

EVENT MANUAL

Kentucky Exposition Center

May 28 - June 2, 2021



WELCOME TO LOUISVILLE – 2021

On behalf of USA Volleyball and the Events Department, it is our pleasure to join our hosts to welcome you to Louisville, KY and the Kentucky Exposition Center for the 2021 USA Volleyball Open National Championships. We thank you for your continued support and offer our best wishes to each participant for a successful and enjoyable experience.

First time participants can look forward to a time of fellowship and making new friends; returning players to the renewal of friendships and the making of new ones.

We extend our thanks to the Louisville Sports Commission and the Pioneer Region of USA Volleyball for helping to host this event. They are already working hard preparing for this big competition.



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QUICK FACTS

DATES OF COMPETITION & ENTRY FEES

		THURSDAY 27-May-21	FRIDAY 28-May-21 Day 1	SATURDAY 29-May-21 Day 2	SUNDAY 30-May-21 Day 3	MONDAY 31-May-21 Day 4	TUESDAY 1-Jun-21 Day 5	WEDNESDAY 2-Jun-21 Day 6
Division	Entry Fee		Matches	Matches	Matches	Matches	Matches	Matches
Open / VLA (M/W)	\$ 1,350.00		Team Check-In*	Pool Play			Finals	
AA (M/W)	\$ 900.00	Team Check-In*	Pool Play		Finals			
A (M/W)	\$ 900.00				Team Check-In*	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals
BB (M/W)	\$ 900.00	Team Check-In**	Pool Play		Finals			
B (M/W)	\$ 900.00				Team Check-In*	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals
MEN 45+	\$ 900.00	Team Check-In*	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals			
WOMEN 40+	\$ 900.00	Team Check-In*	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals			
MEN 40+	\$ 900.00				Team Check-In*	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals
WOMEN 45+	\$ 900.00				Team Check-In*	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals
MEN 55+	\$ 900.00	Team Check-In*	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals			

WOMEN 50+	\$ 900.00	Team Check-In*	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals			
MEN 50+	\$ 900.00				Team Check-In*	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals
WOMEN 55+	\$ 900.00				Team Check-In*	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals
MEN 65+	\$ 800.00	Team Check-In*	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals			
WOMEN 60+	\$ 800.00	Team Check-In*	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals			
MEN 60+	\$ 800.00				Team Check-In*	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals
Women's 65+	\$ 800.00				Team Check-In*	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals
MEN 70+	\$ 800.00				Team Check-In*	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals
74	\$ 800.00	Team Check-In*	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals			
78	\$ 800.00				Team Check-In*	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals
SPECIAL OLYMPICS	\$ 550.00	Team Check-In*	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals			
SITTING	\$ 250.00				Team Check-In*	Pool Play	Pool Play	
Coed 4s A	\$ 250.00		Team Check-In*	Pool Play	Finals			
Coed 4s BB	\$ 250.00				Team Check-In*	Pool Play	Finals	

NOTE: An additional \$100 fee for insurance is charged for all Non-USA teams. Canadian teams are exempt with proof of medical coverage in the U.S.

***ALL teams must be checked in by 9pm on their designated registration day. Failure to check in WILL result in forfeiture of your first match.**

****All teams will play at least one match on the last day of your play schedule (Finals).**

DEADLINES

All teams will submit entry forms and fees directly to the *USA Volleyball National Office* by the established deadline listed below.

ALL TEAMS / ALL DIVISIONS (US and Foreign)	
On-line Tournament Registration in AES All DIVISIONS	Thursday, April 22, 2021* no later than, 11:59 PM ET
Online Roster Edits	Thursday, April 29, 2021 by 11:59 PM ET
Last Day to Receive Entry Refund	Thursday, May 6, 2021 by 11:59 PM ET
Manual Roster Edits	Thursday, May 20th, 2021 (Changes must be submitted by 11:59 PM ET) Email changes to: opens@usav.org
Seeding Form	Monday, May 19, 2021, by 11:59 PM ET

All payments must be received by 11:59 PM EST, April 22nd, 2021 in order to complete your registration. If payment is not received by the designated deadline, your team will be dropped from the tournament.

***Teams registering after the deadline or dropped for non-payment will be placed on a waitlist until a spot becomes available in the desired division. If a spot becomes available and the waitlisted team gets accepted into the tournament, the team will be charged a \$100 late fee, payable by check or credit card. No spots are guaranteed after the April 22nd deadline.**

FOREIGN TEAMS ADDITIONAL DEADLINE	
Complete Package of Foreign Team Registration Forms	Monday, May 17 by 11:59 PM ET

Each foreign (non-USA) team is **REQUIRED** to send in their individual and team forms to the USA Volleyball National Office prior to the Event by email at opens@usav.org, mail, or fax 719.228.6899. **One packet per team.**

REQUIRED INDIVIDUAL FORMS

1. Players and Staff: [Foreign Participant Registration Form](#), which includes the Code of Conduct on page 2
2. Players and Staff: Copy of photo ID (i.e. Passport)

REQUIRED TEAM FORMS/FEES

1. [Foreign Summary Team Participation Form](#)
2. Foreign Team Insurance Fee - \$100/team or \$10/player *

*Canadian teams must provide Letter of Good Standing from Volleyball Canada to qualify for the insurance fee waiver OR proof of 24-hour medical insurance coverage while in the United States will work in place of Letter of Good Standing.

TOURNAMENT TEAM CHECK – IN

All check-in procedures will take place at the Kentucky Expo Center. In an effort to make the registration process more efficient, we have designated the day before each division competition begins for check-in. We do encourage teams to check-in early if you are onsite prior to your check-in date, however, priority will be given to the divisions designated to that day of check-in. Teams must be completely checked in prior to closure of registration (9PM) on their designated check-in day. Teams that fail to check-in during this time frame will be subject to forfeiture of their first match of the tournament. Teams are NOT allowed to check in the morning or afternoon of their first competition day. Please arrange travel accordingly to ensure you arrive on your check-in day.

This will be enforced! Teams that have not checked in by 9PM on their designated registration day will forfeit their first match and subsequent matches if complete check-in isn't acquired by those match times.

Divisions	Date/Time
AA, BB, Men 45+, Women 40+, Men 55+, Women 50+, Men 65+, Women 60+, Men 74+, Special Olympics	Thursday, May 27, 2021 1:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Open, Coed 4s A	Friday, May 28, 2021 1:00 PM – 9:00 PM
A, B, Men 40+, Women 45+, Men 50+, Women 55+, Men 60+, Women 65+, Men 70+, Men 78+, Sitting, Coed 4s BB	Sunday, May 30, 2021 1:00 PM – 9:00 PM

- Only one (1) team representative or coach should go to the check-in desk in the Kentucky Exposition Center to check-in their team(s).
 - The team representative/coach will receive wristbands and other information.
 - Schedules will be available online and at the Results Station.
1. The team representative/coach will verify the team roster and uniform numbers.
 - Once verified, the roster will be in effect throughout the Championships. No additions/changes to the roster or uniform number changes are allowed once play begins.
 - The team roster is limited to fifteen (15) players and five (5) adults. ONLY those persons whose names appear on the verified roster receive wristbands and are permitted to sit on the bench.

