



Junior Girls Club Director Info Packet

2026-2027



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

REMINDER: TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION

If you pay for a tournament that is run by the HOA Office, by credit card in HOAonline, your team will automatically be accepted. This will either result in your team being accepted into the tournament or placed on the waitlist. If you elect to pay by check, your registration will not be processed until the end of the day that the check is received.

If you are initially placed on a 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 registration passes (usually about a week or two).

If you are on the waitlist for a tournament and decide that you do not want to wait for a spot to open up for your team, **you need to inform the tournament director in writing (email) that you want to withdraw.** If not, the tournament director will expect that you still want to participate when a spot opens up and you may lose your entry fee.

Tournament Registration Open Dates for In-Region Events:

Premier Events: Registration opens November 10th, 2026 @ 9:00 am

Select Events for ages 10-14: Registration opens November 10th, 2026 @ 11:00 am

Select Events for ages 15-18: Registration opens November 10th, 2026 @ 12:00 pm

Combined Events: Registration opens November 10th, 2026 @ 2:00 pm

Select Regional Championships: Registration opens November 10th, 2026 @ 4:00pm

Region Bid Event: Registration open November 11th, 2026 @ 10:00 am

Power League Qualifier: Registration opens November 11th, 2026 @ 12:00 pm

Kansas City MLK Tournament – AES Registration opens September 3rd, 2026 @ 9:00 am

Show Me National Qualifier – AES Registration opens October 14th, 2026 (Week 1) & October 21st, 2026 (Week 2). Both dates open at 10:00 am

REMINDER: TRYOUTS DATES

Sanctioned tryout dates for 2026/27:
July 11th, 2026 – February 28th, 2027

Sanctioned tryout dates for 2027/28:
July 10th, 2027 – February 28th, 2028

REMINDER: TEAM VOLUNTEER MEMBERSHIP

The Parent Membership is now called the Team Volunteer Membership. This membership will allow members to help a team in a non-coaching role (i.e. scoring, ball shagging, line judging, etc.). This membership does not allow the individual to coach in any capacity at practice or tournament. Total price for the Team Volunteer Membership is \$45.

REMINDER: GENDER POLICY

USA Volleyball has changed the national Gender Competition Policy:
“In accordance with a federal executive order and requirements from the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee, USA Volleyball is implementing an updated Gender Competition Policy, effective immediately. This policy requires athletes to compete in the gender that matches the sex assigned at birth, as listed on their birth certificate.”

To make it possible to have the younger boys participate, the 12 and younger Select and Combined level tournaments will be designated as Co-ed events. Boys cannot participate in 13 and older age girl's competition. Boys also cannot participate in girl's national events or in girl's Premier level regional events. Girls cannot participate in 13 and older age boy's events.

REMINDER: USAV RULE CHANGES

Below are highlights of the significant rule changes from the 2025-26 season:

- Double contact on the second ball is now allowed if the ball does not cross the net.
- Teams are now allowed 15 substitutions per set.
- Screening: serving team players cannot raise their hands above their heads during serve.
- Libero Designation: Teams are now allowed to designate zero, one, or two liberos for each set.

REMINDER: VSTAR COMMITMENT SYSTEM

Clubs who choose to run Summer Tryouts (tryouts that occur between the tryout start date through August 31st) are required to use the VSTAR commitment system to send offers to players. Club who only host tryouts in the Fall (after September 1st), do not need to use VSTAR as a player can commit to the club through a club assignment request from SportsEngine.

REMINDER: BACKGROUND SCREENS

All adult who works with junior players (ex: club directors, coaches, officials, team volunteers) are required to submit & pass a USAV background screen before their membership can become eligible. A HOA/USAV membership can be denied based on the information from this background screen. 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. 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. This policy better ensures that adult members working with minor age athletes have been thoroughly vetted at a consistent, high standard across all regions.

REMINDER: GIRL'S NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

18s: May 7th-9th. Minneapolis, MN

14s-17s: June 27th-July 5th. Las Vegas, NV

11s-13s: June 18th-21st, 2027. Chicago, IL

Club Championships: June 5th-7th, 2027. Anaheim, CA

REMINDER: CLUB ASSIGNMENT REQUESTS

Club assignment requests 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. Failure to wait for a club assignment request does prolong the member from being able to be placed on a roster.** The club assignment request will prompt the member to get registered and get linked to their club.

