



***USAVolleyball***

# OPERATING CODE

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## **ARTICLE I. PREAMBLE**

This Operating Code is a supplement to the Bylaws of USA Volleyball (“Corporation” or “USAV”). If there is an actual or apparent discrepancy between this Operating Code and the Bylaws, the Bylaws shall prevail. The Board of Directors has authorized various Administrative Manuals to delineate the specific policies, procedures and functions of each substructure. Administrative Manuals shall be consistent with the governing documents of the Corporation. Each substructure shall ensure that its Administrative Manual is updated annually and shall submit changes to the staff for review of language and format. The Administrative Manuals shall be subject to review and approval by the Board of Directors. In addition, the Board of Directors has authorized a Board Reference Manual that includes specific policies and procedures approved by the Board of Directors for lay volunteers.

## **ARTICLE II. GOVERNANCE**

### **2.01. Board of Directors. Refer to Bylaws Article VI.**

#### **A. Policies.**

1. All members of the Board of Directors shall register annually with the Corporation or a Regional Volleyball Association of USA Volleyball in whose geographical area they reside.
2. Service as a director shall be considered the highest priority within Corporation responsibilities and shall pre-empt participation in all other Corporation activities and events Meetings of the Board shall take priority over all other Corporation responsibilities. Only those directors with volleyball responsibilities which are vocational in nature shall be deemed as having a legitimate conflict.

### **2.02. Officers.**

#### **A. Chair. Refer to Bylaws 7.02.**

1. Shall supervise the CEO and such committees as authorized by the Board of Directors.
2. Shall approve the appointment of the Corporate Secretary as recommended by the CEO.
3. Shall be responsible for ensuring the CEO or designee maintains the Policies and Procedures Manual.



2.03. Secretary. Refer to Bylaws 7.04. Shall be the staff liaison to the National Structure and Function Commission and shall verify the presence of a quorum at meetings of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall also perform such other assignments as authorized by the Board of Directors and/or the CEO.

2.04. International Athlete Representatives to the USOPC Athletes' Advisory Counsel ("AAC").

- A. Election. An international athlete representative and alternate of the opposite sex shall be elected to the Athletes' Advisory Council of the USOPC no later than November 15 of the last year of the Quadrennium as follows:
  - 1. All athletes meeting the eligibility requirements as described in USAV Bylaws Section 10.01 shall be notified of the vacancy. Each shall be asked to indicate an interest in serving.
  - 2. The names of all interested international athletes shall be placed on a ballot and distributed to all international athletes identified in A. above. The individual receiving the highest vote count shall be elected. The individual of the opposite sex receiving the highest vote count shall be the alternate.
  - 3. If otherwise eligible, the representative may be re-elected.
  - 4. If an otherwise eligible athlete is a paid employee of the Corporation or the USOPC, such athlete is not eligible for election.
  - 5. Current information may be found at the USOPC website.

### **ARTICLE III. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

3.01. Authority. Refer to Bylaws, Article XIII.

3.02. Accountability. The Chief Executive Officer/President ("CEO") of the Corporation shall be accountable to the Board of Directors. Other employees of the Corporation shall be accountable to the CEO.

3.03. Mission/Responsibilities.

- A. Primary. Refer to Bylaws, Article XIII.
- B. Others.

1. The CEO shall be responsible for the appropriate staffing necessary for the Corporation to achieve its objectives.
2. The CEO shall designate staff to serve as a liaison to each substructure of the Corporation.
3. The CEO, or designee, shall make relevant recommendations to the Board of Directors, officers or committee chairs after reviewing appropriate legal documents, policies and long-range plans of the Corporation.
4. The CEO, or designee, shall develop and maintain an appropriate Employee Handbook and the USA Volleyball Financial Internal Controls Manual.
5. The CEO, or designee, shall attend all meetings of the Board of Directors in an ex-officio, non-voting capacity. The CEO may request the attendance of additional employees in ex-officio, non-voting capacities at all meetings of the Board of Directors or other specified meetings of the Corporation.

#### 3.04. Commissions Reporting to the CEO.

- A. Rules of the Game Commission (“RC”). The FIVB Rules of Play shall be the official rules of play in the United States.
  1. Authority. The Board of Directors may establish a Rules Commission.
  2. Accountability. The CEO shall appoint a Chair for the RC and recommendations of the Commission shall be directed to the CEO for review and action, if any.
  3. Mission/Responsibilities.
    - a. Review FIVB Rules of Play and recommend a publication format for the United States that includes brief notations when dictated by United States insurance regulations or safety issues. Only in those cases where the FIVB rules are vague or confusing due to language translations may the Commission add visibly differentiated commentary to clarify the intent of the rule. A United States representative to a FIVB Rules related Commission shall review and approve the commentaries prior to final approval by the Board.
    - b. Identify and implement the testing of changes to the rules where the Commission may see a compelling need for change at the international

level. Any testing done shall be followed by a written analysis. Should the test results support a need for change, recommendations approved by the Board shall be forwarded to the FIVB Rules Commission for consideration.

