



Junior Club Director Info Packet

2021-2022



USAVolleyball

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USAV JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL

USAV Junior Volleyball is a program for girls and boys 19 years of age and younger. USA Volleyball provides competition for players of all levels in which clubs and teams can participate if they are properly registered and follow guidelines concerning minimal training and background screens. The USAV Junior Indoor Volleyball competition runs from November through the first week of July.

CHANGES FOR THIS SEASON & IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Region Age Waivers

Starting with the 2021/22 season, there will not be region age waivers for players that are in a lower grade than their date of birth warrants. With the age cutoff change made by USA Volleyball from September 1 to July 1, the number of region age waivers has dropped by 80%. The HOA board of directors has decided that there is no longer a need for an age waiver moving forward for in-region competition. USA Volleyball does have some waivers that are still in effect. You can learn about these waivers in the “USA Volleyball Junior Player Age Definition” section of this document. There is no approval needed by HOA or USA Volleyball to utilize the USA Volleyball age waiver as the rostering system will automatically detect what age levels players qualify to play in. It is encouraged for club directors to check a player’s age-eligibility, before offering them spot on a specific team. To check a player’s age eligibility, go to hoavb.org, hover over the “Junior Girls & Boys” tab, and click “Junior Age Calculator.”

10U Membership

For the 2021-22 season, there will be no longer a separate 10 and under membership. All players age 9 and up will register as a regular junior player. There is a free membership for those who qualify as an 8 and under player.

Club Assignment Request

Last season club assignment request, which connected players & coaches to their respective club, were sent out from the region office. Starting in the 2021-2022 season, club admins will send out the club assignment request to their players & coaches so they can get affiliated to the club and be put on a roster.

To send out a club assignment request, a club admin needs to log into their SportsEngine account and go into their club’s HQ. On the left side of the page, they will click on the “USA Volleyball” tab and then click “Memberships.” There will be two ways that a club admin can send out club assignment request, either through a Public Club Assignment or a Direct Club

Assignment. The Direct Club Assignment is a great way to send a club assignment directly to one or a few people who are already listed in your SportsEngine Directory (Coaches & players returning to your club from last year should already be in your directory). The Public Club Assignment is a good way to send a club assignment to players & coaches who are not in your directory, or if you want to send it out to everyone in a mass email. The public club assignment creates a link that you can copy and paste into an email to send out. When the link is clicked on, it will prompt the individual to register with HOA/USAV and accept the club assignment. If the individual already has a paid membership, the link will simply direct the individual to accepting the club assignment request.

No Side Switching within a Match

Starting in the 2021-22 season, the following rule changes are in affect. Teams will stay on the same side of the court for the entirety of the match. The side each team will be on is determined at the coin toss. The only time teams will switch sides is if the tournament director determines that there is a clear unfair advantage for one side over the other. If there is an unfair advantage teams will switch sides after the 1st set, and if a 3rd set is needed teams will switch sides after a team reaches 8 points. It is up to the tournament director to decide if there is a need to switch sides for a specific court.

ESTABLISHING A USAV JUNIOR TEAM

HOW TO REGISTER A JUNIOR TEAM

Step 1: First year club directors need to create a SportsEngine login and create their club's HQ. Please call the HOA office (913-233-0445) with assistance getting this setup. Returning club directors can proceed straight to step 2.

Step 2: Starting September 1st, the club director needs to get registered with a HOA/USAV membership. This membership will require a background screen during the registration process. *(Regardless if you are planning to have a single team or multiple teams, one adult will need to be designated as the club director)*

Step 2: The club director needs to complete online training videos including the Safesport clinic & the club director clinic.

Step 3: All club director needs to go to www.hoaonline.org and set up the club new for the season. The HOA staff will approve a club, once the club director's background screen is approved, online clinics are completed, and the club is setup in HOAonline.

Step 4: Once the club is approved, the club director will send club assignment request to all players & coaches within the club. The club assignment requests are sent through the Club Director's SportsEngine HQ. The club assignment requests will prompt the players and coaches to get registered as HOA/USAV members & get affiliated with the club so that they can be added to rosters.

All associated individuals within a club, including but not limited to coaches & players, need to be registered members so that the club & the individuals are covered under USAV insurance. Coaches need to be registered & background screened before they can participate in open gyms, tryouts, practices, etc. Every team must have an approved coach at every practice and every tournament. Coaches must be at least 18 years of age. Younger players can help out with a youth team as a Junior Assistant, but cannot be in a position of authority and must be always supervised by an adult head or assistant coach. For a junior assistant to be on the bench, the club needs to contact the HOA office to obtain special credentials.

Step 5: In HOAonline, the club director can begin setting up teams.

Club Director will need to choose the following:

- Team Gender: Male or Female
- Junior Team Age Level: 18, 17, 16, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 10

(Use the junior age calculator to find out what age level each player is eligible to play)

- Team Level of Play: Premier or Select

*Premier is the higher level of competition compared to select. Up to March 1, teams can put in a request to change their level from either premier to select or vice versa. HOA will grant a change of level if the results for the team warrant so. HOA can require a team to change levels any time during the season. Premier level teams can only compete in Premier level tournaments in their age division, in older premier level events if at least 2 out of 3 teams in the tournament are Premier level teams for that age division, or in Select level tournaments 2 age divisions higher (if the tournament director will accept them). Select level teams can only compete in Premier level tournaments if at least 2 out of 3 teams in the tournament are Premier level teams for that age division. All teams can compete in Combined level tournaments, as long as they meet the age qualification. **Select level teams will not be allowed to play in the HOA Premier Regional Championships or Power League.***

Step 6: Once teams are setup in the HOAonline system, the club director can start forming rosters. Teams need to be approved before they can be entered into tournaments. For a team to be approved, there needs to be at least 6 players, a head coach, and team representative on the roster. Teams will automatically be approved in HOAonline, once these criteria are met. Players can be added to the roster and coaching staff changes can be made after a team is approved. Once a team is approved, players can only be removed from a roster with HOA office approval. The head coach and team rep roles can be assigned to the same person. The team rep's role is the contact person for tournament directors, HOA staff, etc.

