ability to access normal due process channels should their eligibility to participate be in question. Procedures, including appeal options, are outlined above in this manual.

Event Arbitrators

Event Arbitrators are appointed by USAV and are present for NQs and GJNCs. They are the first level for hearing and resolving ethics and eligibility issues at a specific USA Volleyball Event. Teams or individuals accused of committing violations of rules and regulations at a NQ or GJNCs must meet with the Event Arbitrator(s) for resolution.

The authority for the Event Arbitrator begins with the arrival of a Team and individual participants in the Event's city or 48 hours prior to the first day of competition, whichever is earlier, and shall continue through the duration of the Event, through 30 minutes after the conclusion of the final Match of the Event.

Decisions of the Event Arbitrator shall be conveyed immediately to the affected parties and may be appealed to the Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee appointed for each Event of USA Volleyball.

Event Appeals Committee Duties

The committee must meet as promptly as possible following the filing of an appeal or after an arbitrator's recommendation of a sanction which would continue beyond the term of the event. The committee must conduct a full, fair, and objective hearing. Upon completion of the hearing, the committee should confer and render one of the following four decisions:

- **Uphold the decision** of the arbitrator(s).
- **Rescind the decision** of the arbitrator(s).
- **Modify or amend the decision** of the arbitrator(s). The amendment can be more or less restrictive than the arbitrator's decision.
- Rescind the decision of the arbitrator(s) *and* **render a new judgment**.
- The decisions of the Event Appeals Committee are final with respect to eligibility or privileges at the event; no further appeal is available at the event.

Event Appeals Committee Members

For all USAV Championship events, the committee consists of three individuals (age 21 or older), as follows:

- A person appointed by the Event Director.
- A person who is or has been an elected or appointed USAV lay leader.
- A person who meets the definition of a domestic athlete.
 - For all qualifier and bid events, the committee consists of three members (age 21 or older), as follows:
 - A committee chair appointed by the Event Director.
 - Two other persons (one a domestic athlete) who have no connection to the persons involved in the incident. All coaches on the event roster are ineligible to serve on this committee