- c. Recommend a publication format for Domestic Competition Regulations that includes:
  - i. FIVB and World ParaVolley (“WPV”) rules with safety notations and translation commentaries;
  - ii. Modifications for outdoor, developmental recreational, and other play;
  - iii. Modifications for special categories of play to include Co-Ed, Reverse Co-Ed and other rules as requested by Member Organizations; and,
  - iv. Modifications for USA Volleyball nationally-sanctioned championship events.
- d. Send a Commission member to represent the RC at the meeting of the rules committees of the NCAA, the National Federation of State High School Associations (“NFHS”) and of any other organization deemed appropriate by the Commission. Any appointments required under this subsection shall be made by the Chair and approved by the CEO.

- 4. Composition. Qualified individuals appointed by the Commission Chair in consultation with the staff liaison.

B. Indoor Championship Events Commission (“CEC”).

- 1. Authority. The Board of Directors may establish a Championship Events Commission to assist the Events Department of the Corporation by addressing issues and making recommendations regarding various areas related to USA Volleyball Championship Events and the qualification therefor.
- 2. Accountability. The CEO shall appoint a Chair for the CEC and recommendations of the Commission shall be directed to the CEO for review and action, if any.
- 3. Mission/Responsibilities.



- a. Serve as the primary lay substructure to assist and advise the Events Department of the Corporation with regard to all USA Volleyball National Championships and USA Volleyball National Qualifier Events.
  - b. Evaluate programs of USA Volleyball Championships and USA Volleyball National Qualifier Events to ensure the quality of the events and the quality of event management.
  - c. Ensure that the events meet the needs of all participants.
  - d. Forward the concerns of the USAV constituencies that are involved in championship events for discussion and recommendation to the Events Department of the Corporation.
  - e. Continually evaluate the selection process and the assignment of teams to appropriate tournaments and levels of play.
  - f. Assist Member Organizations, through a defined process, on how they may access USA Volleyball Championship Events.
  - g. Identify needs and propose appropriate budget adjustments for recommendation to the Events Department of the Corporation.
  - h. Ensure established policy related to the conduct of all USA Volleyball Championship Events is followed.
  - i. Assist with the training and mentoring of a cadre of arbitrators and event specialists.
  - j. Ensure USA Volleyball Championship Events adhere to the established policies, rules and regulations of all entities which may have regulatory authority over USAV events.
  - k. Forward recommendations from individual events regarding site selection, championship staff additions or changes, arbitrator issues, procedures of ethics and eligibility panels, computer needs, equipment/supplies upgrades and awards/recognitions to the Board of Directors and/or the Events Department of the Corporation.
4. Composition. Qualified individuals appointed by the Commission Chair in consultation with the staff liaison.

C. Recognitions and Awards Commission (“RAC”).

1. Authority. The Board of Directors may establish a Recognition and Awards Commission.
2. Accountability. The CEO shall appoint a Chair for the RAC and recommendations of the Commission shall be directed to the CEO for review and action, if any.
3. Mission/Responsibilities. Subcommittees may be established to recommend to the Board recognition of leaders, administrators, officials and athletes. In addition, this committee shall be responsible for conducting the USA Volleyball Hall of Fame “Dorothy C. Boyce Annual Awards Banquet”.
4. Composition. One representative for each recognition category (i.e., Leadership, Athletes and Coaches, Officials, and Juniors) appointed by the Commission Chair with the appointments preferably from among incumbent award committee chairs in consultation with the staff liaison.

D. Sitting/Beach ParaVolley.

1. Authority. The Board of Directors may establish a Sitting/Beach ParaVolley Sports Commission.
2. Accountability. The CEO shall appoint a Chair for the Sitting/Beach ParaVolley and recommendations of the Commission shall be directed to the CEO for review and action, if any.
3. Mission/Responsibilities.
  - a. Serve as the primary lay substructure to assist and advise the USAV staff with respect to all areas relating to volleyball athletes with physical and intellectual disabilities.
  - b. Monitor and evaluate the activities conducted to identify and train international caliber athletes with disabilities within USAV.
  - c. Monitor and evaluate the activities conducted to provide opportunities for all levels of athletes with disabilities within USAV.
  - d. Assist Member Organizations as requested to evaluate activities for athletes with physical and/or intellectual disabilities.



4. Composition. Qualified individuals appointed by the Commission Chair in consultation with the staff liaison.
- E. Other Commissions, Sub-Commissions and Caucuses.
1. Authority. The Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the CEO established other Commission that include:
    - a. Men's Collegiate Commission;
    - b. Gender Commission;
    - c. International Indoor Officials Commission;
    - d. National Indoor Officials Commission;
    - e. International Beach Officials Commission; and,
    - f. National Beach Officials Commission.

## **ARTICLE IV. REGIONAL VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATIONS OF USA VOLLEYBALL**

- 4.01 Authority. Refer to Bylaws, Article 5.01.A.
- 4.02. Accountability. In order to maintain affiliated status each Regional Volleyball Association of USA Volleyball ("RVA") shall be required to continue to be in compliance with the criteria stated in the Bylaws Article 5.01.A.
- 4.03. Requirements.
- A. In addition to being in compliance with the requirements specified in Article 5.01.A. of the Corporation's Bylaws, each RVA shall be required to:
    1. Determine the plan of organization and create substructures required for optimum development and accomplishment of the mission of the RVA.
    2. Cooperate with local branches of other Member Organizations and attempt to ensure their representation on committees of the RVA.
    3. Sanction/approve, promote and conduct volleyball competitions, exhibitions, and events held within the geographical area o the RVA.

