

2027 Girls Championship *Manual*

The following manual contains information regarding the National Qualifiers, the Girls Junior National Championships 11-13s & 14-17s), the Girls Junior Club Championship, and Girls 18s National Championships

Revised: October 2026

2026/2027 Season

USA Volleyball reserves the right to adjust or alter the procedures and policies outlined in the Championship manuals for the 2026/2027 season. To ensure that proper safety measures are taken for all participants and staff, USA Volleyball will adhere to all required local and national guidelines, safety protocols and restrictions.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction 5
USA Volleyball and the Championship Events 5
Purpose of the Championship Manual 5
Changing the Championship Manual 5
Glossary of Terms 6
Changes/Edits to Championship Manual for 2027 Season 8
A Note from USA Volleyball 9
Harassment Incident Response-Officials & Staff (HIROS) 9
Spectator Conduct 9
USA Volleyball Junior Player Age Definition 10
GJCC & GJNC Ages & Division Levels 11
GJCC Divisions of Play 11
Age Classifications & Team Entries at GJCC 11
GJNC Divisions of Play 11
Age Classification, Divisions & Team Entries at GJNC 12
Qualification & Bid process 13
National Qualifier Process 13
USAV's Role In National Qualifiers 14
Divisions & Size of Field At A National Qualifier 14
GJNC Bids Awarded By a National Qualifier 14
GJNC Bids Awarded Through a National Qualifier: Priority & Process 16
Open Division Bids 16
National Division Bids (11s -12s Only) 16
USA Division Bids 18
Liberty Division Bids 18
American Division Bids 18
At-Large Bids Awarded through USA Volleyball 18
GJNC Bids Awarded Through a Region: Priority & Process 19
National Division: 19
American Division: 19
Freedom Division: 20
Reallocation Bids 20
Rules for Priority of Bid Use 20

Penalties 22
Factors That Will Be Considered for Establishing Penalties: 22
Penalties for Not Using a Bid 22
Penalties for Illegal Use of Bid 23
Appeals 24
National Qualifier Tournament Information 25
Rules of Play 25
Artificial Noise Makers and Portable Music Devices 26
Tournament Formats 26
Match Formats 26
Open Division Formats 26
USA, Liberty, American & 12 National Division Formats 27
11 National Division Formats 27
Seeding of Divisions 27
Pool Play Sequence 27
Playing Schedules 28
Court Use 29
Warm-up Protocol 30
Tie Breakers to Determine Pool Finish 30
Tie Breaker Rules 30
Team and Player policies 33
Team Uniforms 33
Playing up 33
Team Forfeitures 33
Last Day Forfeits 34
Team Officiating Duties 34
Missed Officiating Duties 35
Age Waivered Players 35
Team Rosters 35
Rostered Athlete Requirements 36
Rostered Staff Requirements 37
USA Volleyball Age and Identity Falsification Policy 39
Gender Competition Policy 39
Roster Verification and Team Check In 40
SafeSport 40

The “Frozen Player” Rule 42
Frozen Players at GJCC 42
Frozen Players at GJNCs 42
New for the 2026/2027 season: Rule of 2 43
Participation in Multiple Divisions 43
Policies for Multiple Division Participation at National Qualifiers 43
Policies for Multiple Division Participation At 18GJNC, GJNCs, and GJCC 44
Policy on Foreign individual and Foreign Team Participation 44
Tournament Requirements 46
Officials 46
Awards 46
Team Entry Requirements For NQs 47
Team Acceptance Criteria For NQs 47
Athletic Trainers 47
Protest Committee 48
Ethics and Eligibility 48
Event Arbitrators 48
Event Appeals Committee Duties 48
National Qualifier Director- Information & Requirements 50
National Qualifier Information Requirements 50
USAV National Qualifier Policies 50
Tournament Information 51
Recommended Facility Space Requirements 51
Equipment Requirements 51
Event Staff Membership Requirements 51
Online Registration and Results Reporting Requirements 52
Refund and Withdrawal Policy 52
Officials 53
USAV Arbitrator 53
USAV Evaluator 53
USAV Marketing & Branding requirements 54
USAV Sanction Requirements 55

INTRODUCTION

USA VOLLEYBALL AND THE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

USA Volleyball (USAV), recognized by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee as the National Governing Body for volleyball, holds several national championships annually, including the USA Volleyball Girls 11-13s Junior National Championships (11-13s GJNC), Girls 14-17s Junior National Championships (14-17s GJNC), the 18s Girls Junior National Championships (18sGJNC) (collectively referred to as GJNCs), and the Girls Junior Club Championship (GJCC).

The GJNCs provides competition by age classifications in various divisions of the Championships. Teams must qualify to play at the GJNCs for all Divisions (except for the Patriot divisions at each GJNC) through one of two main paths; one is the NQ process and the other is the Region Bid process. A Team can earn a Bid to the GJNCs by finishing in a Bid award position at a NQ, through the At-Large Bid process, through a Region Bid process, or through the Region reallocation process.

The GJCC provides competition for ages 10-17 in "Non-Bid" divisions intending to provide an alternate competition level, within a similar championship environment.

PURPOSE OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP MANUAL

The NQs are licensed by USAV and must operate within parameters set by USAV. Those parts of the NQs that impact play, and thus entry into the GJNCs, must adhere to standards set out in this Girls Championship Manual (GCM).

The primary purpose of this GCM is to publish the standards established by USAV for the GJNC, the GJCC, and the NQs. The secondary purpose is to explain the process of qualifying to play at the GJNCs and the registration requirements for the GJCC.

The GCM is intended to be a resource to those hosting one of the NQs and to those organizations whose Teams attend the GJNCs, the GJCC, and the NQs.

CHANGING THE CHAMPIONSHIP MANUAL

The GCM is a USAV corporate document. Only the USAV Events Department may authorize changes, deletions, and additions to this GCM and to the qualifying process itself.

The GCM is a living document, and while significant edits to the document will not be made frequently throughout the year, the USAV Events department reserves the right to adjust and edit the document if needed. Should changes be made during the events season, notice will be sent to Regions and Qualifier Directors prior to the updated document being posted on the website.

Suggestions to change the GCM and the qualifying process can come from the USAV Junior Assembly (JA), USAV Commissions, USAV Events Department (Events Department), the National Qualifier Directors (QD) or

the USAV Regional Volleyball Association Assembly (RVAA). Suggested changes must be submitted to USA Volleyball no later than July 1st to follow a review process in order to be approved; changes that have monetary or legal significance may require a review by the QDs. Once a suggested change is approved, the implementation may take up to two full seasons.

The Events Department annually updates the GCM and distributes an electronic copy of the updated version to each QD for review. The Events Department will post the updated GCM on the USAV website.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

18s GJNC: An 18's National Championship that takes place in the spring with the 18 Open, 18 National, 18 USA, 18 Liberty 18 American, 18 Freedom and 18 Patriot Divisions.

American Division: The fifth-Tier division for 13's – 18's, and the second Tier for 11s & 12s of the GJNCs where Teams must obtain a Bid to participate.

Bid: A Bid is an invitation to a Team to play in the GJNCs either through a NQ or a Region Bid process. To use the Bid, a Team must meet all entry deadlines and other requirements set by both their USAV Region and the USAV national office.

At-Large Bid: A GJNC Bid awarded in the Open or USA Division upon the completion of the Qualifier Season (both National and Regional) by the GJNC Seeding Committee based on performance during that season, in relation to other non-qualified Teams in that age group.

Reallocation Bid: A National, USA, American, or Freedom Division Bid to the GJNCs that is unused and is returned for reallocation to a Region. Reallocation is performed by the USAV Events Department.

Trickle-Down Bid: A GJNC Bid awarded at a NQ to a Team finishing lower than a usual Bid award position. This happens in some situations when a higher finishing Team has previously accepted a GJNC Bid from another NQ or a Region process or a Bid is declined from the National, Liberty, American, Freedom or USA Divisions. Note: 18 Open Bids may not be declined.

Club: An organization/group of one or more teams of different ages and abilities playing together under the same umbrella organization.

GCM: Girls Championship Manual

Event: Multiple Tournaments or activities associated within the same title, Sanction and host organization.

Freedom Division: The sixth-tier division for 14's – 18's of the GJNCs where Teams must obtain a Bid to participate.

Frozen Player: A player who is restricted from participating on the roster of another Team. The specifics of the "Frozen Player" are numerous and can vary between the 18sGJNC and the GJNC. (Please see Frozen Player Rule).

GJNC: Girls Junior National Championship 11-13s, 14-17s and 18s

GJCC: Girls Junior Club Championship 10-17s

JA: Junior Assembly of USA Volleyball

Liberty Division: The fourth-tier division for 13's – 18's of the GJNCs where Teams must obtain a Bid to participate.

Match: A head-to-head competition between two (2) Teams within a specified round of a Tournament. While typically two (2) sets out of three (3), some Matches may also involve an automatic three (3) sets

Qualifying Match: A Match that "qualifies" a Team for the GJNCs.

Seeding Match: A non-elimination Match meant to place or "seed" Teams into the next round of play.

National Division: The second-Tier division for 13's – 18's, and the top Tier for the 11s and 12s of the GJNCs where Teams must obtain a Bid to participate.

NQ: National Qualifier Event

Open Division: The top Tier division for the 13's – 18's of the GJNCs where Teams must obtain a Bid to participate.

Patriot Division: A non-qualifying division at the GJNCs where Teams may gain access to the Tournament by entering the event through the established process in the GCM. Patriot Divisions will be available for all age groups at the GJNCs.

Playing Surface: Area deemed as "playable" by the 2025-2027 USAV Indoor Rules Book for that court.

Region: One of 40 established member organizations of USAV governing a specific geographical area.

Round of play: A specified segment of a Tournament (typically a pool or playoff bracket). Tie breaker competition is NOT considered a round of play.

Sanction: Recognition and coverage of a given Event, and/or Tournament within an Event, by either a Region of USAV or the National Office.

Second Warm Up Period: Start of receiving Team's warm-up.

Seeding: The order in which teams are ranked to begin a Tournament.

Seeding Committee: A committee designated by the USAV Events Department consisting of 4-7 USAV members in good standing. Seeding Committee members are responsible for Seeding of all divisions at the GJCC, GJNCs, Open Divisions of NQs (if requested by QD) and selection of At-Large Bids for GJNCs.

Team: A minimum of six (6) rostered players up to fifteen (15) players and no more than five (5) staff members, including the required head coach position.

Tie: When two (2) or more teams end pool play with identical Match records.

Tie Break: Method by which a Ties after pool play has concluded, are given a ranked order of finish to either advance to the next round of play or be placed into a competitive Tie breaking Match or series of Matches.

Tournament: Competition of a specific group of teams (i.e., Girls 16's Open Tournament) that could also be known as a "Championship."

USA Division: The third-Tier division for 12s – 18's of the GJNCs where Teams must obtain a Bid to participate.

USAV: USA Volleyball

QD: Qualifier Director

CHANGES/EDITS TO CHAMPIONSHIP MANUAL FOR 2026-2027 SEASON

- Small formatting changes throughout document
- **Page 10 –** Age Definition updates
- **Page 11 –** Patriot Division at GJNC returns for 10-17s
- **Page 15 –** Bid tables have been updated to show applicable new bid thresholds
- **Page 17 –** Information regarding NQs ability to offer combined 12 Nat-USA division and bid thresholds
- **Page 19 –** Updated bid allotments for American divisions
- **Page 20 –** Additional Reallocation bid information regarding 2nd American bid in 13-17s divisions
- **Page 28 –** Matches may begin prior to scheduled time, only if stipulations listed are met.
- **Page 37 –** Junior members 18 years old and above must clear Safesport and background screening within 45 days, not 30. Edited to reflect Safesport policy.
- **Page 40 –** Roster Verification and Team Check-in has been edited to reflect transition to primarily online check-in for NQs & combination of online and onsite check in GJNCs and GJCC.
- **Page 43 –** Addition of “Rule of 2” rule and wording.
- **Page 44 -** Participation in Multiple Divisions Section - Update to reflect teams are not eligible to participate in both the GJNC (Patriot Division included) and GJCC.
- **Page 46 –** Officials requirement for tournaments updated.

A NOTE FROM USA VOLLEYBALL

USA Volleyball's vision, and unwavering commitment, is “to build, create, and support a safe, inclusive, positive volleyball experience and a lifetime of opportunity for all.”

HARASSMENT INCIDENT RESPONSE-OFFICIALS & STAFF (HIROS)

In addressing the increasing number of harassment incidents making headlines in sports, this serves as a reminder that there is ZERO TOLERANCE for harassment towards our officials, tournament staff, players, coaches, and spectators. To ensure accountability, the creation of the Harassment Incident Response – Officials & Staff (HIROS) is presented at all Qualifiers and National Championships to encourage tournament staff to confidently respond in real-time to what is deemed as hate speech, inappropriate gestures, or aggressive physical interaction targeting an individual's ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and physical appearance. Those who witness on-site harassment must report these unacceptable behaviors and actions to our officials, arbitrators, or tournament staff.

