



USA***Volleyball***

OPEN NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP
2025 EVENT MANUAL

Colorado Convention Center
Denver, CO | May 23-28, 2025

WELCOME TO DENVER- 2025

On behalf of USA Volleyball and the Events Department, it is our pleasure to join our hosts in welcoming you to Denver, Colorado, and the Colorado Convention Center for the 2025 USA Volleyball Open National Championship! 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 **Visit Denver & Colorado Convention Center Event Staff** for helping to host this event. They are already working hard preparing for this big competition.

USA VOLLEYBALL EVENT CONTACTS

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Dates of Competition & Entry Fees- (also Posted on Website)

		Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		5/22/2025	5/23/2025	5/24/2025	5/25/2025	5/26/2025	5/27/2025	5/28/2025
Divisions	Dates							
	Reg Fee							
Mens Open	\$1,000.00	On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals			
Mens AA	\$900.00	On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals			
Mens A	\$900.00				On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals
Mens BB	\$900.00				On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals
Mens B	\$900.00	On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals			
Womens Open	\$1,000.00	On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals			
Womens AA	\$900.00	On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals			
Womens A	\$900.00				On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals
Womens BB	\$900.00				On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals
Womens B	\$900.00	On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals			
Mens 40s	\$900.00	On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals			
Mens 45s	\$900.00				On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals
Mens 50s	\$900.00	On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals			
Mens 55s	\$900.00				On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals
Mens 60s	\$800.00	On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals			
Mens 65	\$800.00				On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals
Mens 70s	\$800.00	On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals			
Mens 73s	\$800.00				On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals
Womens 40s	\$900.00	On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals			
Womens 45s	\$900.00				On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals
Womens 50s	\$900.00	On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals			
Womens 55s	\$900.00				On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals
Womens 60s	\$800.00	On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals			
Womens 65s	\$800.00				On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals
SONA	\$550.00	On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Pool Play	Finals			
Sitting	\$250.00				On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Finals	
Coed 4s	\$250.00				On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Finals	
Reverse Coed 4s	\$250.00		On Site Check-In	Pool Play	Finals			

Please note that registration for the following divisions will **NOT** be enabled at the time of registration:

Mens 40s; Mens 45s; Mens 73s; Womens 60s; Womens 65s.

In order for the listed division to be enabled for registration, a **MINIMUM OF FIVE** teams must request entry into their desired division(s). Please

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	Friday, April 18, 2025 by, 11:59 PM ET.
Jersey Verification Edits	Friday, May 2, 2025 by 11:59 PM ET
Last Day to Receive Entry Refund	Friday, May 2, 2025 by 11:59 PM ET
Seeding Form	Friday, April 18, 2025, by 11:59 PM ET

All payments must be received by 7:00 PM ET, May 2, 2025, in order to complete your registration. **If payment is not received by the designated deadline, your team may 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 May 6th deadline.**

FOREIGN TEAMS/PLAYERS

FOREIGN TEAMS ADDITIONAL DEADLINE	
Complete Package of Foreign Team Registration Forms	Friday, May 16, 2025 by 11:59 PM ET

The following online registration for Foreign Participants must be completed by Friday, May 16, at 11:59PM ET. If you have any questions, please reach out to opens@usav.org or membership@usav.org for help.

The following online registration for Foreign Participants must be completed by Friday, May 16, at 11:59PM ET. If you have any questions, please reach out to opens@usav.org or membership@usav.org for help.

NEW IN 2025: Canada, Puerto Rico, and Guam residents need to obtain 2025 Opens Championship Membership ID through SportsEngine with the following links:

[24-25 USAV Canadian & US Territory Adult Opens Participant Membership](#)

If you do not reside in Canada, Puerto Rico, or Guam, please follow the Foreign Player Requirements

- [Foreign Participant Registration Form](#)
- Fill out registration form
- Sign electronic documents and waivers
- Pay Foreign Insurance
- \$10/person
- *This should be paid online with the registration form*

- *Note: Proof of age and residency should remain with each player near the playing space in case an official request to see it*
- Team Registration and Roster verification
- See page 9 on AES Instructions

POLICY ON FOREIGN (NON-USA) PLAYER PARTICIPATION

DEFINITIONS	
"Foreign Adult Participant":	An adult participant who is currently resides outside the United States OR in a U.S. territory having its own National Volleyball Federation with which the participant is affiliated. Proof of residence outside the U.S. or territory of the U.S. (requires submission of Passport or other government issued ID).
"Resident" Foreign Participant:	A person who is not a citizen of the United States residing in one of the 50 United States.
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) RESIDENT INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION

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.

1. 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.