4. Enforce all policies, rules, regulations and guidelines, as adopted by the Board of Directors of the Corporation and/or the Board of Directors of the RVA.
5. Appoint and identify to the Corporation the current referees' chair, scorers' chair or an officials' chair.
6. Be responsible for the regional certification of referees and scorers and recommendation of candidates for national certifications.
7. Be responsible for compliance with the U.S. Center for SafeSport requirements promulgated by USAV in Article IV of the Corporate Bylaws, which includes, but is not limited to the following:
  - a. All Coaches must, at a minimum, pass a current USAV approved background screen, be currently SafeSport trained, and have completed IMPACT training before participation as a coach;
  - b. Any administrators, RVA, or club leadership and any adults who have frequent contact or authority over minors must also complete SafeSport training and pass a current USAV approved background screen; and,
  - c. Any junior program players age 18 and older must be currently SafeSport trained.
8. Submit the following reports:
  - a. The RVA shall submit to all audit and reporting procedures requested by the USAV Board or Corporation.
  - b. The RVA shall inform the Corporation of the date when Tax Form 990 was filed with the Internal Revenue Service.
  - b. If needed, data transfers shall be done no less than twice a month. Such data transfers shall include all membership data available at that time. The membership and insurance seasons shall be September 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup>.
9. Discipline individual and team registrants for any period of time the RVA deems appropriate for any rules, regulations, and code or policy violations of that RVA and/or the Corporation. All such disciplinary actions shall be subject to the due process requirements of the RVA and the Corporation's Bylaws Article XIV. Any

disciplinary action so placed on a member's record may be noted in the USAV registration system for enforcement by notice to USAV Member Services.

#### 4.04. Redistricting.

- A. Preamble. USAV continues to experience a steady growth of its membership and interest in volleyball. It also continues to experience the desire by applicant members toward the formation of new or Sub-RVAs within the existing geographic configuration forming the present corporation. In facilitating the growth of volleyball, USAV adopts the following guidelines concerning redistricting of both geographic and membership of the volleyball community.
- B. USAV further recognizes that each existing RVA has been formed under the laws of the state(s) in geographic areas. Redistricting may occur within a single state or may affect a number of states and their laws. Not all state laws are identical. Likewise, redistricting will have an impact on Parent RVAs, how they are left to operate, their financial structure, and on how bids are allocated for National Championships. In order to assist the existing RVAs and members toward redistricting in a harmonious manner, the following process and procedure has been approved. Each applicant and RVA should consult counsel of their choice and comply with their own state laws in effectuating a change of existing RVAs.
- C. Definitions.
  - 1. "Redistricting" refers to the process in which an RVA is formed, whether by separating from an existing RVA within one state or separating from existing RVAs and forming one RVA within a geographical area.
  - 2. "Parent RVA" refers to those geographic areas whose physical boundaries are presently recognized by USAV.
  - 3. "Sub-RVA" refers to that separated geographic area of an existing Parent RVA within one state/RVA's geographic area, whose application has been approved by the RVA Zonal Committee and the RVA Assembly, for a minimum of one (1) year or longer, when necessary, until all requirements are met and the trial period completed, the application shall be submitted by the RVA Assembly to the USAV Board of Directors for final approval as a new RVA.
  - 4. "Provincial RVA" refers to that separated geographic area of more than one existing Parent or state RVA whose application has been submitted and approved



by each impacted Parent RVA, zone, and the RVA Assembly. Provincial RVA status shall be computed beginning the date the application is approved by the RVA Assembly, for a minimum of one (1) year or longer, when necessary, until all requirements of an RVA are satisfied, as reflected in the RVA Administrative Manual. Once the requirements are met, and the trial period completed, the application shall be submitted by the RVA Assembly to the USAV Board of Directors for final approval as a new RVA.

5. “Associate RVA” refers to that separated geographic area of one or more existing Parent RVA(s) whose application has been rejected by one or more of the existing Parent RVA(s), but whose application is approved by the RVA Zonal Committee after an independent review. An Associate RVA status shall be computed beginning the date the application is approved by the RVA Assembly, for a minimum of one (1) year or longer, when necessary, until all requirements of a RVA are satisfied as reflected by the RVA Administrative Manual. Once the requirements are met and the trial period is completed, the application shall be submitted by the RVA Assembly to the USAV Board of Directors for final approval as a new RVA.
6. “RVA Zonal Committee” refers to the committee chaired by the appropriate Zonal Chair and will be comprised of all Regional Commissioners within a designated USAV geographic zone where the redistricting proposal is originating. Presently these zones are: Atlantic (North and South), Border (East and West), Central (East and West), and Pacific (North and South).
7. “Corporation” refers to USA Volleyball (“USAV”), the national organization.
8. “RVAs” refers to Regional Volleyball Associations, a RVA Member Organization of USAV.
9. “RVA Assembly” (formerly the Regional Operations Division) refers to the collective organization of RVAs.

