



# Junior Girls Club Director Info Packet

2024-2025



**USA** Volleyball

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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

### REMINDER: TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION

When paying for tournaments run by HOA Staff in HOAonline, if you pay for the tournament by credit card in HOAonline, your team will automatically be accepted. This will either result in your team being in the tournament or on the waitlist. If you elect to pay by check, your registration will not be process until the end of the day that the check is received.

If you initially start on the waitlist, please note that there is a chance that divisions could expand. We will have a better idea of what divisions may expand after the initial wave of registrations passes (Usually about a week or two).

Tournament Registration Open Dates for In-Region Events:

**Premier Events:** Registration opens November 12, 2024 @ 11:00 am

**Select & Combined Events:** Registration opens November 12, 2024 @ 2:00 pm

**Power League Qualifier & Region Bid Event:** Registration opens November 14, 2024 @ 10:00 am

**2025 Kansas City MLK Tournament** – AES Registration opens September 5, 2024

**2025 Show Me National Qualifier** – AES Registration opens October 7, 2024 (Week 1) & October 16, 2024 (Week 2)

### REMINDER: TRYOUTS DATES

Sanctioned tryout dates for 2024/25:  
July 13, 2024 - February 2025

Sanctioned tryout dates for 2025/26:  
July 12, 2025 - February, 2026

## REMINDER: POWER LEAGUE

In the 14s, 15s, 16s, & 17s age divisions, there are two qualifying dates to be able to accommodate the number of teams that have been signing up in those age divisions. Teams who finished top 20 in the rankings in the previous season automatically advance to the 2<sup>nd</sup> power league qualifying date. Additional teams may also advance automatically if all top 20 teams don't sign up. The rest of the teams sign up will play in the 1<sup>st</sup> power league qualifying date. There will be 32 teams in total taken to the 2<sup>nd</sup> power league qualifying date. 20 Teams will advance to Power League (11 teams to PL1 & 9 teams to PL2).

In 12s, 13s, & 18s age divisions, there will only be one qualifying date. Teams with a top 15 ranking from the previous season will have a reserved spot in the Power League qualifier. 11 teams will advance into Power League in the 12s age division. 16 teams will advance into Power League in the 13s & 18s divisions.

For full Power League details, please visit the Power League page:  
<https://hoavb.org/juniors/power-league/>

Players can only be rostered/play on one team for the Power League Qualifiers. Players can only be rostered/play on one team in any of the Power Leagues. Power League rosters are limited to 15 players. The Power League Qualifier & the Power League are two separate events, so a new roster will be created for the Power League. No changes (adding or subtracting players) can be made to the Power League roster once it is signed prior to the first Power League play date. National and re-allocated USA and Liberty bids will be awarded through Power League.

## REMINDER & CHANGES: REGION BID EVENT

Reminder: American and Freedom bids will be awarded through Region Bid Tournaments. Teams will have to decide if they want to play in the American or the Freedom division. 11's, 12's, 13's and 18's will only be American division. Additional American bids will go to the American division, additional Freedom bids will stay with the Freedom division. In the American Divisions (13's-18's) we will play off till 8<sup>th</sup> place. In the Freedom divisions we will play off through 4<sup>th</sup> place. Those are the lowest places we will award bids to, if available. If we end up getting more bids than we have places played off, the bids will be awarded based on the rankings at the moment the bid becomes available. It is a theoretical possibility that it

would be awarded to a team that did not participate in a region bid event.

Change: Teams that qualify for Power League 1 or 2 cannot play in the Freedom division of the bid events (they have to play in American if they choose to play in a bid event).

## REMINDER: BACKGROUND SCREENS

All adult who works with junior players (Ex. Club Directors, Coaches, Officials, Parents helping at the scores table) are required to submit/pass an USAV background screen before their membership can become eligible. HOA membership can be denied based on the information from this background screening. The background screen will be submitted after a coach purchases their membership and will cost \$14 for a domestic background screen. A background screen typically takes 5-10 business days to come back. Coaches who lived internationally within one country for at least six consecutive months within the past 7 years will need to submit an international background screen. International background screens will take significantly longer to be processed and typically cost \$75-\$150, and in some cases more depending on the country. Background screens used for other organizations cannot be transferred over because not all background screens are equal. Organizations who contract with a background screen company determine the offenses which disqualify a person from participation. USA Volleyball will not accept a background screen that is completed outside of the organization. Such a policy better ensures that adult members working with minor age athletes have been thoroughly vetted at a consistent, high standard across all regions.

## CHANGE: VSTAR COMMITMENT SYSTEM

**Vstar Commitment System:** Clubs who choose to run Summer Tryouts (tryouts that occur between the tryout start date through August 31<sup>st</sup>) are required to use the Vstar Commitment system to send offers to players. Club who only host tryouts in the Fall (after September 1<sup>st</sup>), do not need to use Vstar, as a players can commit to the club through a club assignment request in SportsEngine.