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 requests, either through a Direct Club Assignment or a Public Club Assignment.

The Direct Club Assignment is a great way to send a club assignment directly to 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 HOA JUNIOR CLUB

HOW TO REGISTER A JUNIOR CLUB

- ☐ **First year club directors (either a brand-new club or new club director of an existing club) need to contact the HOA Office to set up a quick 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 the next step.
- ☐ **Starting September 1st, the club director needs to purchase their HOA/USAV membership.** You will have the option to choose a Club Director (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 a background screen, SafeSport clinic, IMPACT training (if necessary) & the club director clinic.** All 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. The club director clinic can be found in the USA Volleyball Academy which is linked on the homepage of an individual's SportsEngine account.

- ☐ **All club directors will then need to go to [HOAonline](https://hoavb.org) and set up the club for the new season.** HOA staff will approve a club once the club is set up in HOAonline, the club director's membership is eligible, and the online club director 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).

- ☐ **Once the club director's membership is eligible, the club director can send club assignment requests to all other members within the club** (ex: players, coaches, club admins, team volunteers). The club assignment requests are sent through the club'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, SafeSport trained, & 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 with a youth team as a **Junior Assistant** but cannot be in a position of authority and must always be supervised by an eligible adult 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/eligible. 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](https://hoavb.org), the club director can begin setting up teams:**
Club Directors will need to choose the following:
 - **Team Gender:** Boys, Girls, or Co-ed (only available in the 10s-12s age divisions)
 - **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 1st, teams can put in a request to the HOA office 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 if they meet the age and gender qualification. Select level teams will not be allowed to play in the HOA Region Bid Event or Power League events.

☐ **Once teams are setup in HOAonline, the club director can start rostering.** 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 the above 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.

☐ **Starting November 10th, 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, ASICS Show Me National Qualifier, ASICS Kansas City MLK tournament, 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 schools, social media notices, etc. There is also the **Clubs Looking for Players** pages on the [HOA](#) 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.)
- Introduce your coaching staff and their qualifications
 - Explain how the program will operate
 - Discuss the methods of financing the program
 - Decide on how the team will get equipment and uniforms
 - Purchased by the club and rented to the players
 - Purchased by the club and owned by the players
 - Each player to purchase their own
 - 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**).
 - 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 [Team Volunteer membership](#))
- F. Order uniforms
- Please review the [USAV uniform requirements](#) before ordering.
 - Contact info@hoavb.org if you would like to get your jersey design approved before ordering.

COACHES CREDENTIALS

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

At all sanctioned HOA events, every coach needs to check in. A picture can be printed on the coach's credential by uploading it into the HOAonline system (**not SportsEngine**). If there is no picture on a credential, a photo ID must be shown.

At HOA Office ran event, the site staff will check the coach's credentials against their picture ID's. If approved, the coach will receive a wristband that must be worn on the wrist through the event. At the start of 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 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 forfeited, 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 forfeited. 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.

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. Clubs/teams should make themselves aware of any USA Volleyball rules in regard to frozen players.

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 and/or participating in USAV competition. HOA does not take any responsibility for participants violating rules of high school or intercollegiate athletic associations.

AGE DEFINITIONS

USA VOLLEYBALL JUNIOR PLAYER AGE DEFINITION

USA VOLLEYBALL JUNIOR PLAYER AGE DEFINITION CHART:

<https://usavolleyball.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/USAV-2026-2027-Age-Definition-Chart.pdf>

HEART OF AMERICA JUNIOR AGE CALCULATOR:

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 a 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.

COED COMPETITION FOR AGES 12 AND YOUNGER

BOYS 12 & UNDER

For the age groups 10, 11 and 12, Select and Combined level tournaments will be designated as Co-ed Competition. Boys who are 12 and under may be rostered on either a boys' or co-ed team. Boys, girls, and co-ed teams are eligible to compete in these Co-ed tournaments. However, individual boys, boys' teams, or co-ed teams will not be allowed to participate in any girls' Premier level events or any girls' tournaments for age groups 13 and above.