ROSTER ADDITIONS & CHANGE DEADLINES

The roster may be changed for free prior to May 20th, 2021 at 11:59 PM Mountain Daylight Time. Between this deadline and the team's first match, the following fees will apply. No changes may be made after the first match has started.

Action	Fee
Addition of participants to the roster after the deadline will be done on-site	\$50 each addition
Team name change after the deadline	\$25
Jersey number change	Free

After the entry form has been submitted, the following procedure is used to request any change to the original entry / roster.

Team Representatives:

- **Prior to the April 29th** online roster change deadline, you may edit and make changes to your roster through the AES system
- **Between April 29th and May 20th**, all roster changes will need to be made by a USAV Events Employee to confirm membership has been completed. Please email events@usav.org for any roster changes during this time.


CAPTAINS' & TEAM REPRESENTATIVE MEETINGS

Team Representatives and/or Captains for the teams competing in the **Open Division** will need to attend a team meeting prior to competition. **All other divisions will receive tournament information upon check-in.**

Date	Time	Participants
Friday, May 28 th	7:00 PM	All teams competing in the Open tournaments (May 29 th – June 1 st)

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT BALL

NO USED TOURNAMENT BALLS WILL BE SOLD AT THIS EVENT.

Molten FLISTATEC	
	<p>Men's and Women's AA, A, BB, B</p> <p>Men's and Women's 40+ and 45+</p> <p>Sitting</p> <p>Coed 4s</p>
Molten Super Touch	
	<p>Women's 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+</p> <p>Men's 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+, 73+, 76+, 78+</p> <p>Special Olympics</p>
Molten FIVB Volleyball	
	<p>Open</p>

GENERAL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

GENERAL SEEDING INFORMATION

Information about the brackets, seeding of the tournament and scheduled match times will be available during the check-in process. It will also be posted at the “Results” stations near the Championship Desk in the playing venue.

Seeding for the USA Volleyball Open National Championships is determined by examining various criteria provided by the regions, team representatives and past results. Upon registration, please fill out and submit the USAV digital seeding form. Seeding criteria include but are not limited to those items listed below:

1. OPEN Teams

- a. Gold Flight Finish from previous year (four returning starters retain seed)
- b. Roster strength (when known)
- c. Previous National experience
- d. Region Ranking
- e. Balance within pools as to geographical area

2. CLUB Classification Teams (AA, A, BB, B)

- a. Gold Flight Finish from previous year (four returning starters retain seed)
- b. Previous National Experience (depending on overall finish)
- c. Zonal Finish
- d. Results from “out of region” tournaments
- e. Typical Strength of region teams
- f. Ranking within region (provided by the region’s commissioner)
- g. Balance within pools as to Zone, Region and geographical area

3. AGE Classification Teams

- a. Gold Flight Finish from previous year (four returning starters retain seed)
- b. Teams moving up in age classification who were Gold Flight finishers in previous national tournaments
- c. Previous National Experience
- d. Results from “out of region” tournaments
- e. Ranking within region (provided by the region’s commissioner)
- f. Balance within pools as to Zone, Region and geographical area

FORFEITS & WITHDRAWALS

When your team enters this Championship Event, you have made a commitment to play the full tournament. USAV places high importance on attendance of Finals Matches at every level. In other words: *Schedule your travel to allow competition through the completion of the tournament.*

- **Matches CANNOT BE RESCHEDULED to accommodate travel schedules.**
- Be prepared to play at 8am on the first day and as late as 9pm on the championship day.

WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE

If a team must withdraw from a match, it is the responsibility of the team representative to inform the Competition Director no later than one (1) hour after completion of the team's last match.

The Championship Committee will attempt to fill the Finals Match of any flight, and / or determine an alternative action as required.

WITHDRAWAL RULES

If a team withdraws from competition after pool play has begun, and prior to the conclusion of subject pool play, all match records shall stand. All un-played matches shall be forfeited per the Rules of Play and counted in the win-loss tabulation accordingly. All other teams in that pool shall be advanced for assignment to the next stage of competition.

WITHDRAWAL PENALTIES

Barring injury or emergency, withdrawal from a match will result in the following at the discretion of the Championship Committee:

- Forfeiture of all standing in the tournament (including seeding for future events)
- Recommendation for disciplinary action to the Organization which they represent
- Disciplinary action including suspending participation in future USAV Championship Events

OFFICIALS



Referees: USA National Referees will be assigned as first referees (R1) to the USAV Club, Masters / Seniors tournaments. USA National Referees and FIVB Arbiters will be assigned to the USAV Open tournaments.



Scorekeepers: USA National Scorekeepers will be assigned to all matches in the Event. The Officials' Division may approve the use of lower USAV-rated Scorekeepers, as necessary, in the USAV Club BB and B, Masters/Seniors tournaments.

TEAM OFFICIATING DUTIES

- Teams entered in the Open Division will NOT be required to provide work teams. The higher entry fee provides for full officiating support teams and best of five (5) set matches.
- Teams entered in the Collegiate, Club (AA, A, BB, B), Masters / Seniors, and Sitting tournaments are required to provide a total of four (4) support officials: one (1) second referee, two (2) line judges, one (1) Libero Tracker & scoreboard operator. Officiating assignments will be listed on-line through AES. These assignments generally will be immediately prior to or after the match in which the team has played.
- Only the Competition Director / designee may release a team from an officiating assignment.
- Failure to provide officials as assigned will result in the following actions:
 - **1st Offense:** For every minute the officiating team is late, or does not appear, one point shall be assessed and given to their next opponent – up to a 25-0 forfeit of the first set. This time calculation will begin at the designated warm-up time ten minutes prior to the time when the assigned match begins.
 - **Additional Offenses:** Forfeiture of assigned team's next match.

AWARDS

GOLD FLIGHTS * (Team and Individual Awards)	SILVER, & BRONZE FLIGHTS (Team Awards Only)
★ Champions ★ Runners-Up ★ 3 rd Place ★ All-Tournament & MVP	★ 1st Place

One All-Tournament team (six players only) will be selected from the men's and women's gold flight competition only.

Most Valuable Player: one player may be selected for this recognition in each classification from the gold flight only and shall be in addition to the players named to the All-Tournament team.

***NOTE:** There will not be an All-Tournament team or MVP selected for Co-Ed divisions or Specials Olympics. Should a 4-team tournament be approved for competition, there will not be individual awards or All-Tournament recognition.

ALL-TOURNAMENT & MVP SELECTION CRITERIA

- The criteria for consideration of selection to an All-Tournament team are:
 - Playing effectiveness (60 percent)
 - Team play (20 percent)
 - Demonstration of good sportsmanship, general attitude and conduct on and off the court (20 percent).
 - Any player who has been sanctioned by either the Event Arbitrator and/or a match referee shall not be considered for All-Tournament selection.
- The criteria for consideration of selection as the Most Valuable Player are:
 - Team play (75 percent)
 - Value to his/her team at critical times consistently throughout competition (15 percent)
 - Demonstration of strong leadership qualities during the conduct of competition (10 percent).

The selection process will utilize the Tournament Selection Committee as well as tournament participants.

- The All-Tournament Selection Committee appointed by the Events Department for the event will assign observers and process nominations.
- Participating teams will be given an opportunity to nominate outstanding players at each match during medal-round competition.
- Team representatives will be given an opportunity to meet with an All-Tournament Committee member to determine the final selections on the final day of competition.