## REMINDER: CLUB ASSIGNMENT REQUESTS

Club Assignment Request are to be sent out by a club admin through their SportsEngine Club HQ. Reminder, everyone besides the club director should wait to receive a club assignment request before trying to register for the season. The club assignment request will prompt the member to get registered and get linked to their club. Club Directors need to send themselves & accept a club assignment request after they register.

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 "members" 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 Direct Club Assignment helps prevent members from creating duplicate accounts. Duplicate accounts prolong the time/process for the member to show up to be rostered. The Public Club Assignment is a good way to send a club assignment to players & coaches who are not in your directory (new to your club). 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.

## ESTABLISHING A USAV JUNIOR TEAM

### HOW TO REGISTER A JUNIOR TEAM

- First year Club Directors (brand new club or new club director of an existing club) need to contact the HOA Office to set up a quick 30-minute meeting to go over the club setup process.** The meeting can be in-person or through zoom. New club directors will create a SportsEngine login and the HOA office will assist in helping create your club's HQ in SportsEngine. Returning Club Directors can proceed straight to next step.
- Starting September 3<sup>rd</sup>, the club director needs to purchase their HOA/USAV membership.** You will have the option to choose a Club Director (Who is also a coach) or a Club Director (Non-Coach). The membership price is the same for both. The only difference in the memberships is the Club Director who coaches requires IMPACT certification.
- The club director needs to complete your background screen, SafeSport clinic, & club director clinic.** All three of these can be completed in SportsEngine and need to be completed for your club to be approved. The SafeSport clinic & Background screen need to be completed to be able to send out club assignment request. We suggest that you submit your \$14 background screen right after you purchase your membership, because it takes on average 5-10 business days to come back. Club Directors who attended the Club Director zoom meeting in August will automatically get credit for completing the club director clinic.
- All club directors need to go to [www.hoavb.org](http://www.hoavb.org) and set up the club for the new season.** The HOA staff will approve a club, once the club is set up in HOAOnline, the club director's membership is eligible, and the club director online clinic is complete. A new club director of a returning club will need the previous club director to release the club to them by sending an email to the HOA Office ([info@hoavb.org](mailto:info@hoavb.org)).

- Starting September 16<sup>th</sup>, once the club director's membership is eligible, the club director will send club assignment requests to all other members within the club** (Ex. players, coaches, club admins, parent helpers). 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. Note, the club director will need to send/accept themselves a club assignment request as well.
  - *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, Safesport certified, & Impact certified 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.*
  - *Individuals under the age of 18 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 junior assistant needs to first register with a "junior player" membership and then the club needs to contact the HOA office to obtain special credentials. Please do not contact the office prior to the junior assistant getting registered. In most scenarios, junior assistants will not be listed on the online roster, so they should be written in on the roster at tournament check-in for in region events. Junior Assistants are recognized within the HOA Region and may not be allowed within other regions.*
  
- 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 Region Bid Event or Power League.

- 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. 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. 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.
  - *Please consider the "Borrowing Players" section of this packet when putting your rosters together. Keep in mind, a player who is rostered on a Premier team can fill in on a Select teams if they play two age levels up based off their age definition. Ex. A 15 year old player rostered on a 16 Premier team would be allowed to fill in on a 17s select roster. Minimum penalty will be forfeit of all matches for the team that borrowed the illegal player.*
  
- On November 12th, teams can begin entering tournaments in HOAonline.** If you cannot enter tournaments, check to ensure your team is approved. To be approved, a team must 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. National level events (National Qualifiers, "Show Me", KC MLK event, etc.) may open registration earlier.

## 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. Decide if filing as a nonprofit organization is right for you. 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 (Ex. 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.
  - o Please review the USAV uniform requirements before ordering.
  - o Contact the HOA office if you would like to get your jersey design approved before ordering.

## HOW TO BECOME A USAV COACH

- A. You must be a registered member of HOA/USAV. To begin the registration process, the club director should send coaches a club assignment request. When the coach accepts the club assignment request, it will prompt them to purchase their membership (Adult Coach of Juniors). As with all adults, the coach **must** understand the HOA rules and regulations published on the HOA website ([www.hoavb.org](http://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. A background screen typically takes 5-10 business days to come back. International background screens will take longer to be completed depending on the country of origin.

- C. All coaches must be IMPACT 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 in future years.
- D. All coaches will have to complete online officiating clinics every year.
- 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 coach's 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 individuals 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

Once all eligibility requirements (membership, backgrounds screen, Impact, Safesport, & Officiating Clinics) are complete, a coaching credential will be printed and mail directly to the coach. The credential will be mailed to the address in their SportsEngine profile. These credentials must be worn at all HOA sanctioned tournaments. HOA will start producing and mailing the credentials in November.