BOYS/GIRLS 13 & OVER

Boys and girls aged 13 and over are no longer eligible for co-ed competition. Boys may only be rostered on a boys' team and can only compete in boys' tournaments. Girls may only be rostered on a girls' team and can only compete 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 trained, 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 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.

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 1st – August 31st

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 trained, and background screened adult coach present. All participating adults must be registered and eligible. 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 and eligible adult coach must 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 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 during the permitted [tryout dates](#)
- 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.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL SEASON

More and more players play beach volleyball year-round. Events can be sanctioned by HOA at all times of the year. The membership season runs from September 1st – August 31st for the full season membership. A limited Summer Membership is available from May 1st – August 31st.

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 and eligible adult coach present. All participating adults have to be HOA registered and eligible.
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 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 eligible.

Open Gym Policies:

1. Notification to HOA by completing the [Open Gym form](#) on the HOA website.
2. Only registered HOA members are allowed to participate in sanctioned Open Gyms. Clubs will need to check all participants have proof of their membership at the open gym.
3. Coaches shall be facilitators only. There shall be no individual or group instruction. Coaches may set up drills or controlled scrimmage situations.
4. Players attending sanctioned Open Gyms shall be afforded similar playing time.
5. Players are not to be divided into skill levels, only into general age groups.
6. Parents should be allowed to watch, unless space prevents.

7. The maximum fee charged to players is \$10.00.
8. The maximum length of a sanctioned Open Gym is 2 hours.

SANCTIONED TRYOUTS

1. **Notification to HOA:** Clubs need to notify HOA by completing the [Tryout Form](#) on the HOA website to host sanctioned tryouts. No tryouts will be sanctioned and posted unless the club director is a registered HOA member.
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 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, 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 2026/27:
July 11th, 2026 – February 28th, 2027

Sanctioned tryout dates for 2027/28:
July 10th, 2027 – February 28th, 2028
7. **VSTAR Commitment System:** Clubs who choose to run Summer Tryouts (tryouts that occur between the tryout start date through August 31st) are required to use the VSTAR Commitment system to send offers to players. Club who only host tryouts in the Fall (after September 1st), do not need to use VSTAR as a player 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 a violation of their rules does not occur.

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](#). For HOA office run events you will be able to pay online in which case you do not need to mail in a form or payment. To pay online, enter your team in the event in HOAonline. Then make the online payment. If you pay for a HOA office ran 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 HOAonline 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 (3) 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 (3) weeks prior to the tournament. For two-day tournaments, the tournament director needs to be notified no later than noon on the Friday four (4) 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 will need to have at least 2 out of 3 teams being Premier level 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 level tournaments are not allowed in the following counties (except for 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.

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

- For a single day in-region tournament, no tie-breaking sets will be played unless all tiebreakers are exhausted and no conclusion has been reached. Teams **will be** eliminated on points from continuing to playoffs if needed.
- In Select, Combined, and Co-ed level tournaments, teams can play with 5 players.
- In Co-ed 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 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. Noteworthy to those aspiring to compete in USAV GJNC's, the HOA Power League is the first event of the year that is used to determine who receives available region bids. For more details on Power League, go to the [events page](#) on the HOA website.

ASICS Kansas City MLK Tournament will take place at the Kansas City Convention Center over MLK weekend. 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 is for teams that are registered Select. This tournament is run with the same format as the Heart Challenge, which is reserved for Premier teams. Both are two-day tournaments held in the Kansas City area and offers teams a guaranteed 9 or 10 matches of play with paid certified officials.

Keeper of the Plains Classic

The Keeper of the Plains Classic tournament is a 2-day event held in the Wichita area with paid certified officials. Teams are guaranteed pool play on Saturday and at least 2 matches on Sunday.

Route 66 Tournament

The Route 66 tournament is a 2-day event held in Springfield area with paid certified officials. Teams are guaranteed pool play on Saturday and at least 2 matches on Sunday.

HOA Region Bid Event:

The HOA region bids will be awarded through Power League and the HOA Region Bid Event. **Only Premier level teams can participate in a 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. Teams can choose to participate in either division of the event, except for teams who qualify for Power League 1 or 2. These teams will have to play in the American Division. Request to change divisions have to be submitted at least 1 month before the bid event.