(Keep in mind that when you are putting players on team rosters, players cannot play "down" from the team they are registered with. For example, players from a 13's team cannot fill in to play on a 12's team, even if the player meets the age requirements. A player who is on the roster of a Premier team cannot play on a Select team in the same age division. Minimum penalty will be forfeit of all matches for the team that borrowed the illegal player.)

Step 7: On November 9th at 10:00 am, teams can begin entering tournaments in HOAonline. If you cannot enter tournaments, check to ensure your team is approved and you have 6 players on the roster along with a head coach and team rep assigned. Enter

tournaments as early as possible because some fill up fast. The later you enter, the less your chances are to be accepted. Some national level events (National Qualifiers, “Show Me”, KC MLK event, etc.) may open registration earlier than November 9th.

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

- A. Decide how the program will be financed.
 - a. Regular monthly dues.
 - b. Fundraisers.
 - c. Solicitation of local merchants in your community to donate to the program.
 - d. Solicit a company to sponsor a team or your whole club.
 - e. A combination of the above methods.
 - f. File as a nonprofit organization. The main benefits of this are: you may become tax exempt and under certain circumstances, donors’ contributions are tax deductible. There are many categories of exemption, but only one, 501 (c) (3) may get you a tax-exempt status as well.
- B. Find a place to practice and, if needed, a place to hold your tryouts. Obtain volleyballs for tryouts and practices. Keep in mind that 12 and under competition will be conducted using a ball with the same circumference and inside pressure as other competition, but with a weight of 7 to 8 ounces (Molten VBU-12).
- C. Contact potential players: take flyers to school, social media notices, etc. There are also the “Junior Players Looking for Teams” & “Junior Team Looking for Players” pages on the hoavb.org website that can be utilized to help find players.
- D. Conduct a meeting with potential players and at least one parent or guardian for each player (this can be done either before or after tryouts.)
 - a. Introduce your coaching staff and their qualifications.
 - b. Explain how the program will operate.
 - c. Discuss the methods of financing the program.
 - d. Decide on how the team will get equipment and uniforms.
 - i. Purchased by the club and rented to the players.
 - ii. Purchased by the club and owned by the players.
 - iii. Each player to purchase their own.
 - e. You **MUST** tell both the players and their parents or guardians that players can be hurt and hurt seriously playing volleyball (**THIS MUST BE DONE FOR LIABILITY INSURANCE PROTECTION**).
 - f. Tell both players and their parents or guardians that they will sign a release and waiver before they join USAV (as part of the online registration process).
- E. Get commitments from parents as to what their assistance to the program will be. Make sure to register parents that fill any official position in the club (see “parent membership”)
- F. Order uniforms.

- a. Uniform Restrictions – a player's uniform consists of jersey and shorts. (USA Rulebook Commentary 4.3)
 - i. The color and design of the jerseys, shorts and socks must be uniform for the team. Jerseys must be marked with numbers not less than 4" on the chest and not less than 6" on the back. **It is recommended that jersey numbers are 6" for the chest and 8" on the back. Numbers must be centered on chest and back of the uniform.** NOTE: You may only use the numbers 1 – 99. **Zero & double zero are illegal numbers.**
 - ii. If undergarments, including but not limited to t-shirts, boxers, tights, leotards, body suits, bicycle shorts, sports bras, etc., are worn in such a manner that they are exposed, they will be considered a part of the uniform. In that case, they must be similar and the same color for any team members who wear such a uniform (appeals may be made to the Region for medical or religious exceptions).
 - iii. Shoes, socks and kneepads are not considered to be part of the uniform.
 - iv. The **Libero player's jersey must contrast in color with that of the predominant colors of the jerseys of the other team members.** Color combinations such as purple/black, dark green/black, navy/maroon, and white/light yellow are not distinctive enough to comply with the rules.
 - v. If numbers are outlined, the interior color of the number must contrast with the main uniform color.
 - vi. It is recommended that every coach carries an extra uniform to tournaments to avoid problems.
 - vii. Contact the region office if you would like to get your jersey designed approved before ordering.

HOW TO BECOME A USAV COACH

- A. You must be a registered member of HOA/USAV. To begin the registration process, go to hoavb.org, hover over the "registration tab", and click "Start your Registration Process." As with all adults, the coach **must** understand the HOA rules and regulations published on the HOA website (www.hoavb.org) – **BE FAMILIAR WITH THE CONTENT OF THESE.**
- B. Every junior coach is required to submit a background screen before membership is allowed. HOA membership can be denied based on the information from this background screening. The background screen will be submitted during membership registration. Background screen typically take 3-5 business to come back. International background screens will take longer to be completed depending on the country of origin.
- C. All coaches must be IMPACT or CAP certified. If you are not IMPACT certified, you need to complete the class online. IMPACT training is free of charge. Once you have been IMPACT certified, you do not have to go through the certification again.
- D. All coaches will have to complete online referee and scorer clinics.