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 (not SportsEngine). 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.

## BORROWING PLAYERS

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 age eligible players from other teams within the same club as long as it is: (a) Premier to Premier, (b) Select to Select, (c) Select to Premier, (d) Premier to Select-only if the player plays two age levels up from the current age definition year (not the age level they are rostered on).
2. No player can play in 2 different age divisions in any of the Power League Qualifiers.
3. No player can play in 2 different age divisions in any of the Power Leagues.

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. Club/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 2024-2025

### USA VOLLEYBALL JUNIOR PLAYER AGE DEFINITION

#### USA VOLLEYBALL JUNIOR PLAYER AGE DEFINITION & CHART:

<https://usavolleyball.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024-25-Age-Definition061124.pdf>

#### HEART OF AMERICA JUNIOR AGE CALCULATOR:

[https://hoaonline.org/UTL/UT3\\_JrAgeCalc2.C.php](https://hoaonline.org/UTL/UT3_JrAgeCalc2.C.php)

**Note:** To check what age team a player is eligible to play on, use the junior age calculator. 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. 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.

### BOYS PARTICIPATING IN GIRLS TOURNAMENTS

#### Boys Players on Girls Teams

Male players up to 14 and under can play on female teams in regional competition only under the following conditions:

**Boys 12 and under** can only be rostered on Select Level girl's teams, and can only play on girl's teams in Select and Combined tournaments in their own or older age divisions. Ex. A 12 and under boy can play on a 12 and under girls Select level team.

**Boys 13 and 14** can only be rostered on Select Level girls' team, but must play up at least one age division. Boys 13 & 14 can only play on girl's teams competing in Select and Combined Tournaments. Ex. A 14 and under age boy, can play on a 15 Select girls' team.

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

#### Boys Teams in Girls Tournaments

Boys' teams up to 12 and under can compete in girls' tournaments in Combined and Select

level events in their registered age division or older age divisions, since there are not enough boy's teams in the HOA region to provide a separated competition. Boys teams 13 & older cannot participate in girls tournaments.

## 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.

To request a certificate of insurance and for more information on the insurance program, check the HOA website.

## INDOOR SEASON

### **The indoor season runs from September 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 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 13 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. A practice where 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 showing 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 Gyms 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 2024/25:  
July 13, 2024 - February 2025  
  
Sanctioned tryout dates for 2025/26:  
July 12, 2025 - February, 2026
7. **Vstar Commitment System:** Clubs who choose to run Summer Tryouts (tryouts that occur between the tryout start date through August 31<sup>st</sup>) are required to use the Vstar Commitment system to send offers to players. Club who only host tryouts in the Fall

(after September 1<sup>st</sup>), do not need to use Vstar, as a players can commit to the club through a club assignment request in SportsEngine.

*Note: Make sure you educate yourself with your local interscholastic (KSHSAA/MSHSAA) rules so that you are not in violation with their rules.*

## 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

Teams will enter tournaments through [hoaonline.org](http://hoaonline.org). 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. If you pay for a HOA staffed event online by credit card, you will automatically be accepted (placed in the tournament or on the waitlist). If you pay by check, you will not be accepted until the end of the day that the check is received. 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: Premier level tournaments will need to have at least 2 out of 3 teams being Premier level teams for the appropriate age division. Once 2 Premier Level teams in the appropriate age division have registered for the tournament, one Select level team or a younger age division Premier level team can be accepted into the tournament.

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 18-20, 2025 at the Kansas City Convention Center. 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 8 & 9, 2025, 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 1 & 2, 2025. 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 22 & 23, 2025. 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 25 & 26, 2025. Teams are guaranteed pool play on Saturday and at least 2 matches on Sunday.

### **The Border Series**

This is a series of 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 Manhattan, Salina, Concordia, Hays and Chillicothe.

### **HOA Region Bid Event (Formerly Premier Regional Championships):**

The HOA region bids for the Junior National Championships will be awarded through the Power leagues and the HOA Region Bid Event. Only Premier level teams can participate in the Region Bid Event. All teams will have to play in their own age division. There will be 2 divisions for 14s-17s: “American” and “Freedom”. 11s, 12s, 13s, & 18s will only have an American division. Premier level teams can choose to participate in either division of the event, except for teams who qualify for Power League. These team will have to play in the American Division. Bids for the Girls Junior National Championships will be distributed through these respective divisions (American division bids will be distributed through the American Region bid division, Freedom divisions bids will be distributed through the Freedom Region bid division). HOA will keep the right to move teams between the divisions based on rankings (high ranked teams to American division and low ranked teams to Freedom division), to make the numbers in each division manageable. No teams that have qualified for the USAV Junior National Championships, before the Region Bid Event, can compete in this event.