SPECTATOR CONDUCT

We also remind coaches of their crucial role in maintaining respectful and courteous behavior and their responsibility to guide their teams and spectators. Unsportsmanlike conduct by spectators will be addressed by Arbitrators and Event Staff and may lead to dismissal from the event.

Let's all play our part in upholding the safety and integrity of the game and ensure a positive experience for all involved.

USA Volleyball Event Code of Conduct: CLICK HERE

USA VOLLEYBALL JUNIOR PLAYER AGE DEFINITION

For use during the 2026-2027 Season:

Once a player has:

1. Been enrolled at a university, college, community college, or junior college AND
2. Been cleared to participate by that (volleyball) program

The player is ineligible to take part in any regional and national programming, which includes but is not limited to national JNC qualifying and championship events.

To determine the correct age division, please find the Month of Birth in the left column and then the year of birth in the same row. The heading of the column matching the Year of Birth is the correct age bracket.

	18 & Under[1]	18 & Under[2]	17 & Under	16 & Under	15 & Under	14 & Under	13 & Under	12 & Under	11 & Under	10 & Under	9 & Under	8 & Under
July	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Aug	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Sept	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Oct	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Nov	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Dec	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Jan	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Feb	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Mar	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Apr	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
May	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
June	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019

[1]Players who were born on or after July 1, 2007 and a high school student in the twelfth (12th) grade or below during some part of the current academic year are eligible to compete in 18 & under.

[2a]Players in this age range that have graduated high school are ineligible only if they have been enrolled at a university, college, community college or junior college AND have been cleared to participate by that (volleyball) program.
[2b]Players who were born on or after July 1, 2008, (who are defined as 18 & under by the USAV Age Definition) and are in the 11th grade for the current academic year are eligible to compete in 17 & under.

Note: These age definitions are used by domestic club programs and are NOT the same as the age definitions for the International Competition and Domestic NDTP programs.

Please review our website for the full 2026-2027 Junior Age Definition: CLICK HERE

THE AGE DEFINITION POLICY WAS MOST RECENTLY REVISED BY THE USA VOLLEYBALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON MAY, 27, 2025.

GJCC & GJNC AGES & DIVISION LEVELS

GJCC DIVISIONS OF PLAY

The goal of the GJCC is to provide an alternate Non-Bid USA Volleyball championship-style event for teams not pursuing a bid and not registered for a GJNC Patriot division.

This event provides a high-level playing opportunity for clubs and teams that may not be ready to pursue a bid for GJNCs, but wish to compete within the USA Volleyball championship environment.

More information on the registration requirements and the differences between GJCC and the GJNC Patriot divisions can be found on the event website.

*Please note: if a team accepts a bid, they will no longer be eligible to participate at the GJCC, and vice versa. If a team chooses to participate at the GJCC they will not be allowed to play at the GJNC. (Please review the Frozen Player rule for questions regarding individual players participating in both events)

AGE CLASSIFICATIONS & TEAM ENTRIES AT GJCC

	17 & Under	16 & Under	15 & Under	14 & Under	13 & Under	12 & Under	11 & Under	10 & Under
Club Division	64 Teams	64 Teams	64 Teams	64 Teams	64 Teams	64 Teams	64 Teams	64 Teams

*Overall team count and division sizes for the GJCC will be fluid and may change from the initial registration count. Due to changing circumstances, some divisions may increase and decrease as our team count fluctuates.

GJNC DIVISIONS OF PLAY

There are up to seven (7) major divisions of play at a given GJNC – Open, National, USA, Liberty, American, Freedom, and Patriot.

Returning for 2027: Patriot Divisions for 10-17s.
GJNC Patriot Divisions are intended for teams pursuing a GJNC bid that want a national championship-caliber competitive opportunity if they do not earn a bid.

The goal of the GJNCs **Open Divisions** is to identify, through competition, the best team in each GJNCs age group from among teams (see chart below) that have earned Bids. The NQ Open Divisions are designed to select those teams.

- To participate in an Open Division at the GJNCs, a team must earn a Bid from participating in an NQ Open Division – either winning the Bid outright at an NQ or being selected for an At-Large Bid after competing in an NQ Open Division (see Open At-Large Bids).

The goal of the GJNCs **National, USA, Liberty, American and Freedom** is to showcase Region Teams and provide the opportunity for more teams to participate at the GJNCs.

Teams have the following avenues to receive a Bid for a GJNCs Open, National, USA, Liberty, American or Freedom Division:

- Earn a Bid at a NQ (Open, National (11s – 12s only) USA, Liberty and American);
- Awarded an at–large Bid (Open, USA, and Liberty);
- Earn a Bid through their Region's Bid process (National, American and Freedom); or
- Earn a Bid from their Region through the Re-allocation process (National, USA, Liberty, American and Freedom).

AGE CLASSIFICATION, DIVISIONS & TEAM ENTRIES AT GJNC

	18 & Under	17 & Under	16 & Under	15 & Under	14 & Under	13 & Under	12 & Under	11 & Under	10 & Under
Open Division	48 Teams	48 Teams	48 Teams	48 Teams	48 Teams	36 – 48* Teams			
National Division	48 Teams	48 Teams	48 Teams	48 Teams	48 Teams	48 Teams	48 Teams	24 Teams	
USA Division	48 Teams	48 Teams	48 Teams	48 Teams	48 Teams	48 Teams	32 Teams		
Liberty Division	48 Teams	48 Teams	48 Teams	48 Teams	48 Teams	48 Teams			
American Division	64 Teams	96 Teams	96 Teams	96 Teams	96 Teams	96 Teams	96 Teams	48 Teams	
Freedom Division	48 Teams	64 Teams	64 Teams	64 Teams	64 Teams				
Patriot Division	24+ Teams	24+ Teams	24+ Teams	24+ Teams	24+ Teams	24 Teams	24 Teams	24 Teams	16 Teams

*13 Open – If Qualifiers do not fill 13 Open, the GJNC division size will go down to 36 teams. If all qualifiers and all bids are awarded at National Qualifiers in the 13 Open division, then the GJNCs 13 Open division will increase to 48 teams with 6 At-Large bids awarded towards the end of the season.

QUALIFICATION & BID PROCESS

NATIONAL QUALIFIER PROCESS

The primary purpose of the NQs is to select, through Tournament competition, Open, USA, Liberty, American and some National (11s and 12s) Teams in various age divisions to compete at the GJNCs. Teams may qualify for a Bid outside the NQ process for the National, USA, Liberty, American and Freedom Divisions.

The secondary purposes for the NQs are to:

- Promote inter-Regional play.
- Provide a high level of competition for Teams at different levels within each age division.
- Showcase junior talent for college recruiters and National Team Development programs.
- Promote the growth and development of volleyball in a particular geographic area.
- Provide a training ground for officials.

NQs are geographically assigned to cover a large portion of the United States to the extent that most Teams can attend at least one NQ within 8 hours drive. The below NQs are offered for the 2027 season. Please refer to the individual event webpages for the most up to date tournament information.

Qualifier	Location	Age Division(s) Offered
AVC Dallas 18s Qualifier	Dallas, TX	18s
KC MLK Girls 18s Qualifier	Kansas City, MO	18s
Sierra Girls 18s Qualifier	Sacramento, CA	18s
Southeast 18s Qualifier	Atlanta, GA	18s
Ohio Valley 18s Qualifier	Columbus, OH	18s
Music City 18s Qualifier	New Orleans, LA	18s, 13-17 Liberty
ASICS Show Me	Kansas City, MO	11-17s
Big South	Atlanta, GA	11-17s (Liberty Divisions played at Music City)
Far Western	Reno, NV	11-17s
Girls West Coast Qualifier	Anaheim, CA	11-18s
Golden Gate Classic	San Francisco, CA	15-17s
Lone Star Classic	Austin, Dallas, Houston, TX & Oklahoma City, OK	11-18s
Mideast	St. Louis, MO & Indianapolis, IN	11-18s
NIKE Boston Volleyball Festival	Boston, MA	11-18s
Northeast	Philadelphia, PA	11-18s
Northern Lights	Minneapolis, MN	11-18s
Pacific Northwest Qualifier	Spokane, WA	11-18s
Salt Lake City Showdown	Salt Lake City, UT	11-17s
SCVA Red Rock Rave	Las Vegas, NV	11-18s
Sunshine Classic	Orlando, FL	11-17s
Windy City	Chicago, IL & Schaumburg, IL	11-18s

USAV'S ROLE IN NATIONAL QUALIFIERS

The NQs are Sanctioned by the USAV National Office which develops, standardizes, evaluates, and oversees the qualification process for the GJNCs through the USAV Events Department.

USAV and the Events Department monitor the qualifying process each season, and, with their various committees:

- Approve formats and flow charts for the NQ divisions
- Monitor the process by which Teams are accepted or denied entry into a NQ division
- Approve each NQ competition schedule grid
- Approve systems to seed the NQ Open Divisions
- Review and recommend improvements for NQ operations
- Establish and verify individual eligibility requirements for all participants in both Bid and non-Bid divisions

DIVISIONS & SIZE OF FIELD AT A NATIONAL QUALIFIER

The USAV Events Department, with input from the QDs of each of the NQs, determines the maximum number of Teams a NQ may host in each Open, National (11s and 12s), USA, Liberty and American Division.

Currently, a NQ may host a maximum of 48 Teams in each Open Division and 128 Teams in each National (11s and 12s only), USA, Liberty and American* Division. 13-17s American may go up to 128 teams **per bid** in a given age division) On a case-by-case basis, the USAV Director of Events may grant a waiver for a NQ division to exceed these numbers, except that no waivers will be granted for the NQ Open Divisions. All waivers must be received in writing from the USAV Director of Events.

NQs are permitted to host competition in age divisions that do not currently have a Junior National Championship (i.e., 10 & Under or "Select" divisions). The NQs shall not institute these additional divisions without the approval of the USAV Director of Events.

GJNC BIDS AWARDED BY A NATIONAL QUALIFIER

USAV allows each NQ to award a certain number of Bids to the top finishing Teams in Open, National (11s and 12s only), USA, Liberty and American Divisions. The number of Bids a NQ has to award is pre-determined according to the number of Teams entered in the NQ division on the NQs deadline date or the date the division's Seeding is finalized; whichever number is larger (see the chart below). However, if a division drops 2 thresholds by the time of play, the number of bids will be dropped by 1. If a division drops 3 thresholds by the time of play, the number of bids will be dropped by 2.

OPEN: 13s, 14s & 18's		OPEN: 15's – 17's		NATIONAL: 11s		NATIONAL: 12s	
Number of Teams	Number of Bids	Number of Teams	Number of Bids	Number of Teams	Number of Bids	Number of Teams	Number of Bids
< 8	0	< 8	0	< 8	0	< 8	0
8 – 11	1	8 - 15	1	8 - 128	1	8-11	1
12 - 15	2	16 - 23	2			12-48	2
16 - 48	3	24 - 48	3				

USA: 14s – 18s		USA: 13s		USA: 12s		LIBERTY: 13s – 18s	
Number of Teams	Numbe r of Bids	Number of Teams	Number of Bids	Number of Teams	Number of Bids	Number of Teams	Number of Bids
< 8	0	< 8	0	< 8	0	< 8	0
8 - 15	1	8 – 11	1	8 - 11	1	8 – 15	1
16 - 23	2	12 - 15	2	12 - 48	2	16 – 23	2
24 - 128	3	16 - 48	3			24 – 128	3

AMERICAN: 12s		AMERICAN: 13s – 17s		AMERICAN: 18s	
Number of Teams	Number of Bids	Number of Teams	Number of Bids	Number of Teams	Number of Bids
< 8	0	< 8	0	< 8	0
8 - 31	1	9 – 95	1	8-128	1
32-128*	2	96 – 256**	2		

*NEW FOR 2027: If a National Qualifier has 64 or more teams in 12 American, the division will be split into two equal-sized sub-divisions "American Red" and "American Blue." Each sub-division will award one bid, and no sub-division may exceed 64 teams, allowing for a maximum of 128 teams.

**If a National Qualifier has 96 or more teams in a 13–17 American division, the division will be split into two equal-sized sub-divisions: “American Red” and “American Blue.” Each sub-division will award one bid, and no sub-division may exceed 128 teams, allowing for a maximum of 256 total teams in the American division for that age group.

The total number of Bids distributed among the NQs to award in a GJNCs division is determined by the number of Teams permitted to play in the division at the GJNCs. Some Open, USA and Liberty Bids may be reserved for the At-Large Bid selection. National, Freedom, and a number of American Bids are awarded through the Region Bid process.

USAV reserves the right to award "Provisional Bids" to Qualifiers with the largest division numbers in December of 2026. Provisional Bids are one-time allocations based on division size and are not guaranteed in future seasons. Those Provisional Bids will be posted on each Qualifier's website once awarded. Bids that are returned to USAV throughout the rest of the season will follow the normal At-Large Bid process, as outlined in the At-Large Bids Awarded by USA Volleyball section below.