- E. All coaches need to be SafeSport certified every year.
- F. All clinics (Impact, SafeSport, & officiating clinics are all done online through your SportsEngine account where an individual's membership is located). There is no additional cost to taking these clinics and can be done at each coaches own pace. All the clinics need to be completed before an individual can be considered an approved coach and added to a roster
- G. All coaches have to be 18 years or older. Younger kids can help out with teams (Junior Assistants), but cannot be an official coach (head or assistant) for a team. Junior Assistants need to request credentials in order to be on the team bench and also need to be a registered HOA member with a Full season Junior Player membership.
- H. Coaches can be registered with multiple clubs.

COACHES CREDENTIALS

At the HOA events with professional officials, all coaches (head and assistant) need to check in. You will be able to have your picture printed on the coach's credentials by uploading it into the HOA Online system. If you don't have your picture on the credentials, you will need to be able to show a picture ID at all times.

The site staff will check the coach's credentials against their picture ID's. If approved, the coach will receive a wrist band to put on. At the start of the timed warm-ups, the official will check the wristbands and credentials of all competing and officiating coaches. A coach without a wristband cannot be on the bench or supervise the officiating team. At the end of the timed warm-ups, if there is no approved coach available for the officiating team, they are penalized as an incomplete work team. A competing team will be penalized, for the first set, one point per minute up to 15 minutes. At 15 minutes, the first set is forfeit and the team is penalized, for the second set, one point per minute up to an additional 15 minutes. At this time the match is forfeit. If both competing teams do not have an approved coach, the penalty is applied to both teams. If at the end of the first 15-minute period both teams still do not have an approved coach, the match is forfeited by both teams. Each team will receive a two-set loss with scores of 0-0.

At all other tournaments, coaches are required to wear credentials at all times when they are on the bench or when their team is officiating. Head Day Officials and tournament directors can, at any time during a tournament, ask a coach to show a picture ID and USAV card if needed.

More and more junior players are helping out with younger age teams. No junior can be an official coach, but these Junior Assistants are allowed to be on the team bench during tournaments. If you have any students in this role, you will need to contact the HOA office to request a special credential for them. This credential will allow them to be on the bench, but makes it clear that they are minors who cannot be the coach or up-official for the younger age teams.

HOA will start producing and mailing the credentials in November. Every coach needs to have completed his/her online officiating clinics, be IMPACT or CAP certified, have a current SafeSport Certification and be registered with an approved background screen in order to receive his/her HOA credentials.

MULTIPLE TEAMS WITHIN A CLUB

Many clubs have more than one team. The advantage is that teams can use players from other teams **within the club** to fill their rosters, if needed. There are some restrictions:

1. Teams can borrow players from (a) same level, or (b) lower level, or (c) younger teams to complete their roster (for example: a 14 Premier team can either borrow players from another 14 Premier team, from a 14 Select team or from any 13's, 12's, 11's team from within the club).
2. Select level teams can **NOT** borrow players from Premier level teams in the same age divisions.
3. No player can play for 2 teams in the same tournament. No player can play in 2 different age divisions in any of the Power League Qualifiers. No player can play in 2 different age divisions in any of the Power Leagues. No player can play in 2 different age divisions of the Premier Regional Championships.

Violation of these rules will result in forfeiture of all matches in a tournament in which an illegal player was put on the roster/played. Other sanctions may apply also.

No players can be borrowed from other clubs!

For National qualifying events there are some restrictions to borrowing players from within a club, when a team has qualified and a roster is frozen. Make sure to double check if these situations come up.

INTERCOLLEGIATE AND HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

Whether coaching a state high school volleyball team or hosting a junior tournament for high school aged girls or boys, please remember that the high school and intercollegiate associations have certain restrictions on players, coaches, awards, clinics, camps, and all-star matches. Tournament directors and coaches must take these rules into consideration when hosting USAV competition. HOA does not take any responsibility for participants violating rules of high school or intercollegiate athletic associations.

AGE DEFINITIONS FOR 2021-2022

USA VOLLEYBALL JUNIOR PLAYER AGE DEFINITION

Once a player participates (including but not limited to practicing, training, attending workouts and/or competing) in a club or varsity program for any university, college, community college, or junior college, he/she is ineligible to take part in any regional and national programming, which includes but is not limited to national JNC qualifying and championship events.

18 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2003 OR Players who were born on or after July 1, 2002 and a high school student in the twelfth (12th) grade or below during some part of the current academic year

17 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2004

***Girls 17 and Under Division:** Players who were born on or after July 1, 2003 (18 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the eleventh grade (11th) during the current academic year will be allowed to participate at the USA Junior National Championships on 17 and under teams. This age waiver is still subject to frozen roster rules. (This age waiver is based on recruiting concerns for girls in the 11th grade who would otherwise be required to participate in girls 18's qualifiers and the Girls 18's GJNC.)*

16 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2005

15 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2006

14 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2007

***Boys 14 and Under Division:** Players who were born on or after July 1, 2006 (15 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the eighth grade (8th) during the current academic year will be allowed to participate at the USA Junior National Championships on 14 and under teams. This age waiver is still subject to frozen roster rules. (This exception is based on the net height difference of 7'4 1/8" to 7' 11 5/8" between the 14 and Under Division to the 15 and Under Division.)*