FOREIGN (NON-USA) TEAM PARTICIPATION

A Foreign (Non-USA) Team may participate if it duly applies for and is accepted in compliance with the event's regulations and is not representing its country in an official capacity.

Each (Non-USA) Foreign Participant (on a US team) and all members of a Foreign (Non-USA) Team must complete all required foreign individual participant requirements, listed above. ***All foreign participant athletes must be verified through the AES system to be eligible on a roster. Please check the event website for team registration and roster creation instructions.***

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 USA Volleyball a driver's license, passport or comparable government issued document.

TOURNAMENT TEAM CHECK – IN

On-site team check-in is **MANDATORY** and located at the Colorado Convention Center based on the schedule below. The location will be communicated in the team letter and there will be signs onsite to show where to check in onsite. Teams that fail to check in by 9PM on their designated check in day will be subject to forfeiture of their first set of the tournament. Teams are NOT allowed to check in the morning or afternoon of their first competition day. We encourage teams to complete online roster check-in prior to arrival at the event. If you are experiencing roster errors, please email membership@usav.org

This will be enforced! Teams that have not checked in by 9:00 PM local time on their designated registration day will forfeit their first set and/or fee at the discretion of the tournament director and subsequent matches if complete check-in isn't acquired by those match times.

Divisions	Date/Time
Open, AA, B, Men 40+, Men 50+, Men 60+, Men 70+, Women 40+, Women 50+, Women 60+	Thursday, May 22, 2025 1:00 PM – 9:00 PM Local Time
Reverse Coed 4s, SONA (Special Olympics)	Friday, May 23, 2025 1:00 PM – 9:00 PM Local Time
A, BB, Men 45+, Men 55+, Men 65+, Men 73+, Women 45+, Women 55+, Women 65+, Sitting, Coed 4s	Sunday, May 25, 2025 1:00 PM – 9:00 PM Local Time

- The team representative/coach will receive printed rosters and other information.
 - Schedules and results will be available online.
- 1. The team representative/coach will verify the team roster and uniform numbers.
 - Once verified, the roster will be in effect throughout the Championship. **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) adult staff members. **ONLY those persons whose names appear on the verified roster are permitted to sit on the bench.**
 - Coed team rosters will be limited to six (6) players.

ROSTER ADDITIONS & CHANGE DEADLINES

The roster may be changed for free prior to **May 23, 2025**. 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
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 May 2**, online roster change deadline, you may edit and make changes to your roster through the AES system.
- **After May 21st**, all roster changes will need to be made by a USAV Events Employee to confirm membership has been completed. Please email membership@usav.org for any roster changes during this time.

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT BALL

NO USED TOURNAMENT BALLS WILL BE SOLD AT THIS EVENT.

Molten FLISTATEC



Men's and Women's Open, AA, A, BB, B

Men's and Women's 40+ and 45+

Men's 50+, 55+

Sitting

Coed 4s and Reverse Coed 4s

Molten Super Touch



Women's 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+

Men's 60+, 65+, 70+, 73+

Special Olympics

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.

Seeding for the USA Volleyball Open National Championship 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

Help USAV better seed this tournament by completing this seeding form by **May 2, 2025 at 11:59PM ET** - [2025 Opens Seeding Survey](#)

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/work at 8:00AM on the first day and as late as 9:00PM 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 Tournament Director and 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 USAV Tournament Director and 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) and second referees (R2) to all matches in the Event.



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

TEAM OFFICIATING DUTIES

- Teams entered in the Club (AA, A, BB, B), Coed 4s, Reverse Coed 4s, Masters, Seniors, and Sitting tournaments are required to provide a total of three (3) support officials: two (2) line judges, and one (1) Scoreboard Operator. Officiating assignments will be listed on-line through the AES competition schedule. These assignments generally will be immediately prior to or after the match in which the team has played.
- Only the Tournament Director and Competition Director 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)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ 1st Place Champions ★ 2nd Place Runner-Ups ★ 3rd Place ★ All-Tournament Teams & MVP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ 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.

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 All-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 and **offer any recommendations for the** final selections on the final day of competition.

USAV ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONSUMPTION 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 3:00PM on Thursday, May 22 and on Sunday May 25 ONLY if courts are available. 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 at the championship desk.

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 Denver Convention Center during the USA Volleyball Open National Championship.

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 Colorado Convention 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 Colorado Convention 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 2025 USA Volleyball Open National Championship (see: [Rulebooks and Interpretations - USA Volleyball](#) to download the Rule Book). Participants, Coaches and Team Representatives in the USA Volleyball Open National Championship are subject to and must obey ALL rules, regulations and policies of USA Volleyball herein or otherwise written.