Bids awarded at NQs must be accepted in writing at or prior to the time of the Bid award (see Rules for Priority of Bid Use and GJNC Bids Awarded Through a Region Process). NQs will determine the timing of written declaration of a bid, this may occur as early as team registration.

For a Team to use a Bid earned in any qualifying process, the Team must complete all entry requirements for their Region and for the GJNCs by the deadline dates provided by the USAV Events Department. If a Team has not met all the entry requirements by the deadline date, that Team may lose its Bid and may be subject to additional Sanctions (see Penalties for Not Using a Bid).

Teams that earn and accept a Bid at a NQ will receive an email from the USAV Events Department by the Thursday following their qualification. This email will detail the requirements for entry into the GJNCs.

GJNC BIDS AWARDED THROUGH A NATIONAL QUALIFIER: PRIORITY & PROCESS

OPEN DIVISION BIDS

In the NQ Open Divisions, Bids go to the Teams that finish the competition in a Bid award position.

A Team may not decline an Open Bid. By playing in the Open Division, a Team is acknowledging and confirming its participation in GJNCs if a Bid is earned.

If one (1) or more Teams wins a Bid award position at a NQ and previously earned an Open Bid at another NQ, the Bid(s) can trickle-down to the next highest finishing Team, provided the next highest finishing Team finished no lower than eighth place or 50% of the field size, whichever is smaller, in the Tournament.

If a Team previously or subsequently earns a National, USA, Liberty, American or Freedom Bid either from a Region or a NQ, the Team must use the Open Bid. The Rules for Priority of Use of a Bid (see section below) determine which Team receives the National, USA, Liberty, American or Freedom.

NATIONAL DIVISION BIDS (11S -12S ONLY)

At a NQ, both a National Division and an American Division will be offered for the 12s age division and a National Division will be offered to the 11s age division.

Each NQ will receive one (1) National Bid in 11 National and two (2) National Bids in 12 National, provided they meet the required registered team thresholds. A Team must accept or reject a National Bid in writing upon earning the Bid. If rejected, the Bid will trickle-down to the next eligible, highest finishing Team, provided that Team finished no lower than eighth place in the Tournament or 50% of the field size, whichever is smaller. (see GJNC Bids Awarded Through a Region).

Should the 11 National Division fail to receive the minimum number of eight (8) registered Teams, a waiver may be granted by the USAV Director of Events provided a minimum of six (6) Teams are registered. If there are less than six (6) Teams registered, the division may be canceled or played without a Bid being awarded and the one (1) 11 National Bid will be returned and placed in the Region reallocation process.

Should the 12 National Division fail to receive the minimum number of eight (8) registered Teams to give out one bid, NQs are permitted to utilize the below process to combine the 12 National and 12 USA division.

NEW FOR 2027: COMBINED 12 NATIONAL USA DIVISION BIDS

Should it be needed, Qualifiers are permitted to combine the 12 National and 12 USA divisions to become the division 12 Nat-USA. The combined division will award bids based on the following chart and will be created in line with the following stipulations:

Qualifiers must initially offer separate divisions at the opening of registration. Anytime after the initial opening of registration, Qualifiers may choose to combine the divisions. Qualifier TDs must notify all accepted teams and the USAV Director of Events by email of the combining of the National and USA divisions the same day divisions are combined.

Teams are allowed 72 hours to drop from the event with full entry fee refund. Drops after 72 hours are subject to existing event policies. No additional entry fees may be charged to accepted teams to participate in the combined 12 Nat-USA division.

Nat-USA: 12s		
Number of Teams	**Number of National Bids**	**Number of USA Bids**
6-11	1	0
12-15	1	1
16-128	1	2

USA DIVISION BIDS

At a NQ, the USA Division has up to three (3) Bids in the 13 ’s-18 ’s age groups & up to two (2) Bids in the 12s age group. A USA Division must have at least eight (8) Teams to be able to award a Bid in that respective Tournament. A Team must accept or reject a USA Bid in writing upon earning the Bid. If rejected, the Bid(s) can trickle-down to the next highest finishing Team, provided the next highest finishing Team finished no lower than eighth place or 50% of the field size, whichever is smaller, in the Tournament. The Rules for Priority of Use of a Bid (see section below) determine which Team receives the USA Division Bids.

LIBERTY DIVISION BIDS

At a NQ, the Liberty Division has up to three (3) Bids in the 13‘s – 18’s age groups. A Liberty Division must have at least eight (8) Teams to be able to award a Bid in that respective Tournament. A Team must accept or reject a Liberty Bid in writing upon earning the Bid. If rejected, the Bid(s) can be trickle-down to the next highest finishing Team, provided the next highest finishing Team finished no lower than eighth place or 50% of the field size, whichever is smaller, in the Tournament. The Rules for Priority of Use of a Bid (see section below) determine which Team receives the Liberty Division Bids.

AMERICAN DIVISION BIDS

At a NQ, the American Division has up to two (2) Bids in the 13s – 17s age groups. An American Division must have at least eight (8) Teams to be able to award a Bid in that respective Tournament. A Team must accept or reject an American Bid in writing upon earning the Bid. If rejected, the Bid will trickle-down to the next eligible, highest finishing Team, provided that Team finished no lower than eighth place in the Tournament 50% of the field size, whichever is smaller, in the Tournament (see GJNC Bids Awarded Through a Region*).* The Rules for Priority of Use of a Bid (see section below) determine which Team receives the American Division Bids.

AT-LARGE BIDS AWARDED THROUGH USA VOLLEYBALL

When a NQ does not have enough teams to award the maximum number of bids available in a certain division, or the bid trickles down below the threshold (as listed above), then the bid is returned to USAV and is awarded through the At-Large process. The USAV Events Department, with the assistance of its Seeding Committee, awards some GJNC Open, USA and Liberty Bids as At-Large Bids. Teams must formally apply to be considered for an At-Large Bid provided that the Team:

- Has played in at least one NQ in the same GJNC Division age group for which the Team is applying (Open, USA or Liberty);
- Teams must have at least one finish in the top 50% of an event in the division they want to be considered At-Large for:
- Is registered for GJNCs in the Event registration system;
- Submits accurate and up-to-date electronic results in the GJNCs Event registration system by the deadline listed on the GJNC website. **ALL TEAM RESULTS NEED TO BE ENTERED.**
- Complies with both their Region’s and USAV’s GJNCs deadline dates and meets the requirements listed above.

The USAV Events Department will announce the Teams being awarded the GJNCs At-Large Bids no later than the second Tuesday after the last NQ. The Events Department will notify Teams awarded an At-Large Bid by

email, sent to the Coach and Club Director at the email addresses provided in the GJNCs Event registration system.

To apply for an At-Large Bid, please go to the GJNC website.

GJNC BIDS AWARDED THROUGH A REGION: PRIORITY & PROCESS

Regions are allocated Bids to three Divisions at the GJNCs – National, American and Freedom. Regions have the authority to establish their own process for awarding these Bids. Bids awarded through a Region must be accepted in writing at, or prior to, the time of the Bid being awarded.

NATIONAL DIVISION:

Each Region will receive at least one (1) National Bid to award at their discretion for the 13's – 18's. As there are a total of 48 Bids to be allocated to 40 Regions, the eight (8) largest Regions based on Girls Junior registrations from the previous season will be awarded a 2nd Bid to the National Divisions at the GJNCs.

For 11's & 12's, the original allotment of Bids, and any reallocation Bids a Region receives, depends on the number of 12 and under Girls Junior registrations from the previous season, *not* on the total number of Girls Junior registrations in the Region.

Given there are 40 USAV Regions, but only 20 National Bids allocated to Regions for the 12 National Division, and 10 National Bids for the 11 National division, not all Regions will receive an allocated Bid. Regions not receiving an automatic Bid will be prioritized in the process of reallocating unused Bids.

AMERICAN DIVISION:

Regions may receive up to three (3) American Bids to award at their discretion for the 11s – 18's. A certain amount will be awarded to NQs (as listed below), while the remaining American Bids will be allocated to the Regions.

There are a total of 64 Bids to be allocated to 18s at GJNCs, with 16 of those bids going to the NQs.

There are a total of 96 Bids to be allocated to 12s – 17s at GJNCs, with either 20, 28, or 30 of those bids going to NQs, depending on the age.

There are a total of 48 Bids to be allocated to 11 American, with all 48 going to the regions.

Bids allocated to Regions are determined through a junior girls membership benchmark that is defined in the Bid allocation chart posted on the USAV website.

The number of Bids received by a particular Region may change from year to year.

FREEDOM DIVISION:

Each Region will receive at least one (1) Freedom Bid to award at their discretion for the 14's – 18's. As there are a total of 48 Bids in 18sGJNC and 64 in 14-17s GJNC to be allocated to 40 Regions, the eight (8) and twenty-four (24) Regions with the largest membership growth, based on Girls Junior registrations from the previous season, will be awarded a 2nd Bid to the Freedom Divisions at the GJNCs.

REALLOCATION BIDS

When a Bid is returned by a Region, the USAV Events Department distributes Reallocation Bids to the Regions in an order determined by the number of junior girls members (National Division), number of growth of junior girls members (Freedom Division) and the proximity of that number to certain benchmark membership numbers (American Division). **When a Team earns a higher-ranking Bid, the vacated Bid will stay with the Region** (see Rules for Priority of Bid Use).

There may be some NQs that are unable to give out a 2nd American bid in the 12s-17s divisions, due to the 2nd American bid requiring a high threshold of teams to be met. Should that be the case, the 2nd bid will be returned to USAV and will be awarded to the next region on the reallocation list.

RULES FOR PRIORITY OF BID USE

Some Teams participate in more than one qualifying process in a season, either through their Region, by attending NQs, by applying for an At-Large Bid, or by some combination of these processes. If the Team earns more than one (1) Bid, the following rules apply as to which Bid the Team must use, and what happens to the other Bid(s).

The priority of Bid use is as follows:

1. Open
2. National
3. USA
4. Liberty
5. American
6. Freedom

When an Open Bid is the second Bid a Team earns, from either a NQ or the At-Large Bid process:

- The Team may not decline the bid.
- If a Team previously accepted a USA or Liberty Bid, the Team must use the Open Bid. The USA or Liberty Bid will remain in the Region of the Team that originally accepted the USA or Liberty Bid. If the Region is unable to allocate this Bid, the Bid will go into the At-Large Bid process.
- If a Team previously accepted a National, American, or Freedom Bid, the Team must use the Open Bid. The National, American or Freedom Bid will remain in the Region of the Team that originally accepted the Bid. If the Region is unable to allocate this Bid, the Bid will be reallocated to the next Region in line.

When a National Bid is the second Bid a Team earns:

- The Team may not decline the bid.
- If a Team earns and accepts a National Bid through a Region Bid Process and then earns a National Bid at a NQ, the NQ National Bid will supersede the Region National Bid and the Region National Bid will

return to the Region it was originally awarded from for reallocation. **This is only applicable to the 11-12s age divisions.**

- If a Team previously accepted a USA or Liberty Bid, the Team must use the National Bid. The USA or Liberty Bid will remain in the Region of the Team that originally accepted the USA or Liberty Bid. If the Region is unable to allocate this USA or Liberty Bid, it reverts to the At-Large Bid process.
- If a Team previously accepted an American or Freedom Bid, the Team must use the National Bid. The American or Freedom Bid will remain in the Region of the Team that originally accepted the Bid. If the Region is unable to allocate this Bid, the Bid will be reallocated to the next Region in line.

When a USA Bid is the second Bid a Team earns:

- The Team may not decline the bid.
- If a Team previously accepted a National Bid from a Region, the Team must keep the National Bid. The USA Bid will trickle-down to the next eligible Team.
- If a Team accepts a reallocated USA Bid through a Region Bid process and then earns a USA Bid at a NQ, the NQ USA Bid will supersede the Region reallocated USA Bid. The vacated USA Bid will revert to the Region of origin for reallocation. If the Region is unable to allocate this USA Bid, it reverts to the At-Large Bid process.
- If a Team previously accepted a Liberty Bid, the Team must use the USA Bid. The Liberty Bid will remain in the Region of the Team that originally accepted the Liberty Bid. If the Region is unable to allocate this Liberty Bid, it reverts to the At-Large Bid process
- If a Team previously accepted an American or Freedom Bid from either an NQ or a Region, the Team must use the USA Bid. The American or Freedom Bid will remain in the Region of the Team that originally accepted the Bid. If the Region is unable to allocate this Bid, the Bid will be reallocated to the next Region in line.