13 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2008

***Boys 13 and Under Division:** Players who were born on or after July 1, 2007 (14 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the seventh grade (7th) during the current academic year are eligible for a Region approved waiver to compete in the boys 13's age group. This age waiver is still subject to frozen roster rules.*

12 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2009

***Boys 12 and Under Division:** Players who were born on or after July 1, 2008 (13 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the sixth grade (6th) during the current academic year are eligible for a Region approved waiver to compete in the boys 12's age group. This age waiver is still subject to frozen roster rules.*

11 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2010

10 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2011

9 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2012

8 and Under Division: Players who were born on or after July 1, 2013

Note: These age definitions are used by domestic club programs and are NOT the same as the age definitions for the International and Domestic High Performance programs. To check

what age team a player is eligible to play on, use the junior age calculator. The calculator can be found by going to hoavb.org, hover over “Junior Girls & Boys” tab, and click “Junior Age Calculator.” It is encouraged to check each player’s age eligibility before offering them a spot on a specific team.

HOA SPECIAL AGE DEFINITIONS FOR BOYS

Boys teams up to 14 and under can compete in girls’ tournaments in Combined and Select level events, since there are not enough boy’s teams in the HOA region to provide a separated competition. Male players up to 14 and under can play on Female teams in regional competition only (Combined and Select level events).

Boys 12 and under can play on girl’s teams in Select and Combined tournaments in their own age divisions (a 12 and under boy can play on a 12 and under girls Select level team). Boys teams 12 and younger can play in Select and Combined girl’s tournaments in their own age group.

Boys 13 and 14 can play on a girls’ team, but **have to play up one age division**. A 14 and under age boy, can play on a 15 Select girls’ team. Boy’s teams 13 and 14 and under are eligible to play in girl’s Select tournaments, but **have to play up one age division**.

Boys 15 and over, that no longer qualify for the 14 and under age group cannot participate in girl’s competition.

HOA/USAV SANCTIONED EVENTS

HOA & USA Volleyball provide a structure for junior volleyball competition. There are two separate seasons for competition, an indoor season and an outdoor season.

Events that are sanctioned by HOA have to meet standard requirements, like IMPACT certified, Safesport certified, and background screened coaches. Tournament directors have to follow certain procedures that help to ensure quality events.

Clubs are either an indoor or an outdoor club. An outdoor club can be run by the same administration as an indoor club. The same name can be used for the outdoor club as for the indoor club with the distinction “beach”, “outdoor” or “sand”. For administrative purposes the clubs will be considered separate clubs.

Players are not bound to an indoor club if they want to play for an outdoor club and may play with any outdoor club during the sanctioned season. The exception is that players that are on the roster of a team that is going to the indoor junior National Championships, need a release from the indoor club in order to participate with an outdoor club.

USA Volleyball provides liability and sports accident insurance for all sanctioned events

Unless specific sanctioning is obtained, in writing, from the HOA office, no other events are covered by USAV insurances. The certificate of insurance can only be used as proof of

insurance for sanctioned events.

For details on the insurance program, check the HOA website

INDOOR SEASON

The indoor season runs from September 1 - July 9

During this time frame, the following activities are sanctioned by HOA:

1. Scheduled practices by an HOA approved club. Participants are all members of that club and registered with HOA. At all times during a practice there is a HOA registered, Impact certified, Safesport certified, and background screened adult coach present. All participating adults have to be registered, Safesport certified, and background screened. A practice is defined as having at least 3 players and a coach, registered with the same club, to be present.
2. Scrimmages between 2 fully registered and approved HOA teams during the indoor season as defined above. An HOA registered, IMPACT certified, SafeSport certified, and background screened adult coach has to be present at all times during the scrimmage.

For a scrimmage to be sanctioned by HOA as part of a club training program:

- No more than up to 4 teams can participate
 - The maximum dollar amount a team can be charged to participate in a sanctioned scrimmage is the facility/court rental fee for the scrimmage, divided by the number of teams participating
 - Total time for all scrimmages cannot be more than 5 hours
3. All tournaments that are posted on the HOA tournament calendar.
 4. Tryouts posted on the HOA website that are held in the period of July 9 through February of the following year.
 5. Open gyms posted on the HOA website
 6. All other events that are explicitly sanctioned, in writing, by the HOA office. Typically, all sanctioned events are posted on the HOA website. All sanctioned events are covered under USA Volleyball insurance assuming all requirements are met.

OUTDOOR SEASON

The Outdoor Season runs from May 1 - August 31

During this time frame, the following activities are sanctioned by HOA:

1. Scheduled practices by an HOA approved club. Participants are all members of the club and registered with HOA. At all times of a practice there is a HOA Registered, Impact certified, Safesport certified, and background screened adult coach present. All participating adults have to be HOA registered, Safesport certified, and background screened.
2. All tournaments and leagues that are posted on the HOA tournament calendar.
3. All other events that are explicitly sanctioned, in writing, by the HOA office. Typically, all sanctioned events are posted on the HOA website.

SANCTIONED OPEN GYMS

Open gyms for volleyball are sanctioned by HOA year-round. For HOA to sanction Open Gyms, certain requirements need to be met:

All coaches and club directors need to be registered and have a current background screen to participating in sanctioned open gyms or tryouts.

Open Gym Policies:

1. Only registered HOA members are allowed to participate in sanctioned Open Gyms. All participants will need proof of their membership by bringing their individual membership card to the open gym. Clubs will need to check the membership cards.
2. Coaches shall be facilitators only. There shall be no individual or group instruction. Coaches may set up drills or controlled scrimmage situations.
3. Players attending sanctioned Open Gym shall be afforded similar playing time.
4. Players are not to be divided into skill levels, only into general age groups.
5. Parents should be allowed to watch, unless space prevents.
6. The maximum fee charged to players is \$10.00.
7. The maximum length of a sanctioned open gym is 2 hours.