USAV ALOCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMSUMPTION POLICY

USA Volleyball prohibits the consumption of alcoholic beverages on or near courtside by any participant listed on the roster (e.g., players, coaches, assistant coaches, team representatives, managers, and trainers) during competition and work assignments. Consumption of alcoholic beverages on or near courtside during competition or work assignments could result in disciplinary action such as a warning, deduction of point(s), participant disqualification, game or match forfeiture, team disqualification, or other such sanction.

COOLER & ICE CHEST POLICY

Coolers / Ice chests are NOT permitted inside the convention center facilities.

PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES

Practice time on competition courts will be available beginning at 1:00 PM on Thursday, May 27th. All practice sessions will be limited to a one (1) hour session. Teams may sign up for practice courts anytime that the registration / check-in desk is open. Teams beginning play after Friday, May 28th, will be assigned practice courts as / if available.

BALL HANDLING

All ball handling is restricted to the court surfaces within the convention center. No ball handling is permitted on the concrete surfaces or hallways of the facility.

SPORTS MEDICINE / FIRST AID / TAPING

A taping / training area and athletic trainers will be available. Taping supplies will NOT be furnished. Players must provide the tape / bandage or the player will be charged for needed supplies. Hospitals are located near the playing venue / headquarters hotel. Emergency transportation (to hospitals only) will be provided if needed. The athletic trainers' facility will be located on the Convention Center floor in a central location.

EQUIPMENT APPROVALS

Braces, prosthetic limbs, or other headgear that may cause injury or give an artificial advantage to the player may not be worn. Braces do not need to be approved before the tournament starts, but if for any reason a referee deems a brace unacceptable, the matter will be brought to the Head Referee for a final decision.

EVENT MERCHANDISE

Event merchandise may be purchased in the Kentucky Exposition Center during the USA Volleyball Open National Championships.

NO USED TOURNAMENT BALLS WILL BE SOLD AT THIS EVENT.

VENDOR LICENSING & RESTRICTIONS

Under the terms of the contractual agreement between USA Volleyball and the Kentucky Exposition Center, there are strict regulations and specified restrictions as to the sale of retail and wholesale merchandise and other items in all areas of the playing venue.

USA Volleyball also has regulations in respect to the sales of event-specific merchandise and resale items normally licensed through its Marketing Department. This notice is posted for your information.

Violations of these conditions by a Member Organization or registered individuals, and made known to USA Volleyball, are subject to disciplinary and possibly legal action by USA Volleyball.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: PERMISSION TO SELL

Sales of merchandise, services, officials' apparel and equipment, souvenirs, publications, food or drink and all other items at the playing venue is strictly prohibited unless prior written license is received from USA Volleyball specific to this Event and the Kentucky Exposition Center, as applicable.

REQUIRED RESOURCES

We recommend that every Team Representative purchase or download and have in his / her possession a current copy of the USA Volleyball Guidebook and USA Rule Book in order to be sufficiently aware of required information regarding the USA Volleyball Bylaws, Operating Code, other policies and procedures.

COMPETITION RULES

RULES OF PLAY

The USAV Indoor Rules Book will be in effect throughout the season and for the 2021 USA Volleyball Open National Championship (see: <https://usavolleyball.org/resources-for-officials/rulebooks-and-interpretations/> to download the Rule Book). Participants, coaches and team representatives in the USA Volleyball Open National Championships are subject to and must obey ALL rules, regulations and policies of USA Volleyball herein or otherwise written.

Please review the 2020-2021 Critical Rules and Interpretations training material below:

<https://usavolleyball.org/resources-for-officials/rulebooks-and-interpretations/>

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).

- **New USAV 4.3b:** The legality of a team's uniform(s) is not grounds for a protest by their opponent. The determination of a team's uniform legality is the responsibility of the match referee(s), head referee(s), and/or tournament staff.
- **USAV 6.4.2:** If failure to adhere to Rule 6.4.2 is due to insufficient players on a team to begin a match, the team forfeits the first set at match time. After a team forfeits the first set of a match, an interval of up to 10 minutes shall be allowed for the team to produce sufficient players to play the next set. If the team is complete (per USAV4.1.1c) prior to the expiration of this interval, the late team will be permitted use of the full court for a four-minute warm-up before play begins. If, after the 10-minute interval the team is not complete, the second set shall be declared a forfeit. If the match consists of the best three out of five sets, an additional 10-minute interval shall be allowed before the match is declared a forfeit.
- **New USAV 7.3.4:** If a team submits a line-up sheet that lists a player's number as both a Libero and as a starting player, the coach or captain shall immediately decide whether that player will be a Libero or a starting player. If the duplicate number will be a Libero, the coach must correct the line-up but only in the starting position where the Libero's number was recorded. If the duplicate number will be the starting player, another player may immediately be designated as Libero. The team will not be charged a substitution.
- **USAV 24.3.1a:** The 2nd referee's line-up check prior to the start of any set is a courtesy. It is the responsibility of the captain and/or coach to ensure the players maintain the correct service order once the 2nd referee has completed this line-up check.

Key rules for all 2-out of-3 matches are listed below:

- Rally Score to 25 points, all sets must be won by a margin of 2 points
- Deciding set of a best 2-out-of-3 match will be rally scoring to 15 points
- 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.
- Twelve (12) substitutions and up to two (2) Liberos
 - If two (2) Liberos are used, they must be identified prior to the start of the match

- If zero (0) or one (1) Libero is used, they must be identified prior to the start of each set
- The Roster may contain up to 15 players and no more than 5 staff members
- Each team must play within its own playing area and space. However, the ball may be retrieved from beyond the free zone. Rule USAV 9 states:
 - *If obstructions or other safety concerns prohibit retrieval from beyond the free zone, the player retrieving a ball over a non-playing area must be in contact with the playing surface when contact with the ball is made.*
 - *Non-playing areas are defined as the: (1) walls, bleachers or other spectator seating areas; (2) team benches and any area behind the team benches; (3) area between the scorer's table and the team benches; (4) any other area outlined in the pre-match conference by the first referee.*
 - *If nets or dividers are separating courts, only the player attempting to play the ball may move the net or divider to play the ball*
- The area beyond the edge of the Sport Court is designated a non-playing area due to safety concerns
- No artificial noise makers are permitted

RULES OF PLAY – CO-ED 4'S

USAV Indoor Rules will be followed, with the following exceptions:

- Must have 2 women and 2 men on the court at all times
- The roster may contain up to six (6) players, and three (3) staff members. One (1) Head Coach and two (2) assistant coaches.
- There are NO court position restrictions or requirements in 4's volleyball, but service rotation must remain the same throughout a single game.
 - *For example, players can stay in the same court position an entire game (at the net/back row etc.), but each player MUST serve in the same service rotation for the entire game (implication of this is that both men can be front row all the time, with one of the females also being considered front row)*
- No open-handed tipping: Players who contact the ball with one hand and are putting the ball over the net must cleanly hit with the heel or palm of hand (a roll shot), with straight, locked fingers and a locked wrist (a cobra), knurled fingers (a camel toe), or with the back of the hand (locked

wrist and locked fingers/knuckles. One-handed placement or redirection of the ball with the fingers (dink, open-handed tip, or redirected block) is a fault.