D. Application Process. The following process/procedure should be followed by all applicants seeking redistricting:

1. A written application shall be filed with each RVA impacted by a redistricting proposal, with copies provided to the RVA Zonal Committee Chair, the RVA Assembly Chair, and the USAV Administrative Office.

2. All written applications shall follow RVA redistricting procedures, if any, prior to any application being considered by the RVA Zonal Committee, the RVA Assembly, or USAV.
3. Each written application shall be signed by at least five (5) persons supporting the redistricting, under penalty of perjury, with applicants attesting that the information provided for in the application is true, accurate and brought in good faith.
4. Each written application shall include, but not be limited to:
  - a. The name of the proposed Sub, Provincial or Associate RVA.
  - b. The name(s) of all Parent RVA(s) and all USAV Zone(s) impacted by the redistricting.
  - c. A reference to whether prior application(s) has/have been presented to the Parent RVA(s), the date, and a written summary regarding the prior application(s) status.
  - d. A clear description of the geographic area impacted by the application, whether it impacts more than one RVA (a detailed map should be provided), the population base of the new applicant area, the population base of the existing Parent RVA(s) being impacted, and membership base of the new and Parent RVA(s).
  - e. A clear description of the membership and teams (adult, juniors, boys and girls) impacted by the application, including the number of members and teams to be in each RVA, the growth rate of volleyball in the area over the last three (3) years, the number of referees and scorekeepers in each RVA, and any other information which the applicant deems helpful to the review committee.
  - f. An accurate summary of the impact the application has on existing membership in each impacted Parent RVA, including but not limited to fiscal impact on the existing Parent RVA(s), impact on adult and junior tournament schedules, impact on junior team bid allocation, and other issues which the RVA Zonal Committee may determine to be relevant.
  - g. A clear statement of the purpose for which the application is made.

- h. The names, addresses and USAV membership numbers of persons proposed as the Commissioner, the Board of Directors and Officers, and the Officials Chair.
- i. A list of at least 200 adults or 500 members, their names, addresses, phone numbers, USAV membership numbers, team affiliations, and signatures supporting the application. These 500 members shall include at least two-thirds (2/3) players (both adults and juniors) as well as coaches and team representatives.
- j. A copy of the applicant's proposed Articles of Incorporation, proposed Bylaws, and handbooks, which shall include due process procedures, sexual harassment policy, fiduciary policy concerning financial matters, and steps taken to obtain non-profit tax status.
- k. A copy of the applicant's proposed budget and inventory of capital assets, financial status, income sources, and liabilities.
- l. A copy of a proposed reciprocity agreement with existing Parent RVA(s) authorizing members of each RVA to participate in tournaments sponsored or sanctioned by the new RVA or Parent RVA(s).
- m. A statement whether the applicant provided a copy of the application or notice of intent to seek redistricting to the existing Parent RVA(s), and a summary of the steps the Parent RVA(s) have taken:
  - i. To inform the Parent RVA(s) membership;
  - ii. Information on any polls and their results; and,
  - iii. The number of occasions the Parent RVA(s) and applicants have met and the results of those meetings. Such statement shall include any agreements or recommendations an RVA may have to such application.

E. Procedure.

- 1. Each applicant shall submit a copy of the application for redistricting or a notice of intent to seek redistricting to each existing Parent RVA impacted by the application at least ninety (90) days prior to any application being submitted to



the RVA Zonal Committee Chair, with copies provide to the RVA Zonal Committee Chair, the RVA Assembly Chair, and the USAV CEO.

2. Each Parent RVA shall have a redistricting policy to address such applications. Each Parent RVA shall submit the application or notice to its members and obtain a consensus of the majority of its members for the application to be considered.
3. A summary of the RVA's actions, manner of polling its members, polling results, and/or membership responses shall be submitted in written form to the RVA Zonal Committee Chair no later than thirty (30) days prior to the RVA Assembly Annual Meeting. The summary shall include, but not be limited to, any information the Committee deems relevant and helpful toward its consideration of the application. The scope of the review shall also consider steps taken by the Parent RVA to inform and poll its members, the fairness of the procedure used to allow the application full and fair consideration, and any other information the Committee deems appropriate.
4. An applicant whose application for redistricting is rejected by the Parent RVA(s) may submit the same for reconsideration by the RVA Zonal Committee.
5. The RVA Zonal Committee in which the redistricting application is initiated shall meet, review, and make appropriate inquiries regarding the redistricting application or request for reconsideration prior to the RVA Assembly Annual Meeting, and submit a status report or recommendation to the RVA Assembly. The Committee shall make appropriate recommendations regarding the redistricting application or reconsideration motion to the RVA Assembly. The RVA Zonal Committee may elect to (a) support the application and recommend to the RVA Assembly the formation of a Sub or Provincial RVA; (b) reject the application; (c) recommend a formation of an Associate RVA; or, (d) direct that further action be taken on the application.
6. If the RVA Zonal Committee believes, by a majority, that the impacted Parent RVA(s) have failed to provide the application a fair investigation, review, hearing or fair assessment in the determination as to whether such redistricting application is favored by the majority of the membership of the impacted RVA(s), the Committee may recommend to the RVA Assembly that the application be submitted as an Associate RVA. Such recommendation may be considered by the RVA Assembly. Alternatively, the RVA Assembly may hold its own poll and

determine whether such an action is in the best interest of the RVA(s) and area membership. The cost of such poll shall be assessed against the Parent RVA(s).