SANCTIONED TRYOUTS

1. **Notification to HOA:** Clubs need to notify HOA in writing the intend to have sanctioned tryouts. No tryouts will be sanctioned and posted unless the club rep is a registered HOA member (all forms, fees need to be submitted and background screen completed).
2. **Clubs must post and announce** at the beginning of all sanctioned tryouts (i.e., the day of tryouts) the number of playing spots open for tryouts for each age division. Do not have sanctioned tryouts if you have no openings on a team.
3. **Length of Tryouts:** Sanctioned tryouts are limited to a maximum of 3 hours.
4. **Club Information Needed for Tryouts:** Regardless of whether your club has one team or several teams, as much information as possible should be provided about your club to all prospective players. This should include a statement of the club mission, philosophy and any pertinent policies. Clubs are asked to include notification of applicable club fees within an approximate (+/-) \$150 to all prospective players as part of their tryout schedule.
5. **Tryout Fees:** Clubs may not charge more than \$15.00 per participant for sanctioned tryouts.
6. **Tryout Dates:**
Sanctioned tryout dates for 2021/22:
October 31, 2021 - February 2022

Sanctioned summer tryout dates for 2022/23:

July 9 - July 15, 2022

October 30, 2022 - February 2023

OTHER CLUB RELATED ACTIVITIES

Any other events, clinics, camps, tryouts, open gyms, private lessons etc. that are organized by HOA affiliated clubs, groups or individuals are outside the scope and regulations of Heart of America Volleyball. These events are not sanctioned, regulated nor covered by insurance by Heart of America Volleyball or USA Volleyball.

HOA has no responsibility for any player violating inter-scholastic or collegiate regulations.

TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION & WITHDRAWAL

To Enter tournaments, teams will have to follow the online sign up process. Once you have entered your team online, print out the tournament entry form and mail it with the appropriate fee to the tournament director. For HOA run events you will be able to pay online in which case you do not need to mail in a form or payment. To do so, enter your team in the event in the HOA Online system. Then make the online payment. Do not assume you are in a tournament until you show up on the HOA Online website as being approved.

If your team is on the waitlist for a tournament and you decide to withdraw, you will need to inform the tournament director, in writing, that you do not want to be on the waitlist and want a refund of your registration fee. If not, the tournament director will assume that you are still interested in playing in the tournament and may put you in the event when a spot opens up or the tournament is expanded.

For a team to receive a refund of the tournament entry fee, after being accepted into a tournament, the team will have to provide at least three weeks written notice to the tournament director. The written notice has to be received by the tournament director no later than noon on the Friday three weeks prior to the tournament. For two-day tournaments, the tournament director needs to be notified no later than noon on the Friday four weeks prior to the tournament.

If a tournament director places a team in a different division than the team signed up for, the team needs to be notified. The team will have the right to withdraw from the tournament and the tournament entry fee refunded.

If a tournament director decides to cancel a tournament, all entry fees need to be refunded and proper notice needs to be provided to the registered teams.

Some of the larger events, run by HOA, have a no-refund policy after the deadline of registration, unless there is a team on the waitlist that can take the vacated spot. Deadlines for those events are usually one month before the tournament.

TOURNAMENT LEVELS

Premier level tournaments: A tournament director who gets the permission to run a Premier level tournament will be responsible for the level of the tournament. Premier level tournaments will have to have at least 2 out of 3 teams being Premier level teams for the appropriate age division. The tournament director will need to keep two lists of entry: One with the appropriate teams, and one with the other teams. Once 2 Premier Level teams in the appropriate age division have registered for the tournament, one Select level team or younger age division Premier level team can be accepted into the tournament. Keep in mind that if a lower level team drops out last minute, your tournament does not meet the requirements anymore.

Combined tournaments are not allowed in the following counties (with the exception of 11's division Combined tournaments):

Missouri: Buchanan, Cass, Clay, Clinton, Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette, Platte, Ray.

Kansas: Atchison, Douglas, Franklin, Jefferson, Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami, Osage, Shawnee, Wyandotte.

We allow these tournaments in rural areas, since it is usually harder for tournament directors to fill events in these areas. Combined tournaments can accept all teams that meet the age requirement.

Invitational tournaments are allowed in circumstances where tournament directors target specific teams for high level competition. These tournaments will not be publicized on the HOA website until they have filled up and a schedule can be posted.

ADDITIONAL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

In single day in-region tournament, no tie-breaking sets will be played unless all tie-breakers are exhausted and no conclusion has been reached. Teams **will be** eliminated on points from continuing to playoffs if needed.

- Teams with a male player on their roster, may not compete in Premier tournaments (with or without the boy).
- In Select and Combined level tournaments, teams can play with 5 players.
- In Select and Combined level tournaments for age groups 12 and younger, a step-in-line for serving will be used (6'6" from the end line).
- Premier teams may not participate in Select tournaments unless they are playing up 2 age divisions (i.e. 14 Premier team playing in a 16 Select tournament)
- Tournament directors cannot run a Premier level tournament if 2/3 of the teams are not "Premier" level teams in the appropriate age division.