- If a player is going to play the ball into the opponent's court by setting or volleying, the player must contact the ball with 2 hands above the shoulders and it must be set directly forward or backward in relation to the player's body (shoulders and hips should be in the same position from prior to the set happening). **NO DUMPING!** This applies even if it is the team's 3rd hit.
- No gender contact rule (i.e. a team is not restricted to having a female player contact the ball if it is contacted more than one time)

PROTEST OF PLAYING RULES & DUE PROCESS & APPEALS

Protests of the playing rules during a set/match must be lodged in a formal manner prior to the next service. Between sets, a protest of the last play of the set must occur within one minute, and also at the end of the match, the protest of the last play of the match must occur within one minute. The protest shall be handled by a committee of two (2) to three (3) persons, one of whom must be a certified USA National referee or scorer, depending on the nature of the protest. The committee shall be composed of the following:

1. **Committee Chair:** The National Rules Interpreter or designee (Head Referee for the Event)
2. A representative of the USAV Championship Committee, USAV Events Department staff or designee to be named by the Event Director.

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 **ONLY** be related to the rules of play. Judgment calls are NOT subject to protest.

The following are examples of what may be protested:

- misinterpretation of a playing rule
- failure of the referee to apply the correct rule to a given situation
- failure to apply the correct penalty / sanction for a given fault
- a scoring discrepancy

Due Process & Appeals: USAV Bylaws (Article XI) and USAV Operating Code (Article X) govern protests, appeals, due process and ancillary procedures. Both of these documents are available in this link: [Governance - USA Volleyball](#). Protests, appeals and due process for this Event are specifically governed by these documents. Protests and appeals at this championship event are a simple one- or two-step process.

TEAM UNIFORMS

Team players shall wear uniforms that are in full compliance with the USA Volleyball Domestic Competition Regulations (see Rule 4.3). If two or more sets of uniforms are used, players will be required to wear the same number for each set of shirts. Shirt numbers must be clearly visible for identification by scorekeepers as well as members of the All-Tournament selection committee and spectators. The numbers “0” and “00” are unacceptable and will not be permitted. Team members shall be in proper uniform when warming up. All Libero shirts shall be numbered. If an individual competes in a position other than Libero as well, his / her number must be the same.

Please note that Rule 4.3.3.1 and 4.3.3.2 will be strictly enforced. This rule specifies that numbers must be of contrasting color (to the jersey) with no smaller than 6-inch numbers on the back and 4-inch numbers on the front of the jersey. Please note that numbers must be centered both horizontally and vertically on the *player's* chest and upper back as specified in Rule 4.3.3.1. Color combinations for numbers such as purple/black, dark green/black, navy/black, white/light yellow or navy/maroon are not distinctive enough to comply with Rule 4.3.3.1b. Once competition has begun, no number changes will be permitted.

Rule USAV 4.3.5 states, “For nationally-sanctioned competition, uniforms must be identical with the exception of the sleeve length and the Libero Player. An exception will also be made for a single manufacturer’s logo or trademark on the outside of the jerseys or shorts, provided that the logo or trademark does not exceed 14.6 square cm (2 ¼ square inches)”. USAV 4.3 states: “If 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 who wear such an undergarment. Socks and sport shoes are not part of the uniform.”

Teams must wear jerseys that meet all the requirements as described above, but may wear uniform shorts or athletic/sport pants that are similar in color, regardless of style, cut and trim.

Rule USAV 19.2a states, “The Libero player’s jersey must contrast in color with that of the predominant colors of the jerseys of the other team members. Color combinations such as purple/black, dark green/black, navy/maroon and white/light yellow are not distinctive enough to comply with the rules.”

HEIGHT OF NET

The height of the net is specified in the USA Volleyball Domestic Competition Regulations (see Rule 2.1).

<u>LEVEL OF PLAY</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>MALE</u>
Open, AA, A, BB, B, 40s	2.24 m (7’4 1/8”)	2.43 m (7’11 5/8”)

Coed 4s A & B	2.43 m (7’11 5/8”)
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The height of the net MAY vary for specific age groups as follows:

AGE GROUPS	FEMALE	MALE
70 years & above	2.19 m (7'2 1/8")	2.29 m (7'6")
60 years & above	2.19 m (7'2 1/8")	2.38 m (7'9 5/8")
55 years and above	2.19 m (7'2 1/8")	2.38 m (7'9 5/8")
45 years and above	2.19 m (7'2 1/8")	2.43 m (7'11 5/8")

STRUCTURE OF PLAY

Pool play for seeding will precede the championship medal rounds. In some tournaments there may be two (2) round robin pools.

The championship round will be a SINGLE elimination tournament in all OPEN and SITTING Divisions and a SINGLE elimination in the *Gold Flight* only in all Club, Masters and Seniors divisions. In all other flights, the championship rounds will be single elimination. Every effort will be made to schedule each team for a minimum of six (6) matches over the course of the tournament. This will be based upon the number of entries in a tournament.

TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES

Match percentage and then sets percentage will determine the position of each team within a round-robin pool. It is possible for a team to be eliminated from the next stage of championship competition by inferior set or match percentage.

- If two teams are tied in match records and played each other, the result of their head-to-head match will determine which team is the higher seed.
- If three or more teams are tied on match percentage, the teams are ranked by set percentages and then by point percentage. If teams are exactly tied, even on point percentage, team rank will be determined by a minimum number of coin tosses.

RANKING TEAMS WITHIN EACH ROUND-ROBIN POOL

Each team in a round-robin pool achieves a pool record, consisting of the following criteria, in order:

Each record is computed as a percentage of a total. For example, a team that plays three matches:

Winning 25-10, 25-5

Losing 25-23, 20-25, 19-25

Winning 25-9, 25-12

Achieves the overall record:

MATCHES		SETS		POINTS	
Won-Lost	%	Won-Loss	%	For-Against	%
2-1	66.67%	5-2	71.43	164-109	60.4

MATCH PROTOCOL

For each match, the court will be available for warm-up ten (10) minutes prior to the match time. If a previous match on the same court runs late, then the ten (10) minute warm-up time will begin at the conclusion of that match.

Ball handling on any concrete portion of the convention center is **PROHIBITED**.

Following the captains' meeting with the referees for each match, the warm-up period for the match may consist of five (5) minutes for each team separately on the court or may be ten (10) minutes jointly in accordance with the current rules of play. Both captains must agree to share the court for 10 minutes; otherwise, 5 minutes for each team will be required. (**NOTE:** *The warm-up period for the Open Division will be six (6) minutes shared or three (3) minutes for each team separately. See page 26 of the <https://usavolleyball.org/resources-for-officials/rulebooks-and-interpretations/>*)

Matches will not begin before the scheduled match time.*

*The Championship Committee reserves the right to reschedule and / or relocate matches with respect to court and time to expedite competition. Any such changes will be posted in the results area, and every attempt will be made to inform the team representative of the change.

Non-deciding sets: rally score to 25 - all sets must be won by a margin of two (2) points.

Deciding set: rally score to 15 points - must be won by a margin of two (2) points.

Libero player(s) is/are designated for the match and must be indicated on the line-up sheet at the beginning of the match. Teams may now designate either two Liberos for the match or one (or no) Libero per set. If two Liberos are designated on the first set lineup sheet, both designated Liberos must remain as Liberos for the entire match. If less than two Liberos are identified on the first set lineup sheet, the Libero may be changed for each subsequent set of the match provided no more than one Libero is designated at any given time.