Please review the 2023-2025 Critical Rules and Interpretations training material below: [Rulebooks and Interpretations - USA Volleyball](#)

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 2023-2025 season (underlined words, phrases or sentences indicate an editorial correction or rule change).

- 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.
- 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
- Coed 4s and Reverse Coed 4s rosters may contain up to six (6) players and three (3) staff members.
- 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)

RULES OF PLAY – REVERSE 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)*
- Any combination of players may contact the ball.
- Played on a Women's Height net
- Male players may ONLY attack from BEHIND the 3-Meter line.
- Male players may ONLY block when the last contact from the opposing team came from a male player. No open-handed tips.
- 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 vent 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	2.43 m (7'11 5/8")
Reverse Coed 4s	2.24 m (7'4 1/8")

The height of the net **MAY** vary for specific age groups as follows:

<u>AGE GROUPS</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>MALE</u>
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, Coed, 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, Reverse 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 Championship 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:

2. 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.
3. Players are required to adhere to the rules and regulations of the organization which they represent as well as those of USA Volleyball.
4. ALL players competing in a Club (AA, A, BB, B) Championship Tournament shall only be eligible for that Club tournament. Players may be eligible for non-Club tournaments (Coed 4s, Reverse Coed Sitting or Masters / Senior if age requirements are met) 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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 of \$100 per team or \$10 per player.
10. Any participant causing disruptive or unfavorable action to USA Volleyball during these Events as determined by the Tournament Director and Competition Director 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.
11. 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").
12. 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.

13. 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.

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 tournament divisions
AA/A	Eligible to compete in the following divisions: Coed 4s, Reverse Coed 4s Sitting, Masters or Seniors tournament for which they are eligible in the opposite playing session. (NOT eligible to compete in BB/B and the opposing A Division)
BB/B	Eligible to compete in the following divisions: Coed 4s, Reverse Coed 4s, Sitting, Masters or Seniors tournament for which they are eligible in the opposite playing session. (NOT eligible to compete in AA/A & the Opposing B Division)
Masters / Seniors	Eligible to play in one of the other master tournaments being offered in the opposite session or in a Sitting, Coed 4s, Reverse 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, Reverse Coed 4s, Masters or Seniors tournament for which they are eligible in the opposite playing session.
Coed 4s / Reverse 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 under 18 years of age 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:

- be immediately suspended from USAV membership and barred from further participation in the event.
- be barred from participation in any USAV Corporate events in any capacity for a minimum of two (2) years; and
- 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:

- be immediately suspended from USAV membership and barred from further participation in the event.
- be barred from participation in any USAV Corporate events in any capacity for a minimum of two (2) years; and
- 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.

Age 18 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 Championship and open to USA and NON-USA teams and players.

1. Entries will be limited to a maximum of 16 teams.
2. Any team or group of players registered with USA Volleyball, or another national volleyball federation are eligible to compete in this division.
3. No more than two (2) current national team players are allowed on an Open roster.
4. All competition will consist of the best of five set matches and SINGLE ELIMINATION format.
5. Teams competing in the Open Division are ineligible to compete in any other division during this Event.
6. 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 Championship 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 ONE CLUB division, unless they are also eligible for participation in Coed 4s or Reverse Coed 4s (Given either coed division does NOT take place in the same session), Sitting or Masters / Seniors Tournament being offered in a separate session. (This will be strictly enforced)
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 Championship.

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. There is no maximum age for any tournament.
12. All competition will consist of the best of three set matches and **SINGLE ELIMINATION** format.
13. 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, 2023-2024 rulebook, will govern this competition with the following modifications:
 - a. Rules regarding disability/classification are not in effect
 - b. Substitution rules and procedures will follow USA Volleyball Rules Book
 - c. Libero rules and procedures will follow USA Volleyball Rules Book
13. WPV Rulebook available for download at: <https://www.worldparavolley.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2023-2024-World-ParaVolley-Sitting-Volleyball-Rule-Book-APPROVED.pdf>

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

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, 2025.

1. Competition will be offered uniquely for men and uniquely for women in the following age groups:
2. Masters: 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+
3. Seniors: 60+, 65+, 70+, 73+
4. Players in the Men's 70s, & Over Division may send individual entries and will be placed on teams if a sufficient number of players enter.
5. USAV will allow up to two (2) women per roster in the Men's 70+ and 73+ division under the following conditions:
 - i. The women on the roster meet the age criteria
6. The women adhere by the men's 70+ & 73+ net height and rules
7. This division will NOT be considered Co-Ed
 - i. Having a woman on the roster is optional, not required
8. Non-USA teams are permitted to compete in these tournaments.
9. The number of teams competing will determine the number of medal tournaments to be scheduled (i.e., Gold, Silver and Bronze).
10. A minimum of five (5) teams is required to conduct a championship tournament.
11. All competition will consist of the best of three set matches and **DOUBLE ELIMINATION** format.
12. There is no maximum age for any tournament.
13. RULES OF PLAY: The USA Volleyball Rules Book, as modified and approved by the USAV Rules Testing Committee, 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 –