HOA EVENTS

Power League

The HOA Power League has been developed to provide a challenging means of encouraging in-region competition among elite teams that would ordinarily not see one another on the court very often, if at all. Top-level teams by necessity must seek out the best competitive opportunities, in order to develop and maintain maximum levels of performance. This quite often, necessitates travel to outlying regions where many high-quality events have been developed. This can be costly as well as time-consuming and though we are not going to eliminate or discourage travel needs, the Power League will provide much of the same competitive opportunities for many of the teams in the HOA region without the need for such time-consuming travel. Noteworthy to those aspiring to compete in the coming season's Junior National Volleyball Championships, the HOA Power Leagues are the first event of the year that are used to determine who receives the available region bids. For more details on Power League, go to the HOA website, hover over the "Junior Events" tab, & click "Power League."

Kansas City Martin Luther King Day Tournament will take place on January 15-17, 2022 at the Kansas City Convention Center (Bartle Hall and Municipal Arena) and the HyVee Arena. The format will be similar as is used for national qualifiers. For the 18's divisions, this is a national qualifier.

Shell Price Challenge and Heart Challenge

The "**Shell Price Challenge**" tournament will be held February 12 & 13, 2022, and is for those teams that are registered Select. This tournament is run with the same format as the "**Heart Challenge**", which is for registered Premier teams and will be held March 12 & 13, 2022. Both are two-day tournaments offering players a guaranteed 9 or 10 matches of play with paid up-officials. We plan to offer ages 12-18 for both events.

Keeper of the Plains Classic, Wichita

The Keeper of the Plains is a 2-day event with paid up officials. The tournament will be held on February 26 & 27, 2022. Teams are guaranteed pool play on Saturday and at least 2 matches on Sunday.

Route 66 Tournament, Springfield

The Route 66 is a 2-day event with paid up officials. The tournament will be held on January 29 & 30, 2022. Teams are guaranteed pool play on Saturday and at least 2 matches on Sunday.

The Border Series

This is a series of 4 single day tournaments in North Central Kansas and Missouri. Teams can choose to play in one or several of these tournaments. Up-officials are provided for these tournaments. Matches are played in Salina, Concordia, Hays and Chillicothe.

HOA Premier Regional Championships:

The HOA region bids for the Junior National Championships will be awarded through the Power leagues and the HOA Premier Regional Championships. Only Premier level teams can participate in this event. All teams will have to play in their own age division. The maximum number of teams accepted into each division is 40. If more registrations are received, the ranking system will be used to select the highest ranked 40 teams on the day registration closes to participate in the event. All other teams will be placed on a waitlist

(based on the rankings on the day of the deadline of registration) and allowed entry into the tournament if space opens up. Teams that do not make it into the tournament will have the opportunity to participate in the Select Regional Championships.

No teams that have qualified for the USAV Junior National Championships, before the Premier Regional Championships, can compete in this event.

Select Junior Regional Championships:

There is no "playing up" allowed. Player transfer rules for HOA regional championships are waived for non-Premier teams.

Asics Show Me National Qualifier

The Asics Show Me National Qualifier will be run over 2 weekends again. We hope that we will be able to accommodate all teams that want to participate this year. The first weekend will be April 9-11 for the ages 15 through 17s. The second weekend will be April 15-17 for the age groups 11-15 & 18s (non-bid division). More information can be found on the qualifier website: www.showmenq.org.

Select level teams are allowed to compete in the Show Me National Qualifier.

HOSTING A TOURNAMENT

If your club wants to host a Junior Tournament, review the tournament director packet found by going to the "General Info" tab and then "Resources." This packet will include all information and forms you need to conduct a proper tournament. Contact the HOA office (913) 233-0445 or info@hoavb.org if you have any questions.

ENTRY INTO USAV JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The National Tournament for girls is divided in Open, National, USA and American Divisions. The Open and USA divisions will consist of teams who qualify in one of the designated Qualifying Tournaments held throughout the season in various locations across the nation (National Qualifiers).

We do not know the number of teams the HOA Region will be guaranteed to participate in the Club divisions. Re-allocated berths may be available after May 1 from other regions unused berths. For the Open divisions there can be at large berths. Contact the HOA office for entry information.

All teams entering the Junior National Volleyball Championships will be totally responsible for their own entry fees and expenses.

COMMITMENT & TRANSFER POLICIES

Players will accept an offer in the SPORTS ENGINE online registration system to play for a specific club. Once the player has accepted the offer & purchased a HOA/USAV membership, the club will be able to put the player on a team. Once the club puts the player on a team, HOA will assume that there is an agreement between the club and the player/parent. From that point on, for a junior player to move to a different club, a formal

transfer procedure will be required, including a release from the club the player is now registered with.

Make sure all your coaches are aware that recruitment of players during tournaments is prohibited. This includes handing out contact information or asking for contact information from players/parents.

Player Transfer: In some circumstances it may be in everybody's interest for a player to transfer from one club to another. To make a formal transfer, the following is required:

- A release from the club director of the club the player is leaving
- An acceptance from the club director of the club the player is moving to
- A note from the parents of the player, agreeing to the transfer
- A ten (\$10) dollar transfer fee

Once all notes and fees have been received by the HOA office, the transfer will be considered. All notes can be submitted by email to: info@hoavb.org.

Without a completed transfer, a player cannot be involved on any level with another club (compete nor practice) than they registered with.

RESTRICTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS REGARDING THE TRANSFER PROCESS

Once a female junior player has participated in a GJNC qualifying event (Regional or National), she may not be on the Official Roster of, or participate in, another GJNC qualifying or championship event with a different club. (Regional GJNC qualifying events are the Power League and Premier Region Championships)

No transfers will be permitted within four (4) weeks of the Premier Regional Championships. If a team has disbanded for the season, players from that team may be picked up for HOA Select competition or for out of region non-Jr. National Championship events. This will still require a formal transfer, including a release.

RECRUITMENT AND COMMITMENT POLICY

The purpose HOA's recruiting policy (the "Recruiting Policy") is to eliminate the negative consequences that occur when teams begin communicating with players about the upcoming season before the player's current season is complete. This type of conduct is unfair to all involved and impairs the performance of HOA teams and players at important late season tournaments. The Recruiting Policy will allow players to enjoy their current season in its entirety by restricting all recruiting communications until the end of the season.

1. **Responsible Parties.** This Recruiting Policy applies to all registered players, parents, coaches, and club administrators, or anyone acting on their behalf (each referred to as a "Responsible Party" or collectively as "Responsible Parties").

Responsible Parties are required to comply with the Recruiting Policy and educate those they encounter about the Recruiting Policy. For example, Club administrators are responsible for communicating the Recruiting Policy to coaches and teams that operated under the Club; Coaches are responsible for communicating the Recruiting Policy to all player and family members associated with a team. Players are responsible for communicating HOA's Recruiting Policy to family members and friends.

2. **Recruiting Activities.** A "Recruiting Activities" involves any form of direct or indirect communication with an HOA member regarding the current or future team/club membership of the Member or any other member that occurs during the Restricted Period (defined below), *including but not limited to*, direct or indirect communications with ANY current player regarding a guaranteed spot on a team for next year's season, or an indication to a player that they do NOT have a spot on a team for next year's season before Junior Nationals or before a team's club season is complete.
3. **Reporting Obligations.** Players with direct knowledge of perceived Recruiting Activities violations involving them must report the incident through the HOA online reporting system. Anonymous or third-party reports are also not allowed. Reports by phone or email will NOT be accepted.

Disregard or failure to report first-hand knowledge of potentially improper Recruiting Activities may subject the player to sanctions for the actions of others, including but not limited to, parents, relatives or other persons.

4. **Permitted Recruiting Period Starts July 9th.** Each player has a Permitted Recruiting Period for Recruiting Activities which begins on July 9th of each year and remains open until a player commits to play on a particular team for the upcoming season in accordance with Paragraph 7 below.

During the Permitted Recruiting Period, a Responsible Party may contact any player to discuss plans or options for the upcoming season.

The Only Exception to July 9th: If a team does not qualify to attend Nationals, then the team that the player is registered with for the season, or the team's club, may communicate with the player about the upcoming season AFTER the team completes its last tournament of the current season. The communications *may* include a verbal offer to play for a particular team for the next season, however no acceptances are allowed until July 15th in accordance with paragraph 7. Stated differently, the ONLY recruiting allowed prior to July 9th is recruiting that occurs within a club and AFTER the player's team completes its last tournament of the season. Any communication that would require a player to *change* their current club affiliation remains restricted until July 9th.

5. **New Players.** If a player is not registered to play with a club or team for the current season ("Non-HOA Player"), then anyone may talk to the Non-HOA Player about the upcoming season, however, any tryouts, offers and/or acceptances must be accordance with Paragraph 7.

If it is unclear whether a player is a member of a HOA club or team during the current season, then it is permissible for a Responsible Party to ask the player if they are a current member of a HOA club or team. If the player confirms that they are a member of a HOA club or team for the current season, then any further Recruiting Activities must cease until the Permitted Recruiting Period begins.

6. **Extra Volleyball Activities.** During the current season, Responsible Parties may communicate with players who belong to another club IF the *sole purpose* of the communication is to create a team (“Multi-Club Team”) to participate in a specific league or tournament (“Extra Volleyball Activities”) that will occur during the current season.

When a Multi-Club Team is created for Extra Volleyball Activities, all communications about the players’ current or future club/team membership unrelated to the Multi-Club Team remain subject to the restrictions against Recruiting Activities.

7. **Tryouts, Offers & Acceptance.**

Tryouts. Starting on July 9th, a club/team/coach (“Recruiting Entity”) can conduct tryouts for the next season. The tryouts can be open-tryouts, invite-only tryouts and/or private tryouts involving any players.

Offers. Starting at 12:01 AM on July 9th and continuing until a team roster is complete, a Recruiting Entity may communicate a written (or electronic) offer to any player for a place on a specific team’s roster.

Any offers conveyed between July 9th through July 15th must remain open for acceptance through 11:59 PM on July 15th.

HOA is not a party to the agreement between a player and a club. However, it is recommended that practice and tournament expectations as well as estimated costs be communicated with any offer so that the player can make a reasonably informed decision.

Acceptance of Offers. No offer or payments to the club can be accepted prior to 12:01 AM on July 15th. After this time, a player may accept an offer by communicating written (or electronic) acceptance to the Recruiting Entity that conveyed the offer.

8. **Deceptive and Dishonest Conduct.** The Recruiting Policy is intended to protect the interest of HOA players. Any activities that attempt to circumvent the intent of the Recruiting Policy will be subject to sanctions without warning. For example, special invitation Open Gyms are not allowed. Open gyms must be communicated via a website or social media at least 72 hours in advance.

If a Responsible Party engages in conduct that might be viewed by others as an attempt to circumvent the intent of the Recruiting Policy, then HOA will fully investigate the matter and impose sanctions on ALL Responsible Parties involved as appropriate.