The Libero player may not block or attempt to block.

In one position, the Libero MAY SERVE after replacing the player in position 1 (see rules book above).

Each team must play within its own playing area and space. However, the ball may be retrieved from beyond the free zone.

If obstructions or other safety concerns prohibit retrieval from beyond the free zone, the player retrieving a ball over a non-playing area must be in contact with the playing surface when contact with the ball is made.

Non-playing areas are defined as the: (1) walls, bleachers or other spectator seating areas; (2) team benches and any area behind the team benches; (3) area between the scorer's table and the team benches; (4) any other area outlined in the pre-match conference by the first referee. [Rule 23.2.5].

If nets or dividers are separating courts, only the player attempting to play the ball may move the net or divider to play the ball.

COACHING

Rule **USAV 5.3.1** limits the activities of assistant coaches during a match (see below):

One assistant coach at a time may stand to give instructions to the players on the court, but has no right to intervene in the match. During play, this assistant coach may give these instructions while standing or walking within the free zone in front of his/her team bench from the extension of the attack line up to the warm-up area, no closer than 1.75 meter (5'10") from the sideline and its extension, without disturbing or delaying the match.

Only one assistant coach may stand at the same time during a set if a team has more than one assistant coach. There is no requirement to designate a "stand-up assistant coach". All assistant coaches are not permitted to talk to the referees or intervene in the match.

Other assistant coaches may give instructions to players on the court while remaining seated on the team bench.

Should the head coach have to leave his/her team, the assistant coach may, at the request of the team captain and with the authorization of the first referee, assume the head coach's functions.

TEAM & PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO ENTER?

Teams representing a USAV Member Organization and who are authorized by their organization's executive/Regional Commissioner may submit an entry application. Additionally, non-USA teams are permitted to enter the USAV Open, AA, A, BB or B, Masters / Seniors, Coed 4s or Sitting championships and shall meet the prescribed eligibility rules. All participants / roster personnel from USA domestic teams, in addition to being a member of the organization they represent, must be a current registered member of USA Volleyball.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS – GENERAL

Eligibility rules for teams and athletes in all tournaments of the USA Volleyball Open National Championships shall be those legislated and implemented by the organization that each team and participant represent, as well as those of USA Volleyball included in the Bylaws, Operating Code and policies adopted by the USAV Board of Directors. It shall be the responsibility of team representatives and participants to obtain this information and be familiar with these requirements, especially those detailed in Article X of the USAV Operating Code published in the USA Volleyball Guidebook.

All teams and persons listed on the official entry application forms for participating teams shall be eligible under the rules of the organization they represent, as well as those of USA Volleyball, specifically as follows:

1. ALL participants (i.e.; players, coaches, managers, trainers, team representatives/officials) must currently be registered as members of USA Volleyball, or with their own national volleyball federation and be at least 18 years of age.
2. Players are required to adhere to the rules and regulations of the organization which they represent as well as those of USA Volleyball.
3. ALL players competing in a Coed 4s (A, BB) or Club (AA, A, BB, B) Championship Tournament shall only be eligible for that Club tournament. Players may be eligible for non-Club tournaments if otherwise eligible and not concurrent. All participants shall be registered strictly in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Member Organization they represent.
4. ALL current REGULAR REGISTRANTS of USA Volleyball and properly registered participants from other national volleyball federations are eligible to participate in Events for which they are eligible.
5. Teams will be restricted to participate in one Championship Tournament during any one session. With the exception of #3 above, for those Championship Tournaments that are not conducted concurrently, a team/player may participate in a second Championship Tournament.
6. A player's name shall not appear on more than one roster except as authorized. Should this infraction occur, first participation shall determine the player's team, and he / she will be declared ineligible for any other teams on whose roster his / her name appears. Responsibility for this will rest collectively and jointly with the Regional Commissioner / Organization Executive, the individual participant and the Team Representative.

7. Non-USA players (individuals) whose names appear on the roster of any domestic team must be registered with the National Federation they represent and fill-out the appropriate paperwork.
8. A non-USA team composed entirely of non-USA players shall register all of its players with its national volleyball federation. Non-USA teams shall purchase insurance from USA Volleyball at the current established rate.
9. Any participant causing disruptive or unfavorable action to USA Volleyball during these Events as determined by the Competition Director / Designee of the Event shall be liable for disciplinary action by the Event Arbitrator. Such disruptive or unfavorable action includes that which occurs at the playing venue or anywhere in the host city during the scheduled events, including pre-event days a participant is in the host city.
10. Teams competing in the 1st session may be eligible to participate in another tournament of the 2nd session (see: "Eligibility for Participation in Two Championship Tournaments").
11. Teams entering the Open, Sitting and Masters / Seniors tournaments may be conglomerate. Conglomerate teams shall be considered those teams composed from any source and essentially a group of players who may or may not have played together prior to this Event. All participants must be currently registered members of the Member Organization they represent.
 - a. Conglomerate teams participating in the Sitting and Masters / Seniors tournaments shall represent a USAV Member Organization or another national volleyball federation. The appropriate authority from the Member Organization/Country the team is representing must verify all conglomerate team rosters.
 - b. Conglomerate teams participating in the Open Tournaments must ensure that each participant is properly registered with USA Volleyball or another national volleyball federation in the approved manner. The appropriate authority must verify and approve the roster prior to competition.
 - c. Conglomerate teams are not required to participate in earlier USA Volleyball or RVA sanctioned competition unless it is required of the Member Organization they represent.
12. Players registered in a national volleyball federation other than through USA Volleyball shall obtain the required permission and release from their respective country's national volleyball federation.

USAV & FIVB FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

All persons whose names appear on the Official Roster, including players, coaches, team representatives, trainers, and managers must be registered with USA Volleyball through a USAV Member Organization or their FIVB Federation. The purpose of this registration is the extension of USAV's liability insurance program or, in the event of a USA Territory, FIVB Federation Member purchasing event insurance. This will ensure all registered USAV players, coaches, team representatives, managers, and trainers at this Event have liability coverage and Sports Accident Insurance (this is an excess coverage plan). If a medical emergency arises, athletes and coaches must have all necessary documentation to show proof of medical insurance, primary and / or excess coverage.

POLICY ON FOREIGN (NON-USA) INDIVIDUAL & 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 with 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 that has its own National Volleyball Federation with which the participant is affiliated.
"Resident" Foreign Participant:	A person who is not a citizen of the United States residing 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.