### **Select Junior Regional Championships:**

Select Regionals is a 2-day event designed for Select Level teams. This tournament is similar to the Region Bid Event, but there are no bids to Nationals awarded. Players can participate in multiple divisions of the Select Regionals Championships as long as they are not the same weekend.

### **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 12-14: 15 Open, 15 USA, all 16s & 17s divisions. The second weekend will be April 18-20: all 11-14 divisions, 15 American, 15 Liberty, & 18s (non-bid division). More information can be found on the qualifier website: [www.showmenq.org](http://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](mailto:info@hoavb.org) if you have any questions.

## ENTRY INTO USAV GIRLS JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The GJNC for girls is divided into the following divisions: Open, National, USA, Liberty, American, Freedom, & Patriot

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 GJNC will be totally responsible for their own entry fees and expenses.

For more information, visit USA Volleyball's Website: <https://usavolleyball.org/compete/girls-indoor/>

## 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 currently registered with. Players that have committed to a club in the VSTAR system over the summer cannot change clubs without a written release from that club. If a player accepts an invite from a different club in SportsEngine, HOA will need to be notified as we are not aware of that. The commitment in the VSTAR system supersedes the SportsEngine commitment.

**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](mailto: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 of 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. Please refer to HOA Rules & Regulations for the full Recruiting Policy:

<https://hoavb.org/home/conduct/rules-regulations/>

## 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 2024-25 season, all coaches and players will have online officiating clinics to complete.

## COACHES OFFICIATING RESPONSIBILITIES

In the age groups 10 thru 14, the Head or Assistant Coach will have to be the Up official (R1) 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 have an active role at the scores table (scorer, libero tracker, or scoreboard operator).

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

## 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.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### GLEN G. DAVIES VOLLEYBALL FOUNDATION

The Davies Volleyball Foundation provides financial support for Heart of America junior Volleyball players who are disadvantaged or experiencing financial hardship by awarding scholarships to help pay for club volleyball.

Davies, perhaps the most highly touted referee in USA Volleyball history, officiated in the first four Olympics that included volleyball. He is the only person who has ever served as the first referee for both the men's and women's Olympic gold medal matches and refereed in more than 21 countries. Glen traveled the world for the sport he loved and was a terrific ambassador for volleyball, our country and for USAV. Much of USAVB's stature and credibility internationally is in no small part due to his actions, quality, fabulous personality and warmth. Davies was inducted into the Volleyball Hall of Fame in 1989.

Glen Davies was one of many key contributors to the creation and success of the Heart of America Volleyball Association (HOA). Our ability to hold multi court tournaments is the result of Glen forming an idea where he introduced the use of sport court to the game, found new venues outside of the traditional high school gym and went out into the community with gusto to recruit people to form teams and share his passion for playing the game.

The Glen Davies foundation has awarded 283 scholarships totaling \$196,000 since 2013. In 2024 we awarded 28 scholarships totaling \$22,000.

**Eligibility:**

- Select and be accepted by a HOA registered club
- Must be enrolled and be attending K-12 school (public, private or homeschool are acceptable)

**Deadline:** There will be two rounds of applications for the scholarship. If you apply for the first round, you will not be eligible to apply a second time.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Deadline: September 1, 2024 for the 2024/25 season
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Deadline: October 31, 2024 for the 2024/25 season

**Criteria:** Recipients shall be selected by an independent panel by September 30.

Consideration will be given to applicants using a standard selection protocol that evaluates:

- Financial need
- Leadership and/or participation in school and community activities
- Aspirations and goals
- Academic performance (minimum grade point average of 2.5 & acceptable attendance)
- Unusual personal or family circumstances

**Application:** The application process will remain confidential and your identity will only be available to staff involved in the process of determining eligibility. It is very important that the application is completely filled out and all supporting documentation be provided. Incomplete applications can adversely impact a student/ athlete's selection

- Completed Application
- 2023 Federal Income Tax Return of your parent(s)/guardian (Form 1040)
- One page Essay
- Most recent school report card or transcript

**Essay:** Applicant must write a one page essay on a separate piece of paper on the following: "Describe what this scholarship will do for you and how you think that it can help you contribute to a positive environment in volleyball."

**Guidelines:** Scholarships will be awarded for the 2024-25 season and disbursed in December of 2024 on your behalf, directly to the club you have joined. You will have to become a member of the Heart of America region of USA Volleyball before funds will be disbursed.

**Amount:** The scholarship amount will be between \$500 and \$1,000. For the 2023-2024 playing season, the Foundation awarded more than 28 scholarships. First round applicants will be notified either way the first week of October.

Click Here to Apply: <https://hoavb.org/davies-volleyball-foundation/>

## 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!!!**