When a Liberty Bid is the second Bid a Team earns:

- The Team may not decline the bid.
- If a Team previously accepted an Open, National or USA Bid from a Region or NQ, the Team must keep that higher Bid. The Liberty Bid will trickle-down to the next eligible Team.
- If a Team accepts a reallocated Liberty Bid through a Region Bid process and then earns a Liberty Bid at a NQ, the NQ Liberty Bid will supersede the Region reallocated Liberty Bid. The vacated Liberty Bid will revert to the Region of origin for reallocation. If the Region is unable to allocate this Liberty Bid, it reverts to the At-Large Bid process.
- If a Team previously accepted an American or Freedom Bid from either an NQ or a Region, the Team must use the Liberty Bid. The American or Freedom Bid will remain in the Region of the Team that originally accepted the Bid. If the Region is unable to allocate this Bid, the Bid will be reallocated to the next Region in line.

When an American Bid is the second Bid a Team earns:

- The Team may not decline the bid.
- If a Team earns and accepts an American Bid through a Region Bid Process and then earns an American Bid at a NQ, the NQ American Bid will supersede the Region American Bid and the Region American Bid will return to the Region it was originally awarded from for reallocation.
- If a Team that wins an American Bid and accepted an American Bid from a previous NQ, the current American Bid goes to the next eligible, highest finishing Team, provided the next highest finishing Team finished no lower than eighth place in the Tournament. The trickle-down process must be applied at the conclusion of the division's competition.

- If a Team previously accepted a Freedom Bid, the Team must use the American Bid. The Freedom Bid will remain in the Region of the Team that originally accepted the Bid. If the Region is unable to allocate this Bid, the Bid will be reallocated to the next Region in line.

USAV reserves the right to fill Bids as necessary to ensure a quality Event with maximum participation.

PENALTIES

To ensure the integrity of GJNCs and to promote fair play, it may be necessary for USAV to impose penalties. USAV will convene an Event committee to review each case and impose a proper penalty(ies) if warranted.

FACTORS THAT WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR ESTABLISHING PENALTIES:

- Compliancy with deadlines and requirements
- Time of notification from the start of GJNCs
- Previous club/member behavior
- Level of play (Open vs. American)
- Where Bid is earned and accepted (NQ vs. Regional)
- Severity of offense
- Age and Experience
- Region Input

PENALTIES FOR NOT USING A BID

It is disruptive to the quality of the Event when Bids are returned after being accepted. There are financial consequences, administrative challenges, and logistical delays for Teams, Region administrators and USAV personnel. Inevitably this takes opportunities away from other Teams participating in the qualification process.

A Team that does not use a GJNCs Open Bid (13's-18's) which it has earned, or a GJNCs National, USA, Liberty, American, or Freedom Bid which it has earned and accepted may be subject to the following penalties:

FINANCIAL PENALTIES

- 2 months prior to the start of GJNCs– payment of entry fee and $1,000 fine. Penalties may vary at the discretion of USA Volleyball.
- If the payment is not received for the GJNCs Event Entry Fee and/or fines, the club director(s), coaches affiliated with official qualification roster will be prohibited from participating in NQs and GJNCs until the fee is paid in full. Further legal actions may be taken to ensure payment is received.

SUSPENSION OF PARTICIPATION:

- Club Director suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- Head Coach listed on the official qualification roster suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.

- All members listed on the official qualification roster suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- Specific age group from club suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- Club or specific team suspended from participation in all NQ and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- All suspensions will be published and updated on the USAV website.

ADDITIONAL PENALTIES:

- USAV reserves the right to impose additional penalties as deemed necessary.
- Regions reserve the right to impose additional penalties to Teams within their Region.

PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL USE OF BID

If a Team is deemed ineligible or have ineligible participants (age falsification, frozen player, foreign participation, ethics/eligibility, gender competition policy, SafeSport violations etc.) the following penalties may be applied:

FINANCIAL PENALTIES:

- Loss of entry fee and a $2,500 fine.
- If the payment is not received for the GJNCs Event entry fee and/or fines, the club director(s), coaches affiliated with official qualification roster will be prohibited from participating in NQs and GJNCs until the fee is paid in full. Further legal actions may be taken to ensure payment is received.

SUSPENSION OF PLAY:

- Club Director suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- Head Coach listed on the official qualification roster suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- All members listed on the official qualification roster suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- Specific age group from club suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- Club or specific team suspended from participation in all NQ and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- Suspended membership or probation.
- All suspensions will be published and updated on the USAV website.

ADDITIONAL PENALTIES:

- Revocation of bids, past awards, winnings and titles.

USAV reserves the right to impose additional penalties as deemed necessary (see USA Volleyball Age and

Identity Falsification Policy)

Regions reserve the right to impose additional penalties to Teams within their Region.

APPEALS

When a penalty(ies) is imposed on a club/Team/individual by USAV, they may file for an appeal. Appeals may be filed with the USAV Ethics and Eligibility Committee by sending all relevant documentation to the USAV Staff Attorney by deadlines outlined in the initial Sanction letter. All appeals shall be accompanied by a non-refundable $100 fee made payable to USA Volleyball.

NATIONAL QUALIFIER TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

All NQs must use competition formats approved by the USAV Events Department two weeks prior to the start of the NQ. The information in this section applies to *all* NQ Tournaments, the GJNCs, and the GJCC.

RULES OF PLAY

The rules of play are as prescribed in the USA Volleyball Rules Book. There are no updated rule changes for the 2026-2027 season. See below for a reminder of the rule changes that most recently occurred; these will continue to be points of emphasis for the upcoming season.

SIGNIFICANT RULE CHANGES

- **9.2.3.2:** At the first hit of the team, the ball may contact various parts of the body consecutively, provided that the contacts occur during one action. At the second hit of the team, the ball may contact various parts of the body consecutively, provided that the contacts occur during one action, and the ball is next touched by a teammate.
- **9.3:** Faults in Playing the Ball DOUBLE CONTACT: a player hits the ball twice in succession or the ball contacts various parts of his/her body in succession on the third team hit or on the second team hit and the ball is not next touched by a teammate. (see also 9.2.3)
- **New 12.5.3:** Any player of the serving team is forbidden to raise their hands above the head during service, until the ball has passed beyond the net. The 1st referee may warn a team through the game captain, if he/ she suspects that the team is deliberately screening.
- **USAV 15.1:** Each team may request a maximum of two time-outs and 15 substitutions per set. USAV
- **15.6a:** Fifteen substitutions are the maximum permitted per team per set. Substitution of one or more players is permitted at the same time.
- **USAV 15.6d:** Unlimited individual entries by a substitute within the team's allowable 15 substitutions are permitted.
- **USAV 19.1.1:** Each team has the right to designate from the list of players on the score sheet (roster) up to two specialized defensive players called Liberos.
- **USAV 24.2.7a:** The R2 controls the number of time-outs and substitutions used by each team and reports the second time-out and substitutions 12, 13, 14, and 15 to the appropriate coach or game captain. (see also 15.1, 25.2.2.3)
- **USAV 24.2.7b:** The R2 notifies the 1st referee of a team's second time-out and 15th substitution.

SIGNIFICANT RULE CLARIFICATIONS

- **USAV 5.1.2.1:** Judgment decisions are not subject to protest. A protest related to a judgment decision may result in a penalty (red card) being assessed to the coach.
- **USAV 12.4.4 and USAV 12.4.4a:** For 14-and-under age groups, the server must hit the ball within 8 seconds after the 1st referee whistles for service. If the server tosses the ball and then catches it or allows it to fall to the floor, this is considered a service tossing error, including a ball that touches the server as it falls.

ARTIFICIAL NOISE MAKERS AND PORTABLE MUSIC DEVICES

Due to their disruptive nature, artificial noise makers are prohibited at NQs and GJNCs. In addition, teams may not use portable music devices courtside, including during warmups.

TOURNAMENT FORMATS

The Tournament format determines the number of pools in a division, the number of Teams in each pool and the sequence of play, from pool play through playoffs. A Tournament "flow chart" illustrates the sequence of the format components. Approved Tournament "flow charts" are posted on the USAV website and must be followed.

MATCH FORMATS

The preferred Match format is pools of four (4) playing the best 2-out-of-3 sets.

- The first two (2) sets play to 25 points, rally scoring, with one (1) Team winning by two (2) points and no point cap.
- If a 3rd (deciding) set is necessary, it is played to 15, rally scoring, with one (1) Team winning by two (2) points and no point cap.

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.

- In a three (3)-Team pool, where three (3) sets to 25 are played instead of 2 out of 3, and the final finish in the pool is determined by Match record. Should one (1) Team wins the first two (2) sets of the Match, that Team has won the Match, but Teams will still play the 3rd set. Should there be a 3-way Tie in the pool with all three (3) Teams having a 1-1 Match record, ALL sets played will be used when determining set percentage when going to a Tie-breaker. When playing the 3rd set, there will be a coin flip between sets two (2) and three (3) to determine serve and receive.

- For division sizes of 8-16 Teams, pools comprised of more than 5 Teams may be utilized

OPEN DIVISION FORMATS

The top four (4) to twelve (12) Teams in an Open Division play three (3) rounds of pool play, and, if necessary, a single elimination bracket to determine the overall winner of the Tournament.

- The 3rd round of pool play is known as the Gold Pools.
- If a Team in one of the top three (3) positions in an Open Division previously qualified for the GJNCs, additional Matches may be required to determine which Teams are awarded Bids via the Trickle-Down Bid process.
    - The USAV Events Department approves formats for additional trickle-down Matches prior to the start of the NQ; and,
    - The formats are announced in the Tournament information prior to the start of the NQ.

Teams in finish positions lower than the Gold Pools play two rounds of pool play followed by a single elimination bracket.

Some Teams may have an additional qualifying, crossover or Seeding Match prior to Gold Pools or playoff brackets, depending on the number of Teams in a division.

- For a field of less than 17 Teams, should large pools (more than 6 Teams) be used, one round of pool play followed by single elimination brackets is allowed.

USA, LIBERTY, AMERICAN & 12 NATIONAL DIVISION FORMATS

All Teams in National (12s ONLY), USA, Liberty or American Divisions play two (2) rounds of pool play, followed by single elimination playoff brackets.

Some Teams may have an additional qualifying, crossover or Seeding Match prior to Gold bracket or other playoff brackets, depending on the number of Teams in a division.

11 NATIONAL DIVISION FORMATS

The 11s National Division may be contested as a two (2) or three (3)-day tournament. For a two (2)-day format, one (1) round of pool play followed by playoffs is acceptable. Should the field size warrant, a challenge round after pool play may be necessary.

Divisions using a three (3)-day format should follow the 12s requirements.

SEEDING OF DIVISIONS

The Seeding of divisions within a NQ will be done by the NQ. A NQ may request for the Open divisions be seeded by the USAV Seeding Committee. Should the NQ choose to seed the Open Divisions, the seed order must be approved by the Committee prior to the release of the competition schedule. Alterations to these guidelines must be approved by the USAV Director of Events.

Seeding for the GJNCs and GJCC is determined by Team results throughout the year as collected by USA Volleyball and entered into the official registration system using Team codes. According to these results, the top quarter of all participating Teams in a Tournament (first seeded Teams in the first round of pool play) are seeded numerically by strength. For accuracy team codes should stay the same from season to season.

POOL PLAY SEQUENCE

Pool play sequences, listed below, are allowable for use with all respective pools in a NQ, unless another sequence is approved by the USAV Events Department:

Round	Four-Team Pools	Three-Team Pools	Five-Team Pools on 2 Courts
Match 1	1 vs. 3 (ref 2)	1 vs. 3 (ref 2)	1 vs. 5 and 2 vs. 4 (ref 3)
Match 2	2 vs. 4 (ref 1)	2 vs. 3 (ref 1)	1 vs. 4 and 2 vs. 3 (ref 5)
Match 3	1 vs. 4 (ref 3)	1 vs. 2 (ref 3)	1 Hour Break
Match 4	2 vs. 3 (ref 1)		1 vs. 3 and 4 vs. 5 (ref 2)
Match 5	3 vs. 4 (ref 2)		2 vs. 5 and 3 vs. 4 (ref 1)
Match 6	1 vs. 2 (ref 4)		1 vs. 2 and 3 vs. 5 (ref 4)

Round	Four-Team Pools Court 1	Four-Team Pools Court 2
Match 1	A 1 vs. 3 (ref B3)	A 2 vs. 4 (ref B2)
Match 2	B 1 vs. 3 (ref A3)	B 2 vs. 4 (ref A4)
Match 3	A 2 vs. 3 (ref B3)	A 1 vs. 4 (ref B4)
Match 4	B 2 vs. 3 (ref A2)	B 1 vs. 4 (ref A4)
Match 5	A 1 vs. 2 (ref B4)	A 3 vs. 4 (ref B1)
Match 6	B 3 vs. 4 (ref A1)	B 1 vs. 2 (ref A3)

A Team's final pool finish is determined by Match results. If Team(s) are tied in matches at the completion of pool play, Tie breaker procedures will apply (see Tie Breakers to Determine Pool Finish).