FOREIGN (NON-USA) TEAM PARTICIPATION

1. A Foreign (Non-USA) 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.
2. Each (Non-USA) Foreign Participant (on a US team) and all members of a Foreign (Non-USA) Team 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.
3. A waiver to the foreign participant insurance fee shall be granted to Canadians who provide written proof of 24-hour health coverage valid in the United States.
4. Each Foreign (Non-USA) Participant and all members of a Foreign (Non-USA) Team shall have in their possession, and shall have previously filed with the Event Director, the following documents:
 - a. Photo identification (Driver's license, passport or comparable government issued document)
 - b. Proof of 24-hour health coverage valid in the United States

- c. A signed copy of the USA Volleyball Code of Conduct and Waiver and Release of Liability (provided on page 2 of the Foreign Team Tournament Registration form).
5. Foreign team participation forms can be found here – scroll down to “Required Forms”

FOREIGN (NON-USA) INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION

1. A Resident Foreign (Non-USA) Participant (residing legally in the United States) may participate if he/she is duly registered with a USA Volleyball Regional Volleyball Association (RVA) and follows all event participation policies and registration procedures.
 - a. A Resident Foreign (Non-USA) 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 before he / she can become a registered member of a Regional Volleyball Association.
2. This would not apply to a participant who has been in continuous legal residence in the United States and unaffiliated with a foreign (non-USA) national volleyball federation for greater than two years.
 - a. A Non-Resident Foreign (Non-USA) Participant may participate only with the following classifications (e. g. Open, AA, A, BB, B, Sitting, and age classification tournaments) on the condition that he/she has been granted a written release from his/her national volleyball federation of origin and follows all event participation policies and registration procedures.

FOREIGN (NON-USA) 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.).

The Team Representative will be responsible for checking in their entire team at the registration kiosk, and must have all of the required fees for each player and staff member. Individual check-ins by foreign participants will not be accepted at registration.

Each foreign (non-USA) team is required to send in their required individual and team forms to the USA Volleyball National Office by May 17, 2021 by email at opens@usav.org or postal mail. Failure to comply will result in a \$100 late fee charged at team check-in.

REQUIRED INDIVIDUAL FORMS

1. Players and Staff: [Foreign Participant Registration Form](#), which includes the Code of Conduct on page 2

2. Players and Staff: Copy of photo ID (i.e. Passport)

REQUIRED TEAM FORMS/FEES

1. [Foreign Summary Team Participation Form](#)
2. Foreign Team Insurance Fee - \$100/team or \$10/player *

*Canadian teams must provide Letter of Good Standing from Volleyball Canada to qualify for the insurance fee waiver OR proof of 24-hour medical insurance coverage while in the United States will work in place of Letter of Good Standing.

ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN TWO CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS

Teams or players competing in the USAV Open divisions *are ineligible* to compete in any other tournaments during these Events.

TEAM ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN TWO CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS

Open	Not eligible to compete in any other tournaments
AA/A	Eligible to compete in the following divisions: Coed 4s, Sitting, Masters or Seniors tournament for which they are eligible in the opposite playing session
BB/B	Eligible to compete in the following divisions: Coed 4s, Masters or Seniors tournament for which they are eligible in the opposite playing session.
Masters / Seniors	Eligible to play in one of the other master tournaments being offered in the opposite session or in a Sitting, Coed 4s or Club tournament for which they are eligible in the opposite playing session.
Sitting	Eligible to compete in the following divisions: Coed 4s, Sitting, Masters or Seniors tournament for which they are eligible in the opposite playing session.
Coed 4s	Eligible to compete in the following divisions: Club, Sitting, Masters or Seniors tournament for which they are eligible in the opposite playing session

USA VOLLEYBALL AGE & IDENTITY FALSIFICATION POLICY

Registered Junior players or players who are 18 years of age or under are NOT eligible to participate.

For all USA Volleyball corporate events, any person who alters any document that certifies the age or identity of a participant, or falsifies any statement which lists the age or identity of a participant, will be sanctioned as follows:

1. be immediately suspended from USAV membership and barred from further participation in the event;
2. be barred from participation in any USAV Corporate events in any capacity for a minimum of two (2) years; and
3. have a minimum probation of one additional year to run consecutively to the suspension.

An ADULT PLAYER who knowingly plays in a higher age classification for which he/she is NOT actually eligible or any player who knowingly misrepresents his / her identity shall:

1. be immediately suspended from USAV membership and barred from further participation in the event;
2. be barred from participation in any USAV Corporate events in any capacity for a minimum of two (2) years; and
3. have a minimum probation of one additional year to run consecutively to the suspension.

Any player in question must provide proof of identity and age eligibility, if requested.

When discovered and confirmed during an event, the above penalties shall be the required minimum penalty imposed by the Event Arbitrator or the Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee.

The Event Arbitrator or the Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee may recommend a more severe penalty. The Event Arbitrator or the Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee shall file a

report of any age or identity violation with the Corporation's Ethics and Eligibility Committee and with the registering Member Organization with its recommendation.

USA VOLLEYBALL GENDER DETERMINATION POLICY

Transgender athletes must request permission to participate by submitting a request to the chair of the Gender Commission (GC). Requests should be sent to ChairGenderCom@usav.org.

Note: This process does not apply to any competition or event where the International Olympic Committee's policy on transgender (TG) may apply, or to an international competition involving the USA National Teams. This may include, without limitation: (i) USA Volleyball National Team competitions or events, and (ii) competitions or events operated or sanctioned by FIVB, the IOC, the International Paralympic Committee or World Para Volley, whether involving beach, indoor or sitting disciplines.

The vast majority of athletes are expected to compete as a member of the gender noted at the time of birth on their birth certificate. The goal of the USA Volleyball (USAV) policy is to permit athletes to compete in the gender with which they identify, while maintaining competitive equity. Athletes who wish to compete as a member of the gender opposite that assigned at birth must notify USAV of their intent at least six weeks prior to the competition in which they wish to participate. Sufficient documentation must be provided to permit the GC to determine that the applicant has taken the necessary steps to transition to their adopted gender.

All TG athletes must submit: 1) a statement that they wish to compete in the gender opposite that of their birth. Minors: parents or guardians must submit a similar statement, 2) statement from the treating physician and medical records as indicated, 3) lab reports of testosterone levels for athletes over age 13 as noted below. The GC may share relevant information with medical experts, as necessary. Once the GC has all required documentation, commission review will be completed within 10 days.

Androgenic hormones may possibly provide TG athletes with an unfair competitive advantage, so the GC may require TG athletes to provide documentation of appropriately managed therapy at the time of initial application to compete. After approval to compete as a member of their adopted gender, documentation must be re-submitted and approved yearly. The GC will serve as the point of contact for all inquiries regarding these participants. The expense of any required testing will be the responsibility of the athlete.

Current transgender testing requirements are as follows:

Assigned Female at Birth to Male, all age groups (prepubertal, pubertal, and adult)

All athletes must submit appropriate documentation upon request. Testosterone levels must not exceed the upper limit of the normal male reference range for their age group.

Assigned Male at Birth to Female

All athletes must submit appropriate documentation upon request. Testosterone levels must not exceed the upper limit of the normal female reference range for their age group.

Age 12 and Under (Prepubertal or Youth)

No restriction if seeking to play on a female team.

Age 13-18 (registered as a Junior, including a 19-year-old still in high school) (Pubertal or Adolescent)

Testosterone levels must be within normal female reference range (for the age range) for a minimum of 6 months preceding the application to participate.

Age18 and Over (registered as an Adult)

Testosterone levels must be less than 10 nmol/L for a minimum of 1 year prior to the application to participate.

All GC decisions are effective for one season and must be reevaluated with appropriate documentation the following season.

OPEN DIVISION

The OPEN Division is the highest level of competition at the USA Volleyball Open National Championships and open to USA and NON-USA teams and players.