If you are considering an activity that is not specifically authorized under the Recruiting Policy or might be viewed by others as an attempt to circumvent the intent of the Recruiting Policy, then it is highly recommended that you contact HOA for pre-approval of the activity to avoid unexpected consequences.

9. **Violations and Sanctions.** HOA's investigation into improper Recruiting Activities, and determination as to whether violations have occurred, will be at the sole discretion of HOA Staff and Board of Directors based on the specificity and severity of the facts reported.

If HOA determines that Recruiting Activities occurred outside a player's Permitted Recruiting Period, then HOA will impose sanctions against all Responsible Parties involved. Sanctions may include monetary fines, team/player tournament suspensions, or revocation of HOA membership. HOA reserves the right to impose sanctions against HOA members based on actions of non-members if appropriate under the circumstances.

HOA reserves the right to impose any sanction(s) it deems appropriate under the circumstances. The following are examples intended only to illustrate the significance that HOA places in the enforcement of this Recruiting Policy.

Player Violation

1st Violation

PLAYER IS PROHIBITED FROM PARTICIPATING IN ANY USAV OR HOA EVENTS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE CURRENT SEASON AND THROUGH JANUARY OF THE UPCOMING SEASON.

NOTE: If the violation does not come to light until after the regular club season and the player is enrolled in the NEW club when the violation due process is completed, then that player may NOT participate in any USAV/HOA practice or tournament through January of the following season.

2nd Violation

IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OF USAV/HOA MEMBERSHIP AND SUSPENDED USAV/HOA MEMBERSHIP FOR THE FOLLOWING SEASON.

Coach Violation

1st Violation

THAT COACH WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM ALL COMPETITIONS AND PRACTICES FOR 45 DAYS FROM THE TIME THE VIOLATION IS VALIDATED. THEY WILL BE PUT ON PROBATION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE CLUB SEASON (THIS COULD INCLUDE NOT PARTICIPATING IN JR NATIONALS IF THAT IS WITHIN THE 45 DAY WINDOW). IF THE VIOLATION DUE PROCESS IS COMPLETED AFTER THE CURRENT SEASON, THAT COACH WILL NOT BE

PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY PRACTICES OR TOURNAMENTS IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY OF THE FOLLOWING SEASON.

2nd Violation

IF ANY ADDITIONAL VIOLATIONS BY A COACH OR ANYONE LINKED TO THE COACH OCCURS REGARDING THESE RECRUITING RULES, THE COACH OR OTHER PERSON WILL NOT BE ALLOWED MEMBERSHIP IN USAV/HOA FOR THE ENTIRE FOLLOWING SEASON.

OFFICIATING

The Heart of America Region firmly believes that junior players should learn and experience what it takes to be a good official. The officiating is an integral part of the game. We believe that teaching junior players how to officiate the game will increase their understanding of the game and increase their respect for other officials.

Most clinics now have the option to test out of it. If you know the materials, the clinics will not take much time to complete. All players and coaches will be required to go through the quizzes and complete the modules for which they do not pass the quiz. For the 2021-22 season, all coaches and players will have online officiating clinics to complete.

RULE CHANGES

Starting in the 2021-22 season, the following rule changes are in affect. Teams will stay on the same side of the court for the entirety of the match. The side each team will be on is determined at the coin toss. The only time teams will switch sides is if the tournament director determines that there is a clear unfair advantage for one side over the other. If there is an unfair advantage teams will switch sides after the 1st set, and if a 3rd set is played teams will switch sides after a team reaches 8 points. It is up to the tournament director to decide if there is a need to switch sides for a specific court.

COACHES OFFICIATING RESPONSIBILITIES

In the age groups 10 thru 14, the Head or Assistant Coach will have to be the Up official for his/her team.

In the age groups 15 thru 18, the Head Coach or Assistant Coach will have to be the Up or Down Official (R1 or R2) for his/her team or the active scorer.

This applies to all matches in which a team is assigned officiating duties and no paid official is provided.

CLUB CLINICIAN

All clubs will have to have a person assigned as the Club Clinician. By default, this is the club

director. Clubs who want to delegate this task to another registered adult in the club, can do so. This person needs to take the online Club Clinician clinic which explains what follow up steps need to be taken to train coaches and players. Clubs have to submit rating forms to the HOA office and have at least a rated R1, R2 and 2 scorers on each roster.

HOA sends out officials to tournaments, to help with the training of the juniors (the WeR1 cadre). We expect clubs, teams and coaches to accept the directions from these officials. The ultimate goal is to increase the overall level of officiating in the region.

SAFESPORT

All adults involved with junior programming have to be SafeSport certified each year, including parent memberships.

PLAYERS TURNING 18 YEARS OF AGE

Players who turn 18 years of age during the season, will have to complete the SafeSport training to remain eligible to compete. Parents have to consent to a player taking the training before they turn 18 years of age. The consent request is included with the registration process if the player is not yet 18 years of age when registering for the season.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND TRAVEL POLICIES

All clubs are required to have a Social Media and a Travel Policy. Standard policies can be found on the HOA website on the Resources page. If you do not develop your own policy, the standard policy will become the default policy for your club. Make sure you are familiar with the content of these policies and share them with your coaches and parents.

RESOURCES

We post information that can be important to run your club and forms you may need on the HOA website. Make sure to check those out. Go under “General Info” to the “Resources” tab.

GOOD LUCK AND HAVE FUN!!!