PLAYING SCHEDULES

- All pool play Matches are scheduled at least one (1) hour apart. Some pools may have play on two (2) days to complete the pool (for example, begin play one day in the evening and finish the next morning).
- The first Match of a pool must begin at its scheduled time. Within a pool, and after the first Match, a Match may begin prior to its scheduled starting time provided the following stipulations are met:
    - The two (2) Teams competing, the working team, and the officials unanimously agree the match can start early. Should one of the above groups protest an early start time, the match will proceed only when originally scheduled
    - The R1 relays an earlier start time has been unanimously agreed upon to a tournament Head Official
    - The match is NOT to be moved to a new court unless approved explicitly by Tournament Director, the match must occur at its originally scheduled court.
- Playoff brackets may not be larger than 24 Teams.
- It is recommended for Day 3 of play at a NQ that no bracket should be larger than 16 teams.
- It is recommended on Day 2 that teams still in bid contention should play in the morning wave, as court space and scheduling permits.
- All Teams will be scheduled for at least one (1) Match on the final day of competition.
- For NQs, trickle-down Matches are required to be played only if necessary to determine Bid awards. Should the situation occur on the last day of play in the Gold Bracket that there is need for the tied 5th place teams to play off for trickle down bids, the following steps should be followed:
    - Teams that are either declining or have already won and accepted a bid in an equal or higher division will be eliminated from the trickle down matches.
    - Of the teams that are still playing for a bid, the following scenarios should be followed:

# Teams w/out Bid	# Bids Available	
4	3	Two 2 team brackets, bracket winners earn bid AND two losers play bracket of 2 for final bid
4	2	Two 2 team brackets, both bracket winners earn bids
4	1	One Bracket of 4, bracket winner earns bid
3	3	No matches played, all teams earn bids and finish 5th
3	2	Reverse Bracket of 3 based on current seeds (1v2 then loser plays 3) winner of match 1 and 2 qualifies.
3	1	Bracket of 3 based on current seeds, bracket winner qualifies (2v3 then winner plays 1)
2	2	No matches played, all teams earn bids and finish 5th
2	1	One Bracket of 2, bracket winner earns bid
1	1	No matches played, team earn bids and finishes 5th

COURT USE

- Events may not schedule more than 13 Matches on a court in one day, unless otherwise approved by the USAV Events Department. Tie-breaking sets do not count as scheduled Matches.
- Final matches must be scheduled to start no later than 9:30 p.m. and must adhere to the above constraint of no more than 13 matches on a court in one day.
    - For NQs Matches on day 3 of competition, Matches may not be scheduled to begin later than 3:00 p.m.
- For NQs if a division is larger than 64 Teams, the first round of playoffs can be scheduled for the second day. Teams must still be given a minimum of 1 Match on the third day.

WARM-UP PROTOCOL

For Junior competition, when one (1) Team has exclusive use of the court, the other Team must either be at its Team bench or out of the playing area. Warming up with balls at the Team bench or in the spectator walkways is not permitted.

Primary Warm-up Protocol – (5-4-4): – For all Teams in their first Match of a round of play.

- Five (5) minutes of shared court time for ball handling; and
- Four (4) minutes of exclusive court time for the serving Team;
- Four (4) minutes of exclusive court time for the receiving Team.
- There will be no shared hitting time.

Secondary Warm-Up Protocol (2-4-4): For all other Matches within the round of play.

- Two (2) minutes of shared court time for ball handling; and
- Four (4) minutes of exclusive court time for the serving Team; and
- Four (4) minutes of exclusive court time for the receiving Team.
- There will be no shared hitting time.

A crossover Match or Tie-breaking Match that immediately follows pool play is part of that previous single round of play; Teams follow the Secondary Warm-Up Protocol set out below.

A crossover Match, Seeding Match or qualifying Match that occurs after a scheduled break, after the conclusion of pool play, is a separate round of play; Teams in this round follow the Primary Warm-Up Protocol. If all parties agree, the warm-up time may be shortened.

TIE BREAKERS TO DETERMINE POOL FINISH

PROCEDURES For Breaking Ties to Determine Pool Finish For the 2026-2027 season, Playoff Tie Breaker Sets have been reinstated for all Indoor National Qualifiers and National Championships.

At the conclusion of a pool, the pool finish position of the Teams is determined by their pool match records.

If there is a tie in match record among 2 or more Teams in the pool, tie(s) are resolved using the Tie Break Rules, even in 3 team pools where all 3 sets are required to be played.

TIE BREAKER RULES

Ties in Matches are broken by the following steps and must be considered **in the order listed**, not individually.

TWO TEAMS TIE IN MATCHES

Always broken head-to-head. No exceptions.

THREE-OR-MORE TEAMS TIE IN MATCHES

1. Head-to-head results are used to determine pool finishes for Teams that are tied in Match Record.
    a) A Team that beats all the other Teams with which it is tied in Match Record will finish ahead of the other Teams in the pool.

b) A Team that has lost to all the other Teams with which it is tied in Match Record is placed behind the other Teams in pool finish.

c) If there are only two Teams tied in matches after steps 1(a) and 1(b) have been applied, the head-to-head winner of those 2 Teams earns the higher pool finish.

d) If after applying steps 1(a), 1(b) & 1(c), Teams remain tied, then the ranking of those remaining Teams follows the procedure in step 2.

2. Set percentage is the 2nd level of breaking ties and is used to rank a pool in which Teams remain tied after applying the rules in step 1.

   a) Teams with a higher set percentage finish ahead of Teams with a lower set percentage.

   b) If only two Teams are tied in both match percentage and set percentage, the Team that won head-to-head receives the higher finish in the pool.

   c) If three Teams (or more) are tied in match percentage and set percentage after applying steps 2(a) & 2(b), the tie breaking procedure followed is based on whether a Team is eliminated from advancing to the Gold at BJNC/GJNCs or earning the Qualifier Bid to BJNC/GJNCs using Steps **2(d)** and **2(e).**

   d) **If no Team is eliminated from advancing to the Gold at BJNC/GJNCs or earning a Bid to BJNC/GJNCs**, pool finish among the Teams tied in Match percentage and Set percentage is determined by Point percentage. If two Teams are still tied in point percentage, the head-to-head winner finishes higher.

   e) **If a Team would be eliminated from advancing to the Gold at BJNC/GJNCs or earning a Bid to BJNC/GJNCs,** the remaining Teams that are tied in match percentage and set percentage have Playoff Tie Breaker Set(s) played as defined in step 3.

3. Playoff Tie Breaker Sets are played if 3 or more Teams remain tied after applying steps 1 & 2. Girls National Qualifiers/Boys National Qualifiers and the BJNC/GJNCs have different protocols and are defined below.

GIRL'S NATIONAL QUALIFIERS AND BOYS NATIONAL QUALIFIERS:

To determine pool finish position, tied Teams are ranked by their point percentage from the pool. If 3 or more tied teams are tied in point percentage, they will be ranked for a playoff based on their initial ranking in the pool. Tie Breakers Sets, if required, are played as 1 set to 15. There may be brackets of 2, 3, or 4 Teams. Tie Breaker sets are only played for the last spot leading to a Qualifier Bid.

a) If there is 1 pool position available for a Team to advance to play for a bid position, all Teams participate in the Tie Breaker Sets. The sequence of play offsets is structured so that the Teams with the highest point percentages have the fewest number of Tie Breaker Sets to play.

b) If there are two pool positions available for a Team to advance to play for a bid position, the Team with the highest point percentage is ranked the highest and receives one of the advancing positions. Remaining Teams participate in the Tie Breaker Sets. The sequence of playoff sets is structured so that the Teams with the highest point percentages have the fewest number of Tie Breaker Sets to play.

c) If there are three pool positions available for a Team to advance to play for a bid, the two Teams with the highest point percentages each receive one of the advancing spots. The remaining Teams participate in the Tie Breaker Sets. The sequence of play offsets are structured so that the Teams with the highest point percentages have the fewest number of Tie Breaker Sets to play.

Following the rules set out above, it is possible for one or more tied Teams to advance without having to play in a Tie Breaker Set, as only the last pool position is played off. It is possible that Teams will be eliminated from the GOLD bracket in a National Qualifier as the Tie Breaker is played to determine the chance to play for a Qualifier Bid, NOT for the Gold Bracket.

USAV GIRLS JR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (GJNCS) AND USAV BOYS JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (BJNC):

Tied Teams are ranked by their point percentage from the pool. If 3 or more tied teams are tied in point percentage, they will be ranked for a playoff based on their initial ranking in the pool. Tie Breakers Sets are played as 1 set to 15 and may be brackets of 2, 3, or 4 Teams. Tie Breaker sets will only be played for the last spot leading to the GOLD Bracket.

The Tie breaking procedure is the same as outlined in the above steps 3(a), 3(b), & 3(c).

It is possible for one or more of the tied Teams to advance without having to play in a Tie Breaker Set as only the last spot is played off.

TEAMS NOT PRESENT FOR Tie Breaker

If one or more of the tied Teams are not present at the court at the beginning of the timed warm-ups for a tiebreaker match (including the officiating team, which may only have officiating responsibilities), the following scenarios should be followed:

- If one of the tied teams is not present, the missing team will be eliminated from the tiebreaker and assigned the lowest position available within the tie. This is the only penalty that will be enforced on this team.
- If two of the tied teams are not present, the missing teams will be eliminated from the tiebreaker and the one team present will be awarded the highest position available. The other two teams will be placed based on head-to-head results in the pool.
- If all three of the tied teams are not present, the teams will be placed based on point percentage. If teams are tied in point percentage, they will be placed in the pool based on their initial seed.

TEAM AND PLAYER POLICIES

TEAM UNIFORMS

Team players are required to wear uniforms that are in full compliance with the USAV regulations. If two (2) or more sets of uniforms are used, players are required to wear the identical number for each set of shirts.

- The numbers “0” and “00” are not permitted.
- The numbers must be centered.
- Front numbers must be a minimum of 4” and back numbers a minimum of 6”
- All Libero shirts are required to be numbered and must be contrasting with the non-libero uniform shirts.

Team members need to be in proper uniform when warming up. If an individual competes in a position other than Libero as well, his/her number must be the same as their regular uniform.

PLAYING UP

A Team should play in the division that conforms to the USAV age requirements for the Team’s players. The Team’s 11-digit code stipulates its proper age division. If a Team desires to play up an age division AND there is space available without denying an entry position to an age-appropriate Team that has met the entry requirements the Team may play in an upper age division. A Team may play up a maximum of two age divisions (i.e., a 15’s Team could only play up to 16’s or 17’s).

A Team may be moved up at the request of the Tournament, but if this Team is accepted in the proper age group, they must agree to the move. A Team unable to gain access may be offered the opportunity to play up by the Tournament.

TEAM FORFEITURES

A Team that intentionally forfeits a Match at an Event will be excluded from further participation in that NQ/GJNC or GJCC.

- The forfeit is intentional unless the Team shows good cause for the forfeit, such as illness and emergency circumstances.
  - The Event Arbitrator will determine if good cause exists.
  - The Event or Arbitrator will report any Team that intentionally forfeits a Match to the USAV Events Department.
- Forfeiting Teams may be subject to a fine paid to the Event in the amount not to exceed that as posted by the Event in its pre-Tournament information.
- For all NQs, if a Team intentionally forfeits a Match in Bid contention, in any division, the Team’s penalty will be:
  - The forfeiting Team is ineligible for participation in that year’s GJNCs. ALL Adult Members listed on the verified Event competition roster and the Club Director will be suspended from participating in all NQs, Regional Qualification Events and the GJNCs for the remainder of that season and the following season.

LAST DAY FORFEITS

Teams that enter a NQ are committing to participating in the full Event. Teams have control over their travel plans and those plans should be made so that a Team will not have to forfeit any Matches.

A Team that forfeits a Match for any reason other than illness, injury or emergency is denying another Team a Match. Additionally, in a single elimination format, it is poor sportsmanship to deny a Team the right to move on by beating them and then forfeiting out of the Event. Furthermore, it is even more unacceptable to forfeit and then, as the loser of the Match, not stay to officiate the next Match.

Teams that have no flexibility in their travel plans and know they will need to leave before their division completes play will report to the Tournament Director no later than the end of play on the day prior to the final day of Tournament.

The Event Arbitrator with the input of the Tournament director will decide what forfeitures are needed. Teams forfeiting should recognize that additional penalties may be imposed.

- Teams that forfeit a last day Match are still responsible to officiate the next Match scheduled on their court. If the team is unable to fulfill the officiating duty, monetary penalties will be collected by the tournament to cover match fees. Teams playing the next scheduled Match may not be required to begin play early.

TEAM OFFICIATING DUTIES

The NQ must publish an officiating assignment schedule for the Teams; the Teams must fulfill all their scheduled officiating assignments.

Teams are responsible for providing an officiating/work crew for Matches in which they are not scheduled to play. It is expected that the Officiating Team will report to their assignment in a timely manner that allows the match to commence without delays. Those work assignments can be found in the official play schedule. For planning purposes, be prepared to provide the following officials:

- Second Referee (GJNCs will provide R2s as available)
    - Must be a rostered adult (non-players) for **ALL** age division Matches (with approval from the tournament staff, a rostered adult from another team within the same club may work as second referee)
- Certified Scorer (PENALTIES NOTED BELOW)
- Scoreboard Operator
- Libero Tracker
- 2 Line Judges

Non-rostered personnel may be allowed to work on the officiating Team, with the exception of the R2 position, provided they can provide documentation that they are registered with a Region of USAV to include a current membership, cleared background screening, completed SafeSport training, as well as have the appropriate certifications. Appropriate paperwork would need to be provided for Foreign Team personnel.