3. Entries will be limited to a maximum of 16 teams.
4. Any team or group of players registered with USA Volleyball or another national volleyball federation are eligible to compete in this division.
5. No more than two (2) current national team players are allowed on an Open roster.
6. All competition will consist of the best of five set matches and SINGLE ELIMINATION format.
7. Teams competing in the Open Division are ineligible to compete in any other division during this Event.
8. RULES OF PLAY: The USA Volleyball Rules Book will govern this competition.

CLUB DIVISIONS (AA, A, BB, B)

Club Divisions (AA, A, BB, B) are open to Domestic as well as Non-USA teams. Each Member Organization is guaranteed the entry of one team into each classified tournament of the Club Championships provided that:

1. Non-USA teams are eligible to participate in the Club Divisions provided there are slots available and no USA teams are prevented from entering.
2. The following levels of classification will be conducted for both men and women, contingent upon a minimum entry of six (6) teams: Class AA, A, BB and B.
3. Teams / players participating in a Club division are eligible only for that CLUB division, unless they are also eligible for participation in Coed 4s, Sitting or Masters / Seniors Tournament being offered in a separate session.
4. Players competing in the Open division are NOT eligible to participate with a Club Team.
5. A team competing in a Club Division may be comprised of players from any RVA or other FIVB affiliated national volleyball federation. (Teams do not need to be from the same region)

All such players:

- a. may be a registered member of another Federation or RVA other than where the club team is registered provided that the player's original team is not participating in this event.
- b. may not be added to the roster of a team, which is playing in a classification lower than that of a player, or the team that the player was registered with during the current season.
- c. may not be added to the roster of a team if the team they were registered with during the current season is also playing in the current Club Championships.

6. Teams will be entered into the tournament classification (Class AA, A, BB or B) as authorized by the Regional Commissioner / Organization Executive and as approved by the Championship Committee. Regional Commissioners should approve a team for the classification consistent with their current season's placement within their organization.
7. Teams representing a Member Organization other than a USAV / RVA must obtain and submit the appropriate form, signed by the proper authority from said Member Organization, and make certain it is attached to the team entry form. Additionally, they must register with USA Volleyball in the prescribed manner. Failure to do so will require the USAV Events Department / Championship Committee to defer consideration of the entry until this has been done.
8. All teams applying for entry shall conform strictly to the rules and regulations of the organization they represent to be eligible for entry into this Event. The authority verifying the team entry application, by witness of internet confirmation or signature, is certifying that these teams have adhered to the rules to the best of their knowledge. Organizations, teams, team representatives, and / or other participants will be subject to disciplinary action during and beyond the tournament for violating these rules and regulations and this representation.
9. The number of teams competing will determine the number of medal rounds to be played (i.e.; Gold, Silver, Bronze, Copper and / or Emerald).
10. There is no maximum age limitation for players in these championships.
11. Competition will consist of the best of three set matches. DOUBLE ELIMINATION for the Gold Bracket, and SINGLE ELIMINATION for all other brackets.
12. RULES OF PLAY: The USA Volleyball Rules Book will govern this competition.

SITTING DIVISION

Teams entering these championship tournaments may be either club or conglomerate teams and must represent a USAV Member Organization or another FIVB affiliated national volleyball federation.

1. Division is open to male & female athletes of all abilities.
2. Teams may consist of male and female athletes.
3. Competition may be limited contingent upon the number of courts available for these tournaments.
4. The number of teams competing will determine the number of medal flights (i.e.; Gold, Silver and Bronze).
5. A minimum of five (5) teams will be required in order to conduct a national championship tournament.
6. Non-USA teams are permitted to compete in this tournament.
7. There is no maximum age limitation in these championships.
8. No more than three (3) active national team players are permitted on a Sitting roster.
9. A player is considered an active national team player once they have been listed on a roster for their National Federation at an event sanctioned/recognized by World ParaVolleyball or World ParaVolleyball Zone.
10. A player is no longer considered to be an active national team member once their respective National Federation confirms the player to be in retired status.
11. All competition will consist of the best of three set matches and SINGLE ELIMINATION format.

12. RULES OF PLAY: The World ParaVolleyball (WPV) Official Sitting Volleyball Rules, 2017-2020 rulebook, will govern this competition with the following modifications:
- Rules regarding disability/classification are not in effect
 - Substitution rules and procedures will follow USA Volleyball Rules Book
 - Libero rules and procedures will follow USA Volleyball Rules Book
 - WPV Rulebook available for download at: <http://www.worldparavolley.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/2017-2020-SITTING-Volleyball-Rules-with-Diagrams.pdf>

MASTERS & SENIORS TOURNAMENTS (MEN'S & WOMEN'S 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, MEN'S 70, 74 & 78)

Teams entering these championship tournaments may be either club or conglomerate teams and must represent a USAV Member Organization or another FIVB affiliated National Volleyball Federation. Each player must meet the minimum age qualification for the tournament in which they participate.

Date for Age Determination: Players shall have obtained the minimum age requirement for participation in a given championship tournament by no later than December 31, 2021.

- Competition will be offered for men and women in the following age groups:
 - Masters: 40+ & 45+
 - Seniors: 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+ and 70+*, 74+*, 78+* *Men and up to 2 women only
- Players in the Men's 70s, 74s and 78s & Over Division may send individual entries and will be placed on teams if a sufficient number of players enter.
 - USAV will allow up to two (2) women per roster in the Men's 70+, 74+ and 78+ division under the following conditions:
 - The women on the roster meet the age criteria
 - The women adhere by the men's 70, 74 & 78 net height and rules
 - This division will not be considered Co-Ed
 - Having a woman on the roster is optional, not required
- Non-USA teams are permitted to compete in these tournaments.
- The number of teams competing will determine the number of medal tournaments to be scheduled (i.e.; Gold, Silver and Bronze).
- A minimum of five (5) teams is required to conduct a championship tournament.
- All competition will consist of the best of three set matches and DOUBLE ELIMINATION format.
- There is no maximum age for any tournament.
- RULES OF PLAY: The USA Volleyball Rules Book, as modified and approved by the USAV Rules Testing Committee, will govern this competition.
- All foreign teams must submit proof of age (copy of photo ID) AND foreign team forms to the USAV National Office prior to May 17th, 2021.

COLLEGIATE DIVISION (MENS & WOMENS)

Collegiate Divisions are open to Domestic teams. Each Member Organization is guaranteed the entry of one team into each classified tournament of the Club Championships provided that:

1. Teams / players participating in a Club division are eligible only for that Collegiate division, unless they are also eligible for participation in Coed 4s or Sitting Divisions being offered in a separate session.
2. Players competing in the Open division are NOT eligible to participate with a Collegiate Team.
3. A team competing in a Collegiate Division may be comprised of players from any RVA or other FIVB affiliated national volleyball federation. (I.E. Teams do not need to be comprised of players from the same region)
4. Teams will be entered into the tournament classification (Class AA, A, BB or B) as authorized by the Regional Commissioner / Organization Executive and as approved by the Championship Committee. Regional Commissioners should approve a team for the classification consistent with their current season's placement within their organization.
5. Teams representing a Member Organization other than a USAV / RVA must obtain and submit the appropriate form, signed by the proper authority from said Member Organization, and make certain it is attached to the team entry form. Additionally, they must register with USA Volleyball in the prescribed manner. Failure to do so will require the USAV Events Department / Championship Committee to defer consideration of the entry until this has been done.
6. All teams applying for entry shall conform strictly to the rules and regulations of the organization they represent to be eligible for entry into this Event. The authority verifying the team entry application, by witness of internet confirmation or signature, is certifying that these teams have adhered to the rules to the best of their knowledge. Organizations, teams, team representatives, and / or other participants will be subject to disciplinary action during and beyond the tournament for violating these rules and regulations and this representation.
7. The number of teams competing will determine the number of medal rounds to be played (i.e.; Gold, Silver, Bronze, Copper and / or Emerald).
8. Age for this Championship will be determined by Graduation Year listed by the participant when completing the membership registration. Participants must show that they are still attending college by providing their anticipated graduation year.
9. Competition will consist of the best of three set matches. DOUBLE ELIMINATION for the Gold Bracket, and SINGLE ELIMINATION for all other brackets.
10. RULES OF PLAY: The USA Volleyball Rules Book will govern this competition.