7. If the RVA Zonal Committee finds that an application is supported by the impacted Parent RVA(s), the Committee shall recommend that the redistricting be approved by the RVA Assembly.
8. If the RVA Zonal Committee finds insufficient basis for redistricting to occur, the Committee may in writing reject the application. Such rejection shall be final. A copy of this determination letter should be sent to the RVA Assembly Chair.
9. If the RVA Zonal Committee, after full evaluation, finds support for the redistricting, opposite of the Parent RVA(s) recommendation, the Committee may recommend that an Associate RVA be established.
10. If the RVA Zonal Committee believes, by a majority, that the applicant has brought the application in bad faith or has provided false information or misrepresented facts to the Committee, the Committee may elect to reject the application. If the Committee finds insufficient basis to recommend redistricting, the Committee may in writing recommend rejection of the application. A copy of this determination letter should be sent to the RVA Assembly Chair.
11. If an application is rejected by the RVA Zonal Committee for bad faith or because it was based on false or misleading information, the Committee may recommend sanction of the applicants whose signature appear on the application and that no application for redistricting be permitted for a period of two (2) years.

F. Limitations on Redistricting.

1. No application for redistricting shall be approved by the RVA Zonal Committee or RVA Assembly unless applicant RVA shall have at least one-third (1/3) of the impacted Parent RVA(s) registered members, with no less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the new RVA members registered as adult members and the remainder junior members, provided the Committee may relax such limitation if the Parent RVA(s) support an application.
2. No application for redistricting shall be approved if the impact of such redistricting will reduce an impacted Parent RVA(s) by more than one-half (1/2) of its membership in any existing category, or below a minimum of two hundred fifty (250) adult members and seven hundred fifty (750) junior members.

- G. Dispute Resolution. The Corporation encourages mutual agreements between Parent RVA(s) and applicant members who seek redistricting consideration. If the Parent RVA(s) are unable to reach mutual agreements with an applicant, any disputes shall be submitted to arbitration before a three-person panel comprised of RVA representatives or an arbitrator agreed to by the parties. Each of the parties agrees that the arbitrator's decision shall be binding.
- H. Trial Period.
1. A redistricting application supported by the impacted Parent RVA(s) shall enjoy Sub or Provincial RVA status for a period of one (1) year following approval of the RVA Assembly and the USAV Board of Directors. Supervision of the Sub or Provincial RVA shall be the Parent RVA(s).
  2. A redistricting application approved by the RVA Zonal Committee and not supported by the impacted Parent RVA(s) shall enjoy Associate RVA status for a period of one (1) year following approval of the RVA Assembly and the USAV Board of Directors. Supervision of the Associate RVA shall be by the RVA Zonal Committee.
  3. A new RVA shall conduct elections, obtain appropriate non-profit tax status, complete all organization legal requirements and otherwise demonstrate to the RVA Zonal Committee that it has complied with all RVA requirements reflected in the Corporate Bylaws and RVA Administrative Manual prior to final approval of the RVA Assembly and USAV Board of Directors.
- I. Redirection of Assets, Liabilities and Responsibilities on Redistricting.
1. At no time shall the impacted Parent RVA(s) be placed in such a posture that they are required to obtain financial loans to meet their operational expenses or be placed in such a financial position that their credit status is jeopardized.
  2. If a redistricting application is made and approved, all Parent RVAs shall provide minimum "start-up" assistance comprised of services, monies or materials to provide the fledgling RVA with rulebooks, guidebooks, or funds to begin a new season. Such start-up assistance shall be based on the proration of expected membership. Any further assistance shall be at the option of the Parent RVA(s) and shall be based on fairness.



3. If a new RVA lacks financial resources or funding to properly equip their offices and meet the requirements of an RVA, as set forth in the RVA Administrative Manual and the Bylaws of the Corporation, the application shall be suspended until proper funding can be available to allow the new RVA to function appropriately.
- J. Allocation of Championship Bids. Each RVA shall be entitled to at least one bid per age division to the Junior National Championships (“JVC”) based on junior membership. A Sub, Provincial or Associate RVA shall be entitled to share in any bids available to the Parent RVA(s) if more than one is available based on a pro rata formula of junior memberships in each of the RVAs. If a Parent RVA is afforded only one bid, then a Sub, Provincial or Associate RVA may be allocated a bid from the at-large bid pool by the championship bid committee, provided the new RVA has been approved.
- K. Reciprocity Agreements. Each Parent RVA and any Sub, Provincial or Associate RVA shall be enter into a reciprocity agreement for the first three (3) years of the new RVA’s existence, allowing teams and player members to continue to participate in tournaments in the Parent RVA(s). Likewise, Parent RVA(s) teams and player members may participate in tournaments sanctioned by the Sub, Provincial or Associate RVA during the same time period.
- L. Membership Obligations. Membership requirements for Sub, Provincial or Associate RVA are as follows:
  1. Communication Requirements.
    - a. Refer to USAV Bylaws and RVAA Administrative Manual for current newsletter, handbook and website requirements.
    - b. RVA Tournament Schedule must be made available to the members (see Chapter 18, Tournaments).
    - c. USAV Guidebook (located on the USAV website) material must be submitted at the RVA Assembly Annual Meeting just prior to the USAV Championship or June 1<sup>st</sup>, whichever comes first.
  2. Administrative Requirements.
    - a. Register players and teams.