MISSED OFFICIATING DUTIES

A Team's failure to have a complete officiating crew—including a rostered adult from the same Club—available and on time for an officiating assignment will results in penalties against the Team.

- For every minute an officiating Team is late to fulfill its assignment, one (1) point will be awarded to that Team's next opponent in the first set of the next Match for up to 25 points. No more than 25 points will be awarded to the Team's next opponent, even if the Team designated to officiate misses the entire Match. The time that determines how many penalty points are assessed begins at the start of the official timed warm-up.
- A Team will forfeit its entire next Match for failing, a second time, to have an officiating crew available on time for an officiating assignment.

AGE WAIVERED PLAYERS

Teams competing in an NQ Bid Division may NOT use any player who has received an age waiver from their Region. NQs may allow teams to use players with Regional age waivers only in divisions that do NOT award bids to the GJNCs. (AKA: Non-Bid Divisions) (Please see the USA Volleyball Junior Player Age Definition for more information.)

Exception: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2008, (who are defined as 18 & under by the USAV Age Definition) and are in the 11th grade for the current academic year are eligible to compete in 17 & under.

> **Example:** A 17-year-old player who is considered by the Age Definition to compete on an 18s team and is still in the 11th grade for the current academic year, may compete on their 17s team in a qualifying division at a NQ and at GJNC.
>
> **Please note:** *This is a National Age Waiver approved by the National Office.* The frozen player rule would still be enforced. A player can play on both 17s & 18s teams during the season but would become frozen to a roster with whichever team they qualify with and would no longer be eligible to play for both teams in qualification.

With Region approval **only**, teams with waivered players may be eligible to participate in the non-qualifying Patriot Division of the GJNC or at the Girl's Junior Club Championship. USAV will fully support the region's decision on whether or not to allow waivered players in this division. Waivered players must be waivered the entire season in order to participate in the Patriot Division of 18s GJNC or at GJCC. Players ***MAY NOT*** transfer clubs to participate in the Patriot Division at 18s GJNC or the GJCC.

TEAM ROSTERS

A Team must have a minimum of one (1) head coach and six (6) players. A Team may have a maximum of fifteen (15) players and five (5) additional personnel on their roster, one of which must be listed as the Head Coach. The other four (4) roster positions may be any combination of the following:

1. Assistant Coach
2. 2nd Assistant Coach
3. 3rd Assistant Coach
4. Chaperone
5. Team Representative
6. Team Manager

ROSTERED ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS

All rostered players must be FULL MEMBERS of a Region of USA Volleyball.

Athletes turning 18 during the season will be required to take "Core" Center for SafeSport training upon turning 18. To prevent any disruption in play, the center will allow athletes who are 17, turning 18 during the season to take "Core" given parental consent. Once a player turns 18, he or she will not be permitted to continue play until "Core" SafeSport training has been completed.

PLAYER'S NUMBER ON OFFICIAL ROSTER:

For all Events, each player is required to wear the same jersey number as listed on the official roster throughout the entire Event, with limited exceptions as required by emergency or blood rule applications.

If a player is found playing in the wrong numbered jersey, the Event Arbitrator, with the input of the Tournament Director, will determine the penalty(ies) to be imposed. Additional penalties may be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Penalties for an **incorrect number** are listed below:

- If the error is discovered **prior or after** the team's match, the roster may be adjusted, and the player may play once the corrected roster is presented to the referees.
    - NOTE: After the first day of play, jersey number updates are subject to a roster change fee of up to $50 per change. The fee must be paid to the tournament desk before the roster is updated. These fees must be posted on the Tournament's website. *Such changes should be limited to urgent or unavoidable circumstances.*
- If the error is discovered **during** the match, the player may not compete for the remainder of the match and the roster may not be adjusted until the conclusion of the match.
    - If the player is on the court at the time of the discovery, USAV 7.3.5.3 as listed in the *2025-2027 Indoor Rules Book* is applied:
        - If the Team at fault is currently serving, all points scored during that term of service are removed, and the lineup is corrected.
        - If the opponent is serving, the lineup is corrected, and no additional penalty or sanction is assessed.

No penalty is assessed on previous rounds or matches where the player may have played in the wrong numbered jersey.

PLAYER MISSING FROM OFFICIAL ROSTER:

For all Events, each player is required to be listed on the official roster throughout the entire event. **If a player is found participating and is not on the official roster**, the following penalties will be imposed:

- If the missing player is discovered **prior** to the team's first match of the tournament, the player may be added to the roster and may play once the $50 roster change fee is paid to the tournament desk, and the corrected roster is presented to the referees.
- If the missing player is discovered **during** the match, the following will occur:
    - Player may not compete for the remainder of the match and Rule 7.3.5.4 as listed in the *2025-2027 Indoor Rules Book* is applied: Where a player is found to be on court but he/she is not registered on the team roster, the opponent's points remain valid, and in addition they gain a point and service. The team at fault will lose all points and/or sets (0:25, if necessary) gained from the moment the non-registered player entered the court, and will have to submit a revised

line-up sheet and send a new registered player into the court, in the position of the non-registered player.
    - The team may add the player to the roster after the conclusion of the match, but before the next match, but only after paying a $50 roster change fee to be paid to the tournament desk.
    - Note: the player must be an eligible member within the Club and available to be added to the roster. Please reference the USA Volleyball Age and Identity Falsification Policy for further review.
- If the missing player is discovered after the **completion** of the match, the following will occur:
    - The team will forfeit the most recent match within the round where the illegal player was found to have played.
    - The player may only be added to the roster after confirming the player is eligible, and the team pays a $50 roster change fee to be paid to the tournament desk.
        - Note: the player must be an eligible member within the Club and available to be added to the roster. Please reference the USA Volleyball Age and Identity Falsification Policy for further review.

After teams have advanced to the next round of play, no forfeits will be assessed on the previous round where the non-rostered player may have played.

ROSTERED STAFF REQUIREMENTS

All rostered personnel (non-players) must:

- Be FULL MEMBERS of a Region of USA Volleyball
- Be SafeSport trained, and
- Have a current, cleared background screening if applicable.

Junior level members under the age of 18 do not need to be background screened and can only serve as a Team Manager on the roster.

Junior members 18 years old and above, serving in non-player capacity on a junior Team, must have submitted, and cleared a background screening within 45 days of their 18th Birthday and must be SafeSport trained.

In order to be listed as a coach, serve in a coaching capacity, one must possess a minimum coaching certification level of IMPACT (Entry Level).

An IMPACT certified person, listed on the roster, must be present and on the bench at all times. It is strongly recommended that Teams have more than one IMPACT certified person on their roster. In the event an IMPACT certified person is not present (late, sick, ejected or disqualified), the Team must have another IMPACT certified person on their roster and on the Team bench for play to begin or continue without forfeit. No additional time will be allowed to comply with the IMPACT certified person requirement to continue play except for unused time outs and/or time allowed between sets.

The Head Coach listed on the Official competition roster must have no other head coach designation with any other Team concurrently within the same Event, **with the exception** being a single NQ taking place over two weekends.

IMPACT certification rating may be met by successfully completing one of the following programs:

- USA Coaching Accreditation Program (CAP), Levels I, II or III
- RVA IMPACT course (Region or National Office verification required)

- Canadian Volleyball Associations Levels 1-4
- FIVB International Courses Levels 1-3
- ACEP “Principles of Coaching” course with proof of purchase of the USAV IMPACT Manual
- USA Volleyball IMPACT In Person
- USA Volleyball IMPACT On Demand
- USA Volleyball CAP or BCAP I, II, or III
- NFHS Fundamentals of Volleyball
- NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching
- ASEP Coaching Principles
- NCCP Level 1 Community Coach Workshop (minimum)
- FIVB Level 1 Course (minimum)
- University of college approved “Introduction to Coaching” course

The **Team Manager** position is primarily reserved for, but not restricted to, junior level members (members who are registered in a junior level membership category or are under the age of 18) participating with a junior Team in a non-player capacity. These members cannot be placed in any Team staff position other than “Team Manager”. Junior level staff members must be at least 10 years of age. USA Volleyball, the Event arbitrators, and the NQ designee reserve the right to conduct random ID checks on any staff person listed on the roster at any time.

Individual participation eligibility requirements (membership, background screening, IMPACT, minimum age, SafeSport trained etc.) are subject to verification by USAV, including use of random ID checks by the Event Arbitrator and/or the NQ or GJNCs designee.

STAFF MISSING FROM OFFICIAL ROSTER:

For all Events, each Rostered Staff is required to be listed on the official roster throughout the entire event. **If a Rostered Staff is found on the bench and is not on the official roster**, the following penalties will be imposed:

- If a person that is not listed on the official roster for a team and is found present on the team’s bench **prior to the match**, the roster may be adjusted, but only after the Rostered Staff has been confirmed as eligible, any roster change fees has been paid to the tournament desk*, and the corrected roster is presented to the referees.
- If a person that is not listed on the official roster for a team and is found present on a team’s bench **during a match**, a roster violation has occurred, and the individual is deemed an Illegal participant for that team. The following penalties will be enforced:
    - The Illegal Participant will be asked to leave the bench for the remainder of the match, and a delay warning will be imposed on the team.
    - If the same individual is caught a second time and verified during the match, they will be removed from the event and the team will forfeit the current set.

*The addition of staff to an official roster once play has started may result in monetary fines per the Tournament Director’s discretion. Any fines must be posted on the tournament’s information page.

USA VOLLEYBALL AGE AND IDENTITY FALSIFICATION POLICY

Any member in question must provide proof of identity and age eligibility if requested by an Event staff member or a USAV Arbitrator.

The following constitutes as proof of identity and age:

- Current Driver's License or Identification Card
- Birth Certificate – Junior Members Only
- Military Identification Card
- Current Passport

For all USAV Sanctioned Events, any person who alters a document that certifies the age or identity of a participant, or falsifies any statement that lists the age or identity of a participant, will be penalized as follows:

- A junior player who knowingly plays in a lower age classification than he or she is actually eligible for, or an adult player who knowingly plays in a higher age classification than he or she is actually eligible for, or any player who knowingly misrepresents his or her identity shall be:
    - Immediately suspended from registration with USAV and barred from further participation in the Event; and barred from participation in any USAV Events, in any capacity, for a minimum of two (2) years; and
    - Placed on a minimum probation of one (1) additional year, to run consecutively with the suspension.
- Any Team Representative, Coach, Club Director or responsible adult found to be a party to such action shall be subject to the same penalties.

When age or identity falsification is discovered and confirmed during an Event, these penalties shall be the required minimum penalty imposed by the Event Arbitrator or the Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee. Additional penalties will be imposed to include forfeitures.

The Event Arbitrator shall file a report detailing the incident of any age or identity violation, to USA Volleyball. USA Volleyball shall notify the Region of the penalty and further actions required.

GENDER COMPETITION POLICY

To review the complete USAV Gender Competition Policy, please refer to the USAV website at: https://usavolleyball.org/about/gender-guidelines/

ROSTER VERIFICATION AND TEAM CHECK IN

Each Event will publish information about the process and requirements for roster verification registration and Team check in.

By completing on-site check-in for the GJNCs and GJCC, an adult staff member (Coach, Club Director, or other designated adult) confirms that the club has committed to and continues to abide by the Team Travel policy and all other Safe Sport policies.

Prior to beginning play an adult staff member (Coach, Club Director, or other designated adult) listed on the roster, or affiliated with the team, must confirm a Team's presence at the NQ or Championship Tournament by completing on-site and/or online check-in.

No additions or changes for players or staff on a Team's roster are allowed once a Team has begun match play in the event, except as specifically stipulated elsewhere in this document or outlined in the USAV Rules Book. The person who completes online and/or on-site check in, whether the Coach, Club Director or other designated adult (Signing Agent), assumes all responsibility for verifying that:

All of the information contained on the Official Roster input at online and/or onsite check-in is both complete and correct, including that:

- All rostered positions adhere to the requirements listed under TEAM ROSTERS (Please see Team Rosters) OR have fully completed the necessary process established for Foreign Teams (Please see Policy on Foreign Individual and Foreign Team Participation)
- All reported Team competition results are complete and accurate.

If a Team wins an Open Bid or accepts a National, USA, Liberty or American Bid at a NQ, the players on the Official Roster, as signed by the Signing Agent, are frozen to that Team.

NQs will send the Official Rosters of the Bid winners, Bid acceptance forms and official results for each division of the NQ to the USAV Events Department at the conclusion of the Event (no later than two days post Event). The Events Department will post the qualified Team rosters and results on the USAV website.