ETHICS & ELIGIBILITY VIOLATIONS

EVENT ARBITRATORS

Event Arbitrators shall serve as the first level for hearing and resolving ethics and eligibility issues at a specific event. Teams or individuals accused of committing violations of ethics and / or eligibility rules and regulations at qualifying and / or championship events shall meet with the Event Arbitrator(s).

The authority for the Event Arbitrator to act begins with the arrival of a team and individual participants in the Championship city, or 48 hours prior to the first day of competition, whichever is earlier, and shall continue through the duration of the Event through its conclusion.

Decisions of the Event Arbitrator shall be conveyed immediately to the affected parties. A decision of the Event Arbitrator may be appealed to the Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee.

EVENT ETHICS AND ELIGIBILITY APPEALS COMMITTEE

An Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee shall be formed for each qualifying and championship event sponsored by the Corporation. Each committee shall be composed of three (3) members, one (1) of whom shall meet the definition of the Corporation as a domestic player who is at least 21 years of age.

Each committee shall act on appeals of ethics and eligibility decisions that occur during the conduct of the event. The conduct of an event shall commence when an individual or a team arrives at the site of the event, or forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the first day of competition for that event, whichever is earlier. That authority shall conclude with the departure of the individual and / or team from the city in which the event has been held.

If the Committee is of the opinion the violation is of such a nature that requires further review or more serious discipline beyond the duration of a National Championship event, the Committee will send a report to the chair of the Corporate Ethics and Eligibility Committee for further action. If the chair is unavailable, then the Associate Chair of the Corporate Ethics and Eligibility Committee will be given the report. The Chair (or Associate Chair if necessary) will notify the USAV Events Department outlining what action (if any) was taken as a result of the report.

Protests or questions relevant to the conduct of all tournaments shall be referred to the Championship Committee on site. Decisions rendered by the Competition Commissioner are final and cannot be appealed.

ENTRY & REGISTRATION PROCESS

ENTRY APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The entry application represents a team's roster of participants which has been completed by the Team Representative and verified by Commissioners or Organization Executives through the On-Line Entry System.

Advanced Event System (AES) will be used for registration into the Open National Championship – www.advancedeventsystems.com

- Use the “AES Registration Instructions” for more details on how to create a club/team/roster and register for the event (<https://usavolleyball.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-AES-Instructions-to-Register-for-OPENS.pdf>)
- Send the completed Entry Form with attached check to the USAV National Office. This step is not necessary if entry fee is paid by credit card.
- If you have questions or problems, contact the USAV National Office at opens@usav.org or 719-228-6800 and ask for the Events Department.

NOTE: Your entry is not considered complete, and will not be processed until the following is met:

- Forms verified by your organization executive / Regional Commissioner (if applicable).
- Proper Entry Fee must accompany entry form.
- All required forms sent to the USAV National Office by the established deadline.

2021 Ranking/Seeding Information Form ([Listed on our website](#))

Failure to follow these procedures will jeopardize or delay the acceptance of your entry application.

No team will be granted entry into the championships until the National Office has received all COMPLETED required forms and signed by the appropriate authority. Incomplete forms will not be accepted.

HOUSING INFORMATION

ENTRY APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The 2021 USAV Open National Championship is Stay and Play. This means that in order to compete in the tournament, you must be staying in one of the official room blocks set up by Team Travel Source. All reservations must be made through the official link below or through the link provided by Team Travel Source to your housing contact.

HOUSING CONTACTS: Please make sure that your athletes know that they should NOT call the hotels directly or book with a direct hotel website. These reservations as well as third party bookings (Expedia.com, Hotels.com, etc.) will not be compliant with the Stay and Play policy.

Team Travel Source guarantees the lowest group rates available (exclusions include unconfirmed room types, non-cancelable rates, employee rates, government rates, advanced purchase rates, AAA and AARP rates). Team Travel Source will work with any club or team that may have a special situation (please see Exemptions).

SPECIAL SITUATIONS / EXEMPTIONS

The following exemptions are allowed but must be verified as explained below. If you need to make alternate arrangements for an ENTIRE team, please see buyout option below. Please email the requested information to info@teamtravelsource.com. Your subject line should read 2021 USAV Open National Championship EXEMPTION REQUEST. All exemption requests will be vetted and verified by TTS/USAV to ensure all team members are accounted for under the stay-to-play policy.

#1 – USING POINTS FOR A FREE ROOM - If you have enough points to redeem them for an entirely FREE stay, you can do this! Please book the room through the hotel directly and send a copy of your reservation showing that points were used to book your entire stay to usav@teamtravelsource.com. Please make sure to list the athletes name and team/club you are with so your exemption is credited to the correct team. Please note that just 'receiving points' for staying at a hotel does not qualify for an exemption. You must be redeeming for an entire free stay.

#2 – CLUB IS IN CLOSE PROXIMITY - If your club is within 75 miles of the venue, you are not required to stay in a hotel. This must be able to be verified through mapquest.com. Please send the club name, and address to info@teamtravelsource.com to apply for an exemption.

#3 – MILITARY OR GOVERNMENT DISCOUNT - If you are able to get a lower rate with a military or government discount, this will be accepted. You will need to email a copy of the confirmation showing that your reservation was booked at the military or government discount and the athlete's name and club to info@teamtravelsource.com. Please note, the hotel will require the military or government ID to be presented upon check-in, please have this information when you arrive.

#4 – STAYING WITH A FAMILY MEMBER - If you are staying with a family member that lives within 75 miles of the venue, you are not required to stay in a hotel. This must be able to be verified through mapquest.com. Please send the athlete's name and team name as well as the family member's name and address to info@teamtravelsource.com.

#5 – STAYING IN A TIMESHARE/RV THAT YOU OWN - If you are staying at a timeshare or RV that you own, then you are not required to stay in a hotel. Proof of ownership and reservation must be provided to be granted an exemption. Please send the athlete's name(s) and team name as well as any documentation of ownership and reservation to info@teamtravelsource.com.

***All teams are encouraged to stay in the Team Travel Source block. If you book housing arrangements through any 3rd party group housing sites (Airbnb, VRBO, etc), there will be a \$500 buyout per team to USAV/Team Travel Source. USAV is accountable to the host city to generate room nights, and your stay will not count toward these room nights. Therefore, the fee will be used to compensate for any shortage of room nights produced due to these situations should it become an issue. To request the form to submit your \$500 buy-out fee, please email usav@teamtravelsource.com.**