- b. A Sub or Provincial RVA should pay the individual member's insurance premiums with its monthly membership fees/insurance report to the Parent RVA.
  - c. An Associate RVA should pay the individual member's insurance premiums with its monthly membership fees/insurance report to the USAV Administrative Office, with a copy of each report sent to the RVA Zonal Committee Chair.
- 3. Train and certify referees and scorekeepers with a minimum of two clinics for each category.
  - a. Establish minimum requirements.
  - b. Schedule as many clinics as possible which are reasonably accessible to all members.
- 4. Provide training and coaches education opportunities which are reasonably accessible to all members.
- 5. Coordinate and sanction tournaments.
  - a. Schedule adequate competition at various levels of play.
  - b. Establish a Court Conduct Code outlining minimum standards of conduct at tournaments.
  - c. Conduct Sub, Provincial or Associate RVA Regional Championships.
- 6. Establish due process appeal procedures.
- M. Membership Benefits. Liability and secondary Sport Accident Insurance for currently registered players, and voice with no vote at all RVA Assembly meetings.

## **ARTICLE V. NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

5.01. Authority. USAV Board of Directors.

5.02 Definitions.

- A. Registration Categories. Membership categories are subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

- B. Registration. Registration is the process of recording and filing, either directly with the Corporation or through an RVA as described below, the name of an Individual, Team and Club with required ancillary information and the receipt of required fees(s).
  - C. Individuals, Teams and Clubs that are registered through any RVA shall be considered dual members of the RVA and USA Volleyball.
  - D. RVA membership is required for all participants and clubs for domestic programming and at all domestic events up to and including Adult and Junior National Championships and other domestic programs run through the Corporation. All international events and activities are excluded. Individuals not otherwise required to register with an RVA under this paragraph register with the Corporation. USAV only administrative members who do not register with an RVA may not participate in any domestic event that requires a roster except for ambassadorial functions and for support staff at a corporate event.
- 1. Individuals. Individuals may register in one of the following registration categories:
    - a. Full Memberships. These memberships are considered unrestricted and are available for adult and junior registrants.
      - i. Adults must register with an RVA and adhere to its policies in the geographical area where they reside or, if applicable, where their club practices. Adults who participate only as players may register where they prefer.
      - ii. Junior players may register with a club defined as a single team or collection of teams that may be located across multiple regions. Players must only register with one specific club in one RVA and be subject to its policies and procedures.
      - iii. Junior registration is restricted to individuals who are:
        - A. 18 years of age or younger on July 1 of the current season; or,
        - B. 19 years of age or younger on July 1 of the current season and a high school student during some part of the academic year.
      - iv. Once a junior member regardless of age, 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 RVA and national programming, which includes but is not limited to USA Volleyball National Championships including all qualifying events.

- b. Limited Memberships: These memberships are considered restricted, either in length of membership or participation, as per RVA or Corporation policy, and are available for adults and junior members.
  - c. One-day or one-event memberships must be purchased in the RVA where their club or team is required to register.
  - d. For all memberships: if a member registers with and participates in multiple Regions, the administrative Region will be determined by their place of residence unless other arrangements are agreed upon in advance by all Regions involved.
  - e. Those members participating solely in the National Team Development Program (“NTDP”) will not incur any membership fees from either the Corporation or any RVA. Such members will not be entitled to participate in any other Corporation or RVA event without acquiring the appropriate membership with the RVA and the Corporation.
2. Teams. Teams participating in any RVA or Corporation sanctioned activities shall be considered registered with the Corporation by registering with its respective RVA.
- a. Clubs, as defined in Section 5.02D1a.ii., must register in the RVA, where a majority of their practice facilities are located. Any exception to this must be handled through an agreement between the leadership of the RVA’s affected.
  - b. Every team is required to be associated with a Club in the RVA in which they are registered. That club, through its Club Director, is subject to all the policies and procedures within that RVA.
3. Clubs: Clubs, consisting of one or more teams, shall be considered registered with the Corporation by registering with each RVA in which their teams are registered and following each RVA’s policies and procedures. If a club has teams competing in multiple regions (RVA’s), they are allowed to appoint one club director to oversee each team across the various RVA’s. However, it is important

that the club registers each team, along with an appointed club director, with the respective RVA according to the guidelines outlined in Sections 5.02D2a and 5.02D2b. It is also crucial for the club to adhere to the policies and regulations set forth by each RVA where their teams are active.