(See Frozen Player Rule below for additional information about Region Bids and At-Large Bids in regards to Official Rosters.)

SAFESPORT

Participation in nationally sanctioned events will require that SafeSport training be completed by all registered adults and all players who are 18 years or older during the event (note, foreign teams are exempt, but we strongly recommend you take the course). Individual regions may set earlier deadlines for their respective regional events. The Safe Sport Training requirement is associated with each member's USA Volleyball membership. If there are questions or issues completing Safe Sport training, please email: membership@usav.org

Adults who have frequent contact with or authority over Minor Athletes must read over and adhere to the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy, otherwise known as the MAAPP. A shortened version of the MAAPP can be found here: 2025 SafeSport MAAPP Policy

All adult participants of USA Volleyball are mandatory reporters of abuse.

The U.S. Center for SafeSport has exclusive jurisdiction over allegations of Sexual Misconduct. To report sexual misconduct, please click on the following link to report directly to the U.S. Center for SafeSport: Report a Concern | U.S. Center for SafeSport (uscenterforsafesport.org)

To report any other form of Misconduct, including Physical and Emotional misconduct (such as bullying, hazing, harassment), retaliation, violations of the MAAPP, or any other violations of the SafeSport Code, you may file a concern with USA Volleyball at the following link: USA Volleyball Misconduct Reporting Form

In addition, the U.S. Center for SafeSport offers SafeSport training for parents and minor athletes free of charge. These courses can be taken at the following link: U.S. Center for SafeSport (safesporttrained.org)

THE "FROZEN PLAYER" RULE

Once a female junior player has participated in a bid division at a GJNCs qualifying Event (National Qualifier or Regional Qualifier), she may not be on the Official Roster of, or compete in, another GJNCs qualifying or Championship Event with a different Club.

Example: A player plays on a Team at a National Qualifier in a qualifying division. The team does not qualify at that event. The player is frozen to the club at that point, and may not transfer to a different club that is planning to play at another qualifier or National Championship (including the Club National Championship)

Earning and accepting an Open, National, USA, Liberty, American or Freedom Bid defines the Team as "Qualified" for the GJNCs. Once a Team is deemed Qualified, the players listed on the Qualified Team's Official Roster are deemed "Frozen Players" to that roster.

The players on the Team's Qualified Official Roster are subject to the following restrictions:

- A Frozen Player cannot be on the roster of - or play with - another Team in a Regional Qualifier or NQ Event. They cannot be on roster of a different Team applying for an Open At-Large Bid, or another Team playing at the GJNCs*.

A player may not help multiple Teams qualify for GJNCs.

FROZEN PLAYERS AT GJCC

A Club may add a maximum of 2 players from an already Qualified 18s team, 14-17s team, or 11-13s team, to a team competing at the Girls Junior Club Championship, provided the players are within the same club, and are not frozen to a roster of a team that will be competing in USA, National, or Open at the GJNCs. (Meaning up to 2 players who are frozen to a roster who will be competing in a Freedom, American or Liberty division at the GJNCs may be added to a roster for GJCC)

FROZEN PLAYERS AT GJNCS

A Club may add player(s) to the Official Roster of a qualified Team for the GJNCs, provided:

- The additional player(s) are members of the Club, and have been the whole season*.
  *Note: *With Region approval*, a player who did not compete in a Qualifying Division, either regionally or at a National Qualifier, may be added to a Club for GJNCs
- The additional player(s) are not on the Official Roster of another Qualified team that will be playing at the GJNCs.

No player may switch from one qualified Team to another qualified Team, even within the same Club, at the same National Championship* (i.e., 18sGJNC, GJNC10-13s or GJNC 14-17s).

***NOTE:** A player may move between Qualified Teams within the same Club for participation in different National Championship events (e.g., between the 18sGJNC and the GJNC 14–17s, or between the GJNC 10–13s and the GJNC 14–17s), provided all Frozen Player restrictions and roster rules are met.

- EXAMPLE 1: A player in the 17's age division plays on an 18's Team at a national qualifier and that Team Qualifies for the 18sGJNC in the Open Division. That player may not play on any other Team (e.g., a 17s Team trying to qualify for 17 Open) at any National Qualifying Events to help that Team qualify for the GJNC for the remainder of that Club season. She may, however, be added to the 17 Open roster to play in the GJNC within that Club after the team has already qualified. A player may only help one team qualify for a GJNC event.
- EXAMPLE 2: A Club has a Team that has qualified for the 14 USA Division of the 14-17s GJNC, they may add a player from their Club who plays on a younger Team to play in the 14-17s GJNC even if the younger player qualified with her team for the 10-13s GJNCs. A player may only help one team qualify for a GJNC event.

NEW FOR THE 2026/2027 SEASON: RULE OF 2

A maximum of 2 players from an already Qualified 14-17s team may be added to an 18s roster to participate at the 18s GJNC, provided the players are within the same club. **Reminder: a team may not help multiple teams qualify for GJNCs.**

EXAMPLE: A player has already earned a bid for GJNCs with a 16s age division team. The same club's 18s team has already earned a bid for 18s GJNC. This player may be added to the roster for the club's 18s team taking part at 18s GJNC.

Important Notes:
A Club may add no more than 2 players from the club's already qualified 14-17s teams to an 18s GJNC roster.
The Frozen Player Rule stays in effect – **a player may not help two teams qualify for GJNCs**

Violations of the Frozen Player Rule may result in Sanctions being imposed on the already qualified Team, its Club, the Team's coach, the player and/or the Club's director.

The USAV Events Department will determine Sanctions for violations of the Frozen Player Rule. (See Penalties for Illegal use of Bid)

PARTICIPATION IN MULTIPLE DIVISIONS

POLICIES FOR MULTIPLE DIVISION PARTICIPATION AT NATIONAL QUALIFIERS

- **Individual athletes within the same club** may participate on more than 1 weekend of a multi-weekend Girl's National Qualifier provided the divisions are held on separate weekends and all other eligibility requirements are met. An athlete can still only play in 1 division on a particular weekend.

  *All Frozen Player rules still apply.

- **A team represented by a specific team code** may participate in multiple divisions of the same National Qualifier, provided the divisions are held on separate weekends and all other eligibility requirements are met.

National Qualifiers hosting multi-weekend events should monitor these scenarios. Teams registering for multiple weekends must designate their first-choice division. Entry into any additional weekends will only be

permitted after December 1st, if space remains available, and once other teams have had the opportunity to register for and be accepted into those divisions.

POLICIES FOR MULTIPLE DIVISION PARTICIPATION AT 18GJNC, GJNCS, AND GJCC

- **Individual athletes within the same club,** meeting the age definitions for age groups younger than their registered age group, may participate in multiple Championship Events, but only one (1) division per Event (18sGJNC, GJNC 10-13s & GJNC 14-17s).
    - Please see the frozen player rule for dual participation in the GJNCs and GJCC
- **A Team represented by a specific team code** may participate in no more than ONE (1) division that requires qualification of the 18sGJNC and GJNC combined.
    - EXAMPLE: A 17's Team that qualifies and accepts a position for an 18s' qualification division in the 18sGJNC may NOT play in a 17's qualification division of the GJNC. (See Frozen Player Rule for more clarification)
- **A Team represented by a specific team code** may not participate in the GJNCs or its Patriot Divisions, and the GJCC. If a team registers for the GJCC and is found registered or qualified for a GJNC in any capacity they will be removed from the GJCC and must utilize their bid or Patriot registration for the GJNC.

  The GJCC is intended for teams not pursuing a bid at GJNCs, but still looking for a highly competitive USAV Championship environment.

POLICY ON FOREIGN INDIVIDUAL AND FOREIGN TEAM PARTICIPATION

Purpose:

The purpose of the Foreign Junior Player Participation policy is to provide definitions of what is a foreign player and foreign team and to provide guidance on when a foreign player or foreign team may participate in USA Volleyball ("USAV") and/or one of its 40 Regional Volleyball Associations ("RVA") events.

Only U.S. Territories (American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands) and their associated Federations are eligible to participate in qualification divisions of the NQs and the GJNC.

Definitions:

I. **Foreign Junior Team.** A team of Non-Resident Foreign Participants seeking to participate in a USAV or Region-sanctioned event.
II. **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.
III. **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.

Policy Statement for Foreign Teams:

I. Foreign Team Participation for National Junior Competitions (e.g., USA Volleyball Girls Junior National Championship, USA Volleyball Boys Junior National Championship, USA Volleyball Girls Junior Club 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.
    i. 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, the Girls Junior National Championship, and the Girls Junior Club Championship
    ii. 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 SECONDARY foreign participant insurance for $100 per team, which will be provided by USA Volleyball.
c. Each player listed on the Roster will fit USA Volleyball Age Definitions.
d. Foreign Teams must complete ALL steps in the USA Volleyball Foreign Team Approval Process to be considered eligible to participate in any USA Volleyball Sanctioned Event.
e. Each member of a Foreign Team shall have in his/her possession(s) the following documents:
    i. Photo identification (Driver's license, passport or comparable government issued document); and
    ii. Copy of birth certificate or Government Issue Identification with birth date for those under 18

Policy Statement for Foreign PLAYERS:

Individual Junior Foreign Participation: Subject to the above Definitions, a Resident Junior Foreign Player may participate in all USAV and RVA events if:

I. She/He is a duly registered member of a USAV RVA; and,
II. 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. Note, once this release is granted and applied to allow for membership with USAV/RVA, this waiver will apply for the remainder of that volleyball season and the Resident Foreign Participant will not be permitted to rejoin their original volleyball federation until the volleyball season has ended on August 31st of each calendar year. 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.

Prohibited Actions:

I. A Non-Resident Foreign Player shall not be eligible to participate in domestic USAV or RVA events.

Concurrent registration with more than one National Volleyball Federation is prohibited.

Contact: membership@usav.org

TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS

OFFICIALS

All pool play and playoff bracket Matches must have a USAV-certified official as the 1st referee.

It is required that there be a USAV certified 1*st* and 2*nd* referee for day 3 - Gold Pool Matches, semifinals, 3rd place and final Matches in the Open division.

Additionally, it is required that there be a USAV certified 1st and 2nd referee for gold bracket semifinal, 3rd place, and final matches in the National, USA, Liberty, and American Divisions.

Any exceptions to this rule must be requested and approved by the USAV indoor event department in writing no later than 48 hours in advance of tournament play.

It is considered best practice to provide USAV certified 1*st* and 2*nd* referees for Gold bracket quarterfinals and any additional bid matches in National, USA, Liberty, and American Divisions as tournament Official staffing availability permits.

***Note for 2027/2028 Season**: It will be required for 1st and 2nd referees for day 3 – Gold Pool matches, semi-final, and final matches in the Open division, as well as quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals in National, USA, Liberty, and American divisions.

AWARDS

It is the obligation of the head coach to be aware of his/her individual State High School Association rules regarding the acceptance of awards. If necessary, present the properly signed papers as required by your State High School Activities Association.

All Events will, at a minimum provide the following awards:

- A Team plaque or trophy to each first, second, and third place Teams in the gold level of each Open, National, USA, Liberty, American, Freedom and Patriot (GJNCs only) Division that is hosted by the Event.
- Individual awards of minimal value (non-merchandise such as a plaque, trophy, or medal) to each player on each first, second, and third place Teams in the gold level of each Open, National, USA, Liberty, American, Freedom and Patriot (GJNCs only) Division that is hosted by the Event.
- NQs and the GJCC will not select or give awards for All-Tournament Teams.
- For the GJNCs, All-Tournament and Most Valuable Player (MVP) awards will be given in the following age divisions: 18, 17, 16, 15 and 14 Open, National, USA, Liberty, American, and Freedom Divisions.

TEAM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR NQS

The date a NQ receives an entry application does not automatically determine the Team's acceptance into the Tournament. All entry requirements must be met.

Each individual NQ may have additional entry requirements. These requirements shall be clearly specified in the respective NQs entry procedure documents and information.

TEAM ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA FOR NQS

NQs will accept Teams who have met all entry requirements until available space is filled, or the deadline date, whichever comes first, based on the following criteria:

- Postmark or electronic date of complete entry requirements, as specified by each Event.
- Strength.
- If the NQ limits the number of accepted Teams per club, per division, that limit can be no less than two (2) Teams per club, per division, but may be higher (maximum number of accepted Teams per club, per division to be set by each NQ and clearly stated in the NQs pre-Tournament information).
- Entries from the host state where the NQ is conducted.

A NQ may prioritize the criteria points above as it best meets the needs of that NQ, however, the method by which a NQ will turn Teams away should the Event, or a Division of the Event, be oversubscribed must be clearly stated in that NQs published Tournament information.

Under no circumstance is a NQ permitted to allow or entertain teams attempting to pre-register in advance of registration opening. Parity across the registration process must be upheld to ensure as equal of a registration opportunity as possible for all competing teams.

After the deadline date Teams may be accepted at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

If a division is filled to capacity by the time a Team completes the entry process, the NQ may offer Teams denied entry into the opportunity to move into another offered division where space is available.

