

Definitions and Guidelines

RVA-Sanctioned Regional and Interregional Competition

(for Adult and Junior Teams and Players)

These definitions, guidelines and conditions shall be used for team and individual eligibility for participation in USAV Regional Volleyball Association (RVA) sanctioned interregional competition. This may or may not apply to USAV-sanctioned competitions.

- A. Authority. Refer to Bylaws, Article XIII, Operating Code, Article VII (Regional Volleyball Associations), and the Regional Assembly Administrative Manual.
- B. Definitions. Refer to USAV Operating Code, Article VII
 - 1. Athletes.
 - a) Eligible Athlete. An athlete who is eligible for Olympic, FIVB and USAV competition pursuant to the current codes of eligibility of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the FIVB, the USOC and USAV. Eligibility rules for athletes who desire to compete in domestic and/or international volleyball competitions shall be no more restrictive than those of the FIVB.
 - b) Ineligible Athlete. An athlete ruled to be in violation of the current eligibility requirements of the IOC, the FIVB, the USOC or USAV.
 - c) International Athlete. Refer to Bylaws.
 - d) Domestic Athlete. Refer to Bylaws.
 - e) USA National Team Athlete. An athlete who has competed in protected competition (Indoor or Beach) as defined by the USOC Constitution and Bylaws or whose name has been included on a National Team roster (Senior, Junior, Youth).
 - f) Foreign National Team Athlete. A foreign athlete who has been certified by his or her National Federation to be a current member of one of its National Teams.
 - g) Junior Volleyball Athlete. An athlete who meets the age/grade requirements, as specified, and is registered by a Member Organization that has been authorized by the Corporation to conduct Junior Volleyball activity.
 - h) Adult Athlete. An athlete who does not meet the definition of a Junior Volleyball Athlete.
- C. Types of Team Competition
 - 1. Junior Volleyball Competition. Competition for athletes meeting the definition of a Junior Volleyball Athlete in Corporation-approved age group classifications.
 - 2. Adult Competition. Competition for athletes not meeting the eligibility standards for Junior Volleyball competition.
 - 3. Co-Ed Competition. Competition for teams composed of females and males playing in various combinations consistent with the regulations adopted by the Corporation.
- D. Classification of Teams and Competitions of Member Organizations
 - 1. U.S. Open Tournament Teams. Teams composed of athletes from any source who are highly skilled, elite-level performers.
 - 2. U.S. Club Tournament Teams. Teams composed of athletes from the same Member Organization consistent with tournament requirements.
 - 3. U.S. Masters and Seniors Tournament Teams. Teams composed of athletes who meet the approved minimum age.
 - 4. U.S. Junior Tournament Teams. Teams composed of athletes from a Member Organization who meet the approved maximum age.

5. U.S. Park Volley and Beach Tournament Teams. Teams composed of athletes from any source consistent with tournament requirements.
 6. U.S. Co-Ed Tournament Teams. Teams composed of athletes meeting the definition of co-ed competition and consistent with tournament requirements. Teams may be conglomerated from any source.
 7. U.S. U-Volley Tournament Teams. Teams composed of female or male athletes who do not exceed the maximum individual height defined by the current FIVB Rules of Play.
- E. Volleyball Season for Regional Volleyball Associations: The RVAA and each RVA shall determine the dates of the fellowship and sanctioned seasons consistent with the USA Volleyball Championship Events program. The Regional Assembly shall ensure that such seasons are in conformance with the insurance contract/program of the Corporation.
1. The indoor six-player sanctioned season shall generally begin no later than Jan. 1 and end Aug. 31 or at the conclusion of the last USA Volleyball championship event, whichever is later.
 2. The junior indoor sanctioned season generally is concurrent with the adult but may vary from state to state due to high school, leagues and other considerations.
 3. The season for any RVA competition may be established by the RVA and published by the RVA.
 4. The RVA Assembly/Junior Assembly shall inform the USAV National Office of any changes in applicable competition standards. In addition, the Assemblies shall ensure the dates and applicable standards are published, unless such requirements are already published as part of the USAV Operating Code.
 5. A player may compete in more than one season/discipline, either concurrently or consecutively.
- F. Rules of the Game Governing Play
1. FIVB Rules: The strict English translation of the playing rules approved and adopted by the FIVB Rules of the Game Commission.
 2. Domestic Competition Regulations: Clarification and safety modifications of the FIVB Rules as approved by the USA Volleyball Rules Testing Commission, for domestic competition and specified in the current
 3. Domestic Competition Regulations published by USA Volleyball.
 4. National Sanctioned Events: Must be played with the FIVB Rules or the Domestic Competition Regulations unless approved in advance by the USA Volleyball Rules Testing Commission. Such variance must be published with the tournament announcement.
 5. RVA Competition: Uses the rules of play adopted by USA Volleyball or a variation thereof approved by USAV.
- G. Sanctioning: Sanctioned competition protects a player's eligibility for participation in regional, zonal, national and international competition.
1. Any team or club desiring to conduct a volleyball tryout, trial, event, local, regional, or zonal competition shall seek a sanction/approval from the RVA where the competition is to take place.
 2. See the USAV Guidebook for sanction requirements for national and international competition, USA Volleyball Championship events and national team exhibition competitions, trials and events.
 3. The following competitions may require a sanction from the RVA.
 - a) Fellowship competition.
 - b) Recreation competition.