- E. The registering RVA shall be empowered to govern activities within its geographic boundaries and of Individuals, Team and Clubs registered with the RVA, for the duration of its registration. If a conflict occurs within a RVA's approved geographical boundaries, the Principal Representative may prohibit the sanctioning of events and activities within these approved boundaries by the registering RVA.
- F. RVAs should establish written registration policies for teams and clubs near neighboring RVAs. Both RVAs must agree on these boundaries.
- G. All RVAs involved in club registrations must approve any exceptions to this policy. If a waiver is rejected or if there is a disagreement about where to register or any region boundary issues, it can be taken to the RVAA for mediation according to the established RVAA policies.
- F. All other registration and/or sanctioning disputes shall be referred first to the administrative RVA as described in 5.02D.1c or where party seeks to register or sanction an event, then to the Ethics and Eligibility Committee of the RVA Assembly, only to determine whether due process was provided.

## **ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP, ADMINISTRATIVE FEES AND BENEFITS**

- 6.01. Authority. Refer to Bylaws, Article V.
- 6.02. Membership Fees. The Board of Directors may establish annual membership fees for all Member Organizations and include them in the Corporate Policies and Procedures Manual.
- 6.03. Affiliated Organization Benefits. Each Affiliated Organization shall receive a subscription to "Volleyball USA" a copy of the Official Guidebook (located on the USAV website), Domestic Competition Regulation and such other benefits as from time to time are provided.
- 6.04. Administrative Fees. The Board of Directors shall establish a standard national administrative fee for each approved national registration category. This national administrative fee shall not cover the costs for publications of the Corporation, general liability and sport accident insurance or other ancillary materials. The administrative fee shall be established by the Board of Directors and shall apply to the subsequent membership season. Each RVA has the

authority to assess an additional fee for each of the approved registration categories, subject to Board-approved restriction. Upon request, Principal Representative(s) shall make available to the Corporation a copy of the his/her regions' fee schedule.

## **ARTICLE VII. PARTICIPANT, TEAM ELIGIBILITY AND CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS**

These conditions and rules shall govern entrance to and competition in all Corporation events.

7.01. Authority. Refer to Bylaws, Article XVI.

7.02. Definitions.

A. Disciplines.

1. "Volleyball" refers to traditional six-person competition played primarily indoors.
2. "Beach Volleyball" refers to traditional two-person competition played primarily outdoors on sand.
3. "Sitting Volleyball" refers to traditional six-person competition played primarily indoors.

B. Athletes.

1. "Eligible Athlete" refers to an athlete who is eligible for Olympic, FIVB, Paralympic, WPV and USAV competition pursuant to current codes of eligibility of the International Olympic Committee ("IOC"), the International Paralympic Committee ("IPC"), the FIVB, the USOPC 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 or WPV.
2. "Ineligible Athlete" means an athlete ruled to be in violation of the current eligibility requirements of the IOC, the IPC, the FIVB, the WPV, the USOPC or USAV.
3. "International Athlete" refers to Bylaws, Article 2.01.M.
4. "Domestic Athlete" refers to Bylaws, Article 2.01.I.
5. "Foreign Athlete" means an athlete who is not a citizen of the United States and desires to participate in any event sanctioned by the Corporation.



6. “USA National Team Athlete” means an athlete who has competed in protected competition (indoor or beach) as defined by the USOPC Constitution and Bylaws or whose name has been included on a National Team roster (Senior, Junior, Youth).
7. “Foreign National Team Athlete” is a foreign athlete who has been certified by his or her National Federation to be a current member of one of its National Teams.
8. “Junior Volleyball Athlete” means an athlete who meets the age/grade requirements, as specified in Article 5.02.C.1.b. of this Operating Code, and is registered by a Member Organization that has been authorized by the Corporation to conduct junior volleyball activity.
9. “Adult Athlete” means an athlete who does not meet the definition of a Junior Volleyball Athlete.

C. Teams.

1. “Classification” refers to Team assignment by age groups or skill level, i.e., AA, A, BB, B. In junior age group competition, it may be single age only or a maximum age and under. In master and senior’s competition, it shall be minimum age and over. When the number of entries into a USAV National Championship cannot be accommodated with a single tournament, multiple tournaments may be scheduled within a single classification.
2. “Division” refers to a group of teams defined for tournament competition by gender of the participating athlete, e.g., female, male or co-ed.
3. “Team” refers to a combination of athletes participating as a single playing unit restricted to one division and classification.
4. “National Team” refers to a team officially recognized by a National Federation for international competition.

D. Clubs.

1. “Club” means a single team or teams registered with one RVA under the same club name, which may or may not have the same team name.

2. “Club Team” means a team affiliated with a Club as defined in 1 above. If a Club has more than one playing unit, each unit shall be registered as a separate team in only one RVA.
- E. Divisions of Competition. The divisions for competitions are:
1. Men’s Division: shall consist of teams composed of males only.
  2. Women’s Division: shall consist of teams composed of females only.
  3. Co-Ed Division: shall consist of teams composed of females and males consistent with the regulations adopted by the Corporation.
- F. Types of Team Competition.
1. “Junior Volleyball Competition” means competition for athletes meeting the definition of a Junior Volleyball Athlete in Corporation approved age group classifications.
  2. “Adult Competition” means competition primarily for athletes not meeting the eligibility standards for Junior Volleyball Competition.
  3. “Co-Ed Competition” means competition for teams composed of females and males playing in various combinations consistent with the regulations adopted by the Corporation.
- G. Classification of Teams for Corporate Events. Teams are classified by their Member Organization in order to identify their competitive level. Athletes are not classified by the Corporation. For events of the Corporation, the highest level of classification for a team shall be “Open” in all adult indoor events, “Open” in all indoor junior events, and triple A (AAA) in all outdoor events. Lower levels may be expressed by single and/or double letters of the alphabet in alphabetical order, e.g., AA, A, BB, B.
- H. USAV Championship Events. There shall be USAV Championship Events. Entry fees shall be stated in the Pre-Tournament information.
- I. US National Championship Tournaments. Tournaments may be conducted within each USAV Championship Event. Specific eligibility requirements shall be included in the USAV Pre-Tournament Manuals and on USAV’s website.