[2025 Open National Championship - AES](#)

- Use the “[AES Registration Instructions](#)” for more details on how to create a club/team/roster and register for the event -
- 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 ACCEPTED until the following is met:

- Registration Payment Received
- Housing Books & Confirmed Through Team Travel Source
- Roster Completed & Validated

2025 Ranking/Seeding Information Form - [2025 Opens Seeding Survey](#)

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

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

STAY & PLAY POLICY

What is USAV's Stay and Play policy?

The 2024-2025 USA Volleyball Season includes Stay and Play events, meaning that to be eligible to compete in the tournament, your team must book 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 ensure your parents know NOT to 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 counted toward your team's compliance with the Stay and Play policy.

Team Travel Source guarantees the lowest group rates available (exclusions include unconfirmed room types, non-cancellable 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).

WHY IS THERE A STAY AND PLAY POLICY?

When an event is deemed "Stay and Play," the event producer can prove the economic impact they bring to the city. As an event producer, the first step to ensuring a successful event year after year is showing a host city that you are a good partner. With a Stay and Play tournament, all room nights can be tracked and reported to the city, proving the tournament's economic impact via hotel stays as well as restaurant and attraction traffic.

Other benefits to implementing a Stay and Play policy include the below:

- **MORE ROOMS FOR TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANTS.** A hotel is far more willing to set aside a block of rooms for a tournament – even at a group rate – if they know the tournament is Stay and Play and can provide records of the rooms booked from previous years. Because of Stay and Play policies, hotels are more confident that the rooms will be sold, and when hotels are more confident that the rooms will be sold, they are more likely to contract larger blocks at the most desirable properties. In addition, we are able to work with all hotels to make sure their rates are in line with one another and appropriate for the location and time of year for the event.
- **GUARANTEED ROOM TYPES.** The room rate contracted GUARANTEES the room type you reserve. You will not book a double room and arrive to find that only king rooms are available.
- **THERE IS A HIGHER LIKELIHOOD THAT YOUR TEAM/PROGRAM WILL BE ABLE TO STAY IN THE SAME HOTEL.** With larger blocks, there is a much better chance that we will be able to keep your group together, which in turn allows coaches the ability to hold team meetings or to contact individual team members or parents more easily.
- **IT PROVIDES CONSISTENT, AFFORDABLE GROUP RATES FOR EVERYONE PARTICIPATING.** Hotel rates have increased across the country since 2013 (according to www.statista.com). From year to year, a Stay and Play event will see hotel rates increase at approximately 50% the normal percentage increase. TTS contracts room blocks at confirmed, non-variable rates. There will be no movement in room rates based on supply and demand, whether you book several months in advance or much closer to your arrival date. The consumer is GUARANTEED THE LOWEST POSSIBLE GROUP RATE over the event dates.

ARE THERE ANY EXEMPTIONS FROM THE STAY AND PLAY POLICY?

The following exemptions are permitted but must be verified as explained below. Please request an Exemption Form by emailing volleyball@teamtravelsource.com. Your subject line should read: USAV (Event Name & Year) EXEMPTION REQUEST.

Please note, each approved exemption request will **count for two room nights** toward your team's total requirement, and a **max of two exemptions** (four room nights) are permitted per registered team per event.

#1 – USING POINTS FOR A FREE ROOM - If you have enough points to redeem them for an entirely FREE stay, you are allowed to do so. Please book the room through the hotel directly and attach a copy of your reservation showing that points were used to book your entire stay to the Exemption Form. Please note that just 'receiving hotel reward points' for staying at a hotel does not qualify for an exemption.

#2 – LIVING IN CLOSE PROXIMITY - If a player's home address is within 75 miles of the venue, you may request an exemption from the housing requirement. Please attach the player's name, team and proof of address to the Exemption Form. (Note: if the club's address is within 75 miles of the venue, club will be marked "Local" by USAV. Please do not submit individual exemption requests.)

#3 – MILITARY OR GOVERNMENT DISCOUNT - If you have access to a lower rate with a military or government discount, you may request an exemption from the housing requirement. Please attach a copy of the reservation that was booked with the discount and the athlete's name and club to the Exemption Form. Please note, the hotel will require the military or government ID to be presented upon check-in.

If you have any questions, please contact Team Travel Source's dedicated team of Volleyball Event Specialists, who are available to guide teams through the booking process and requirements.

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