NOTE: Non-sanctioned competitions are not covered by USAV insurance.

H. Eligibility for RVA-Sanctioned Competitions

1. Registration

- a) All participants (e.g., players, coaches, managers, team trainers, officials, teams and others) who are involved in a sanctioned competition shall be registered through the appropriate RVA.
- b) Refer to Foreign Team policy for foreign national player registration.

2. Representation

- a) Indoor Six-Player Teams: All participants shall abide by the rules and guidelines regarding club affiliation as established by the Regional Volleyball Association in which they hold a membership. A change in geographical location due to a job or military transfer, or scholastic or collegiate status, may receive special consideration. The player (or in case of a minor, the parents or guardian) desiring to change shall submit a request for transfer to the Commissioner of the RVAs involved. RVAs may establish exceptions to this rule, such as release and transfers between intraregional teams.
 - b) Fellowship, Co-ed and Outdoor Teams: A player may represent any number of teams or clubs in sanctioned competitions during these seasons only, whether concurrent or consecutive.
 - c) Conglomerate Seniors and Masters Teams: Players of these teams may compete in all open sanctioned competitions during a current sanctioned season consistent with the rules and regulations of the RVA where they are registered, without jeopardizing their individual eligibility.
 - d) Junior National Volleyball Teams: All participants shall abide by the rules and guidelines regarding club affiliation as established by the Regional Volleyball Association in which they hold a membership. A family relocation due to a job or military transfer may receive special consideration. The player, or in case of a minor, the parents or guardian, desiring to change will be required to submit a request for transfer to another team or RVA to the Commissioner of the RVA(s) involved. RVAs may establish exceptions to this rule, such as release and transfers between intraregional teams. It is recommended that these guidelines be published and distributed.
3. Non-Sanctioned Competition: RVA-registered players and teams competing in non-sanctioned competition may jeopardize their eligibility, depending upon the policies and/or regulations of the Regional Volleyball Association where they are registered. USAV insurance is not in force during these competitions.
 4. Participant's Code of Conduct: All participants in sanctioned competition shall sign and abide by the Participant's Code of Conduct as adopted by the Regional Assembly and Junior Assembly in concurrence with that document as issued by USAV. See the USA Volleyball Guidebook and the Governing Documents sections for the USAV wording of subject code.
 5. Substance Abuse Policy: All participants shall abide by RVA and USAV Policies and Sanctions for Substance Abuse. See the USA Volleyball Guidebook and the Governing Documents section for the USAV wording of subject policies.

I. Eligibility Requirements for Sanctioned RVA Tournaments

1. Tournament Entry Requirements

- a) When a team applies for entry into a sanctioned event or tournament, it shall specify the division and classification of competition for which it is applying.
- b) When more than one classification of competition is conducted simultaneously by the sanctioning RVA:
 - 1) a player shall be eligible to compete for only one team and in only one tournament, regardless of eligibility for more than one; and

- 2) a team shall compete in no more than one tournament simultaneously, regardless of its eligibility for more than one.
2. General Eligibility Requirements: Players and teams shall satisfy the requirements in Section 1. RVAs may impose tournament-specific requirements.

NOTE: Information regarding Guidelines for Conducting Tournaments may be found on the website at www.usavolleyball.org and in the Domestic Competition Regulations.

(Initially adopted in May 1976 and amended periodically as required. Any amendments made to this document not reflected here will be posted on the USA Volleyball website at www.usavolleyball.org.)