Bids for USAV GJNCs 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. In the 18s, a Freedom bid will be given out in the American 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 GJNCs, before the Region Bid Event, can compete in this event.

Select 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 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. More information can be found on the qualifier website: www.showmenq.org.

All teams, regardless if they are Premier or Select level, are allowed to compete in the ASICS Show Me National Qualifier.

HOSTING A TOURNAMENT

If your club wants to host a Junior Tournament, review the Tournament Director tab on the [HOA website](#). This will provide information and forms you need to conduct a HOA sanctioned tournament.

ENTRY INTO USAV GIRLS JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The GJNC for girls is divided into the following bid divisions: Open, National, USA, Liberty, American & Freedom. Teams who do not earn a bid can sign up for Girls Junior Club Championships (GJCC) in age divisions 10-17s.

Re-allocated bids may be available from other USAV regions. HOA is awarded these bids through a process set forth by USAV. For the Open, USA & Liberty divisions, there can be at-large bids awarded for teams who meet the qualifications. For more information, visit USA Volleyball's Website: <https://usavolleyball.org/compete/girls-indoor/>

COMMITMENT & TRANSFER POLICIES

Players will accept a club assignment request from the SportsEngine 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 roster the player on a team. Once the membership is purchased, 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. 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 a club assignment from a different club in SportsEngine, HOA will need to be notified immediately. The commitment in VSTAR supersedes the SportsEngine commitment.

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 note of release from the club director of the club the player is leaving
- A note of acceptance from the club director of the club the player is moving to
- A note of transfer 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: megan@hoavb.org

Without a completed transfer, a player cannot be involved on any level with another club than

they are 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.

RESTRICTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS REGARDING THE TRANSFER PROCESS

Once a female junior player has participated in a USAV 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 Power League and Region Bid Event)

If a team has disbanded for the season, players from that team may be picked up for HOA non-bid competition or for out of region non-bid events. This will still require a formal transfer.

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 player's season. Please refer to [HOA Rules & Regulations](#) for the full Recruiting Policy.

OFFICIATING

The HOA Region firmly believes that junior players should learn and experience what it takes to be a good volleyball official. 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.

USA Volleyball clinics can be found in the USA Volleyball Academy which is linked through a SportsEngine profile. All coaches and players are required to take these clinics. Majority of them can be tested out of.

COACHES OFFICIATING RESPONSIBILITIES

In the age groups 10 - 14, a credentialed coach must be the First Referee (R1) on the stand for his/her team.

In the age groups 15 - 18, a credentialed coach must be the First Referee (R1) on the stand, Second Referee (R2) on the floor, **or** the Scorer of Record (Scorer) keeping the score using the official USAV scoresheet.

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

If only a certified R1 is provided, the coach must be the R2 **or** the Scorer.

If both a certified R1 & R2 are provided, then a credentialed coach must be an active member of the scoring team (scorer, assistant scorer/libero tracker, or scoreboard operator).

SAFESPORT

All adults involved with junior programming must be SafeSport trained each year, including team volunteer memberships.

PLAYERS TURNING 18 YEARS OF AGE

Players who turn 18 years of age during the season (9/1-8/31) 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 [Club Documents & Forms](#) page. If you do not develop your own policy, the standard policies will become the default 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 Glen G. 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.

Glen 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 R1 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 USAV's stature and credibility internationally is in no small part due to his actions, quality, fabulous personality and warmth. Glen 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 G. Davies Volleyball Foundation has awarded 329 scholarships totaling \$224,600 since 2013. For more information, and to find the application, visit the [HOA website](#).

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.

- 1st Deadline: August 31st
- 2nd Deadline: October 31st

Criteria: 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
- 2025 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 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."

Funds: Scholarships will be awarded for the season and disbursed in December directly to the club.

Amount: The scholarship amount will be between \$500 and \$1,000.

RESOURCES

We post important information on the HOA website that is beneficial to running a club. Make sure to periodically check those out under Recent News on the home page or under the Club Directors & Coaches Tab.

GOOD LUCK AND HAVE FUN!!!