



Policy Name: Foreign Participation

Season Applicable: 2024 - 2025

Policy Owner: Member Services

Applies to: To all individuals or teams wishing to participate in USA Volleyball and/or Regional Volleyball Association events that are not citizens of the United States.

Purpose:

The purpose of the Foreign Participation policy is to provide definitions of foreign participants and teams and to provide guidance on when a foreign participant or team may participate in USA Volleyball (“USAV”) and/or one of its 40 Regional Volleyball Associations (“RVA”) events.

Definitions:

- I. Foreign Adult (Non-USA) Participant.** An adult participant who currently resides outside the United States OR in a U.S. territory having its own National Volleyball Federation with which the participant is affiliated.
- II. Resident Foreign Adult Participant.** A person who is not a citizen of the United States residing in one of the 50 United States.
- III. Resident Junior Foreign Player.** A Resident Junior Foreign Participant is someone residing legally in the United States per the requirements of legal residence and is attending a United States high school.
- IV. Non-Resident Junior Foreign Player.** A Non-Resident Foreign Participant is an individual who does not meet the requirements of legal residence in the United States.
- V. 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.
- VI. Foreign Junior Team.** A team of Non-Resident Foreign Participants seeking to participate in a USAV or Region-sanctioned event.

Policy Statement for Adult Participants (Non-Players):

- I.** A Resident Foreign 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.
- II.** A Non-resident Foreign Participant working with Juniors in USA Volleyball sanctioned clubs may participate if he/she is duly registered with the USA Volleyball Regional Volleyball Association (RVA) in which the club they are participating with resides and follows all event participation policies and registration procedures.
- III.** A Foreign Participant who has coached 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.

Policy Statement for Adult Players:

- I. 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 Resident Foreign (Non-USA) Participant must purchase a membership from their local region and receive a membership number through their region to participate in USAV Open National Championships.
 - 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.
- II. A Non-resident Foreign Participant must complete the following steps to be eligible to participate in the USA Open Championships:
 - A. Fill out online registration form (posted to event website).
 - B. Submit Proof of Age and residency – upload Passport or government issued ID card.
 - C. Sign electric documents and waivers.
 - D. Pay (\$10) Foreign Participant Insurance fee through registration form.

Policy Statement for Junior Participants:

- I. Individual Junior Foreign Participation: Subject to the above Definitions, a Resident Junior Foreign Player may participate in all USAV and RVA events if:
 - A. She/He is a duly registered member of a USAV RVA; and,
 - B. Follows all event participation policies and registration procedures.

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

A USA Volleyball affiliated club is permitted to roster a maximum of two junior foreign athletes per team, per season, to participate in any USA Volleyball sanctioned events, when such junior foreign athletes are documented members of any foreign national team. Any roster with more than two junior foreign athletes that are documented members of a foreign national team would deem that roster illegal and invalid and any/all penalties permitted per the USA Volleyball Championship Manual may be enforced.

Prohibited Actions for Junior Participants:

- I. A Non-Resident Foreign Player shall not be eligible to participate in any USAV or RVA events.
- II. Concurrent registration with more than one National Volleyball Federation is prohibited.

Policy Statement for Junior Teams:

- I. Foreign Team Participation for National Junior Competitions (e.g., USA Volleyball Girls Junior National Championship, USA Volleyball Boys Junior National Championship, National Qualifiers, and other qualifying events):
 - A. A Foreign Team (registered with its National Volleyball Federation) may participate if it duly applies for and is accepted in compliance with the Event's regulations, is not representing its country in an official capacity, and the federation of origin grants permission for participation.
 1. Only Foreign Teams from U.S. Territories with their own national volleyball federation (Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam) are allowed to participate in bid-winning divisions of Girls National Qualifiers and the Girls Junior National Championship.
 2. Only Foreign Teams from U.S. Territories with their own national volleyball federation (Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam) AND Canadian teams are allowed to participate in bid-winning divisions of Boys National Qualifiers and the Boys Junior National Championship.
 - B. Foreign Teams must purchase foreign participant insurance for \$100 per team, which will be provided by USA Volleyball.
 - C. Each member of a Foreign Team shall have in his/her possession(s) the following documents:
 1. Photo identification (Driver's license, passport or comparable government issued document); and
 2. Copy of birth certificate or Government Issue Identification with birth date for those under 18