- J. Rules Governing Play. The FIVB Rules of Play shall be the official rules of play in the United States. For domestic competition, the USAV Domestic Competition Regulations may be selected to promote the game.
- K. Eligible Officials. Referees and scorer who (1) are currently registered, background screened, and SafeSport trained with the Corporation through an RVA and, (2) are certified with a USAV-approved rating.

#### 7.03. Eligibility Requirements for Sanctioned Competitions of the Corporation.

- A. Registration.
  - 1. All athletes, coaches, managers, team trainers, officials, chaperones, teams and others who are involved in a sanctioned competition shall be registered with the Corporation and/or an RVA, as specified in Article V in this Operating Code.
  - 2. Eligibility for Foreign Participants is defined in the Policy on Foreign Participation as well as the Foreign Guest Coach Policy. Refer to the section on “Other Policies of the Corporation” in the USAV Official Guidebook posted on the USAV website.
- B. Participant’s Code of Conduct. All participants shall abide by the Participant’s Code of Conduct to which they have agreed as included in their membership application. Except for SafeSport or violations at Corporate events, the members Administrative region will determine where Code of Conduct or other violations are adjudicated.
- C. Substance Abuse Policy. All participants shall abide by the United States Anti-Doping Agency protocols, which have been adopted by the USOPC and USAV. Refer to the section on “Other Policies of the Corporation” in the USAV Official Guidebook posted on the USAV website.

## **ARTICLE VIII. ZONAL STRUCTURE**

#### 8.01. Purpose. To standardize the subdivision of the United States into geographic areas to accomplish one or more of the following:

- A. A specific program or administrative function.
- B. Strategically located trials and events.
- C. A culminating open competition conducted by the Corporation or a substructure.



- D. A national primary event(s) to ascertain entry or seeding into a USAV Championship Event.

8.02. Criteria. Two intermediate levels of organization, zones and sections, have been established with the following criteria considered: travel time and distance and the number of registered athletes.

A. Atlantic Zone.

- 1. The North-Atlantic Section shall be composed of the Chesapeake, Garden Empire, Iroquois Empire, Keystone, New England, Ohio Valley, and Western Empire RVAs.
- 2. The South-Atlantic Section shall be composed of the Carolina, Florida, Old Dominion, Palmetto, and Southern RVAs.

B. Border Zone.

- 1. The Border-East Section shall be composed of the Bayou, Delta, Gulf Coast, Lone Star, North Texas, and Oklahoma RVAs.
- 2. The Border-West Section shall be composed of the Arizona, Southern California, and Sun Country RVAs.

C. Central Zone.

- 1. The Central-East Section shall be composed of the Badger, Great Lakes, Hoosier, Lakeshore, North Country and Pioneer RVAs.
- 2. The Central-West Section shall be composed of the Gateway, Great Plains, Heart of America and Iowa RVAs.

D. Pacific Zone.

- 1. The Pacific-North Section shall be composed of the Alaska, Columbia Empire, Evergreen, Puget Sound and Rocky Mountain RVAs.
- 2. The Pacific-South Section shall be composed of the Aloha, Intermountain, Moku O Keawe and Northern California RVAs.

8.04. Realignment. These boundaries may be modified by the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE IX. OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS**

- 9.01. Official Guidebook. The Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws, the Operating Code and other pertinent or required information will be made available to the membership, either in printed or digital form.
- 9.02. The USAV Rulebook, which is based on the FIVB or WPV Rules of Play (indoor, beach and sitting) shall be published biennially, either in printed or digital form.

## **ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS**

- 10.01. Authority. Refer to USAV Bylaws Article XVIII.
- 10.02. Procedures for Submission. Proposed additions, deletions or amendments to this Operating Code may be generated in the following ways:
- A. By any Member Organization, substructure or individual, provided such proposal is submitted in writing to the Corporation's CEO no later than sixty (60) days prior to the next meeting of the Board.
  - B. At any time by a Director of the Board.
- 10.03. Requirement for Action.
- A. Proposed changes shall only be considered if notice is mailed or sent electronically to each member of the Board at least thirty (30) days prior to the voting deadline for the next meeting of the Board.
  - B. A Bylaw may be adopted, amended or repealed by the Board by majority vote of the total voting power of the entire Board at a legally constituted meeting.
  - C. Waiver of Requirement. By a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the total voting power of the Board at a legally constituted meeting action may be taken by the Board without thirty (30) days prior notice.

**END**