Under no circumstance is a Team that is denied entry into any division guaranteed a berth in any other division.

ATHLETIC TRAINERS

Each NQ and the GJNCs will provide athletic trainers during all hours of competition and for at least 45 minutes prior to the beginning of competition each day. All trainers are required to be SafeSport trained and successfully pass a USAV background check.

PROTEST COMMITTEE

Each Event must have an on-site Protest Committee consisting of one (1) to three (3) members, one of which will be a Head Official or Head Scorer depending on the nature of the protest. Other members may consist of the Tournament director or his/her designee, and another qualified person to rule on protests lodged by Teams regarding officiating.

- No Protest Committee member can coach a Team in the Tournament
- 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 be related ONLY to the rules of play. Judgment calls are NOT subject to protest
- Allowable Protests are:
    - Misinterpretation of a playing rule
    - Failure of the 1st referee to apply the correct rule to a given situation
    - Failure to charge the correct penalty-sanction for a given fault
    - Scoring discrepancy
- A protest related to a judgment decision may result in a penalty (red card) being assessed to the coach.

ETHICS AND ELIGIBILITY

All Junior National Championship Events offer participants the ability to access normal due process channels should their eligibility to participate be in question. Procedures, including appeal options, are outlined above in this manual.

EVENT ARBITRATORS

Event Arbitrators are appointed by USAV and are present for NQs and GJNCs. They are the first level for hearing and resolving ethics and eligibility issues at a specific USA Volleyball Event. Teams or individuals accused of committing violations of rules and regulations at a NQ or GJNCs must meet with the Event Arbitrators(s) for resolution.

The authority for the Event Arbitrator begins with the arrival of a Team and individual participants in the Event's city or 48 hours prior to the first day of competition, whichever is earlier, and shall continue through the duration of the Event, through 30 minutes after the conclusion of the final Match of the Event.

Decisions of the Event Arbitrator shall be conveyed immediately to the affected parties and may be appealed to the Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee appointed for each Event of USA Volleyball.

EVENT APPEALS COMMITTEE DUTIES

The committee must meet as promptly as possible following the filing of an appeal or after an arbitrator's recommendation of a sanction which would continue beyond the term of the event. The committee must conduct a full, fair, and objective hearing. Upon completion of the hearing, the committee should confer and render one of the following four decisions:

- **Uphold the decision** of the arbitrator(s).
- **Rescind the decision** of the arbitrator(s).

- **Modify or amend the decision** of the arbitrator(s). The amendment can be more or less restrictive than the arbitrator's decision.
- Rescind the decision of the arbitrator(s) *and* **render a new judgment.**
- The decisions of the Event Appeals Committee are final with respect to eligibility or privileges at the event; no further appeal is available at the event.

EVENT APPEALS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

For all USAV Championship events, the committee consists of three individuals (age 21 or older), as follows:

- A person appointed by the Event Director.
- A person who is or has been an elected or appointed USAV lay leader.
- A person who meets the definition of a domestic athlete.

For all qualifier events, the committee consists of three members (age 21 or older), as follows:

- A committee chair appointed by the Event Director.
- Two other persons (one a domestic athlete) who have no connection to the persons involved in the incident. All coaches on the event roster are ineligible to serve on this committee.

NATIONAL QUALIFIER DIRECTOR-INFORMATION & REQUIREMENTS

NATIONAL QUALIFIER INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

The following information must be provided directly to the USA Volleyball Director of Events:

- Notification of Head Referee – 90 days in advance of the start of the Event
- Flow Charts to be approved – 2 weeks prior to the start of the Event, with any later changes communicated, as necessary
    - Applies only if not using preapproved flow charts. NQ Directors should reach out to USAV Events Department for any questions about pre-approved flow charts
- Age group assignments by August 1 or communication if unable to meet this deadline
- Information, or access the information in order to verify all NQ Event participants are currently registered with USAV and meeting all membership requirements
- Final results and list of Teams accepting Bids – submitted by no later than noon on the second day following the end of the Event
- Notification of competition venue/city – 18 months prior to 1st day of competitions
- Other items as requested by the USA Volleyball Events Department
- A screen shot of division numbers at the time of registration close date or seeding start date

USAV NATIONAL QUALIFIER POLICIES

The following information must be provided to all interested parties:

- Ethics and Eligibility information
- GJNCs qualification procedures and Bid numbers
- Penalties for not using a Bid & illegal use of Bids
- Team roster requirements
- Awards
- Tournament format
- Open, National, USA, Liberty and American Division selection criteria
- Minimum Team entry requirements
- Team entry selection criteria
- Team acceptance criteria
- Warm-up procedures
- Tie breaker procedures
- Team officiating responsibilities
- Penalty(ies) for missing officiating assignments
- Frozen Player information

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

- Process and deadlines for submitting Tournament entry fees, forms, Seeding and any other required entry application information
- USAV Events Department recommends that the entry deadline date for NQ Events be no earlier than February 1st of the current year, or 45 days prior to the first day of competition, whichever is earlier
- The number of Teams that will be accepted for all age divisions in the current season's NQ Event
- Team check-in procedures, including procedures for Teams arriving late
- Coaches' meeting information, if one is scheduled
- Refund Policy
- Tournament play schedule
- Format description
- Round-to-round advancement (flow chart)

RECOMMENDED FACILITY SPACE REQUIREMENTS

It is recommended that a NQ have minimum space for:

- 24 Teams each in the Open Divisions, as well as the 11 & 12 National Divisions, 12 & 13 USA Divisions, and 13-18 Liberty;
- 64 Teams each in the 14's - 18's USA and American Divisions; and
- 48 Teams in the 12 and 13 American and National Divisions.
- Competition conducted in four-Team pools, with no more than two (2) pools or thirteen (13) Matches scheduled on one (1) court in one day.

All facilities must conform to the safety guidelines in the current USAV Indoor Rules Book.

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

All courts must meet minimum court quality and size standards as stated in the current USAV Indoor Rules Book. Officials will enforce USAV National Rules and ground rules.

EVENT STAFF MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

All adults contracted by the QD as onsite NQ Event staff within the NQ Event must be verified by the QD as having a current, cleared USAV-approved membership, a cleared background screen, be SafeSport trained, as well as completing the HIROS Training. All Event Staff should receive a copy of the MAAPP Policy.

It is recommended that QDs provide all NQ Event Staff and Officials at the given NQ with a credential to easily identify approved and USAV compliant adults working the event.

ATHLETIC TRAINERS

All NQ tournaments are required to provide certified athletic trainers during the event. It is recommended that one trainer be assigned to each facility if more than one facility is used to conduct the tournament. Trainers must provide proof of liability insurance coverage to the Tournament Director. It is recommended that the trainers also provide proof of their current certifications. It is also required that any self-employed/independent trainer be background screened, SafeSport trained, as well as follow any MAAPP Policy guidelines.

Please provide each trainer with copies of the Incident Report Form. They must be filled out and sent to USAV at the conclusion of the event.

ONLINE REGISTRATION AND RESULTS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Online Team entry registration systems used by all NQs will have the same fields as specified by the USAV Events Department. Fields required are division, club name, team name and team code.

All Team participant data and competition results, regardless of division, must be able to be exported in a sequence determined by the USAV Events Department to allow for seamless importing. Required fields and reporting sequence of these fields will be communicated to the QDs by December 31st of the year leading into the current Qualifier season.

- Registration records must be made available two (2) weeks prior to the start of the Event (or two (2) weeks prior to the start of the respective weekends if Event is held over multiple weekends), and again after the conclusion of the Event.
- Reported results used for Seeding will be made accessible to USAV, all Coaches, Club Directors or Club Representatives upon request.

Final Event competition results must be made available to USAV in a format requested by the USAV Events Department no later than two (2) days upon completion of the Event.

REFUND AND WITHDRAWAL POLICY

For Teams accepted into an Event, each NQ will set its own refund policy and clearly state the policy in its entry information.

These policies apply to all Teams denied entry into an NQ that have completed the entry requirements:

- A Team that is denied entry either because there are too many Teams for a division, or because there are too few Teams for a division and the division is being eliminated, will receive a full refund of its entry fee.
- If the division a Team applies to is combined with applicants in one or more other divisions to make a division different from the one the Team applied for, that Team will have the option to play in the new division or withdraw from the NQ with a full refund of its entry fee.
- The NQ will notify any Teams affected by an elimination or combination of divisions within 24 hours of the entry deadline.

OFFICIALS

The NQ will appoint a head official(s) for the Tournament, who will be part of the Protest Committee. The head official(s) will instruct all officials to enforce the rules outlined in the USAV Indoor Rules Book. All Match officials must be FULL MEMBERS of an RVA of USA Volleyball and verified as having a current, cleared USAV-approved background screen and be SafeSport trained.

USAV ARBITRATOR

USAV will appoint at least one (1) Arbitrator per city, per weekend, to perform duties specified solely by USAV during the NQ. The final number of arbitrators assigned to an Event will be as deemed necessary by the QD and the USAV Director of Events.

The NQ will be responsible for the following:

- Providing, at no cost, credentials for the Arbitrator(s) to all venues and meeting space involved with the NQ Event.
- Providing, at no cost, parking passes for the Arbitrator(s) at all venues if needed.
- Providing, at no cost, internet access for the Arbitrator(s) in the main venue during the hours of competition.
- Providing assistance to USAV in arranging a hotel room for the Arbitrator(s) at a property in as close proximity to the main venue, such room cost shall be comped by the NQ unless no comp rooms are available at which point the cost of the room will be at the expense of USAV.

All other expenses of the Arbitrator(s) shall be the responsibility of USAV.

USAV EVALUATOR

USAV may appoint up to one (1) person of their choice to perform evaluation duties (Evaluator) specified solely by USAV during the NQ. NQs will cooperate with the Arbitrator in preparation of a summary and evaluative report on the NQ Event.

The QD will be responsible for the following:

- Providing, at no cost, credentials for the Evaluator to all venues and meeting space involved with the NQ.
- Providing, at no cost, parking passes for the Evaluator at all venues if needed.
- Providing, at no cost, internet access for the Evaluator in the main venue during the hours of competition.
- Providing assistance to USAV in arranging a hotel room for the Evaluator at a property in as close proximity to the main venue, such room cost to be at the expense of USAV.

All other expenses of the Evaluator shall be the responsibility of USAV.

The USAV Director of Events will provide a copy of the evaluation and recommendations to the QD and the USAV CEO within 90 days after the conclusion of the NQ.

USAV MARKETING & BRANDING REQUIREMENTS

As a nationally Sanctioned Event, each NQ has the responsibility to, in cooperation with USAV, promote the USAV brand within, and in relation to, the Event.

USAV will provide a high-resolution logo and brand guidelines to the NQs each year, or as required due to a change in the logo. All use of the USAV logo requires prior written approval, which will not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. Proofs and requests for approval should be submitted to creativeservices@usav.org.

USA Volleyball-branded apparel can be purchased through the USA Volleyball wholesale apparel online store and sold along with event-specific merchandise at the event. For more information on how to purchase USA Volleyball apparel please contact creativeservices@usav.org to request access. Note that no apparel may be produced or sold including USA Volleyball logos or marks outside of the wholesale program other than by approved USA Volleyball partners or licensees.

The NQ will provide USAV a high-resolution Event logo and brand guidelines for use by July 1st of each year preceding the event, or as required due to a change in the logo.

The following are branding and marketing requirements for each NQ:

- Place the USAV logo prominently on the NQ website.
- Include the USAV logo in any digital communication or marketing of the event including but not limited to email, social media, mobile applications, etc.
- Prominently display any USAV-provided banners or signage promoting USA Volleyball programs, events, or other activities. The materials shall be provided to the NQ in advance of each event as available.
- Display the USAV logo on signage and banners in the venue, including the NQ entry unit

Note that the USAV logo may not be displayed in close proximity or adjacent to any logos or marks for brands other than those who are official partners of USA Volleyball. The current list of official partners of USAV is available on the USAV website, at the bottom of the home page: usavolleyball.org. All usage of USAV logos and other marks must be approved in writing prior to the start of the event.

Each NQ will also provide USAV, at no cost to USAV, prominent exhibit space of no less than the equivalent of a single booth space and accessories offered to other exhibitors in a location that is mutually agreed upon within the Event exhibit area,

- USAV will confirm at least thirty (30) days in advance of the NQ Event its use, or not, of the display/exhibit space
- No sponsor-specific materials will be distributed or displayed by USAV that conflict with a NQ Event sponsor.

USAV SANCTION REQUIREMENTS

All Events Sanctioned by USAV must adhere to the rules and regulations as contained in the 2025-2027 USAV Indoor Rules Book, and other standards printed in the NQ and National Event Pre-Tournament Manuals.

All volleyball Team competition included in a NQ must be approved by USAV. A license fee will apply to all volleyball Team entry fees as specified by the Qualifier License Agreement, including Team competition in non-Bid award divisions and exhibitions.