

**Operating Code
of
USA Volleyball**

Adopted: May 23, 2008

Last Amended: May 16, 2018



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Article I. PREAMBLE

This Operating Code is a supplement to the Bylaws of USA Volleyball (Corporation or USAV). If there is an actual or apparent discrepancy between this Operating Code and the Bylaws, the Bylaws shall prevail. The Board of Directors has authorized Administrative Manuals to delineate the specific policies, procedures and functions of each substructure. Administrative Manuals shall be consistent with the governing documents of the Corporation. Each substructure shall ensure that its Administrative Manual is updated annually and shall submit changes to the staff for review of language and format. The Administrative Manuals shall be subject to review and approval by the Board of Directors. In addition, the Board of Directors has authorized a Board Reference Manual that includes specific policies and procedures approved by the Board of Directors for lay volunteers.

Article II. GOVERNANCE

2.01 Board of Directors, Refer to Bylaws Article VI.

A. Policies.

1. All members of the Board of Directors shall register annually with the Corporation or a Regional Volleyball Association of USA Volleyball in whose geographical area they reside.
2. Service as a director shall be considered the highest priority within Corporation responsibilities, and shall pre-empt participation in all other Corporation activities and events. Meetings of the Board shall take priority over all other Corporation responsibilities. Only those directors with volleyball responsibilities which are vocational in nature shall be deemed as having a legitimate conflict.

2.02 Officers.

A. Chair. Refer to Bylaws 7.02.

1. Shall supervise the CEO and such committees as authorized by the Board of Directors.

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2. Shall approve the appointment of the Secretary as recommended by the CEO.
3. Shall be responsible for ensuring the CEO or designee maintains the Policies and Procedures Manual.

2.03 Secretary. Refer to Bylaws 7.04.

Shall be the staff liaison to the National Structure and Function Commission and shall verify the presence of a quorum at meetings of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall also perform such other assignments as authorized by the Board of Directors and / or the CEO.

2.04 International Athlete Representatives to the USOC Athletes' Advisory Council (AAC).

- A. Election. An international athlete representative and alternate of the opposite sex shall be elected to the Athletes' Advisory Council of the USOC no later than November 15 of the last year of the Quadrennium as follows:
 1. All athletes meeting the eligibility requirements shall be notified of the vacancy. Each shall be asked to indicate an interest in serving.
 2. The names of all interested international athletes shall be placed on a ballot and distributed to all international athletes identified in (a) above. The individual receiving the highest vote count shall be elected. The individual of the opposite sex receiving the highest vote count shall be the alternate.
 3. If otherwise eligible, the representative may be re-elected.
 4. If an otherwise eligible athlete is a paid employee of the Corporation or the USOC, such athlete is not eligible for election.

Article III. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

3.01 Authority: Refer to Bylaws, Article XIII.

3.02 Accountability: The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Corporation shall be accountable to the Board of Directors. Other employees of the Corporation shall be accountable to the CEO.

3.03 Mission/Responsibilities:

A. Primary. Refer to Bylaws, Article XIII.

B. Others.

1. The CEO shall be responsible for the appropriate staffing necessary for the Corporation to achieve its objectives.
2. The CEO, or designee, shall serve as a liaison to each substructure of the Corporation.

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3. The CEO, or designee, shall make relevant recommendations to the Board of Directors, officers or committee chairs after reviewing appropriate legal documents, policies and long-range plans of the Corporation.
4. The CEO, or designee, shall develop and maintain an appropriate Employee Handbook and the USA Volleyball Financial Internal Controls Manual.
5. The CEO, or designee, shall attend all meetings of the Board of Directors in an ex-officio, non-voting capacity. The CEO may request the attendance of additional employees in ex-officio, non-voting capacities at all meetings of the Board of Directors or other specified meetings of the Corporation.

3.04 Commissions Reporting to the CEO.

- A. Rules of the Game Commission (RC): The FIVB Rules of Play shall be the official rules of play in the United States.
 1. Authority: The Board of Directors may establish a Rules Commission.
 2. Accountability: The CEO shall appoint a Chair for the RC and recommendations of the Commission shall be directed to the CEO for review and action, if any.
 3. Mission/Responsibilities:
 - a. Review FIVB Rules of Play and recommend a publication format for the United States that includes brief notations when dictated by United States insurance regulations or safety issues. Only in those cases where the FIVB rules are vague or confusing due to language translations may the Commission add visibly differentiated commentary to clarify the intent of the rule. A United States representative to a FIVB Rules-related Commission shall review and approve the commentaries prior to final approval by the Board.
 - b. Identify and implement the testing of changes to the rules where the Commission may see a compelling need for change at the international level. Any testing done shall be followed by a written analysis. Should the test results support a need for change, recommendations approved by the Board shall be forwarded to the FIVB Rules Commission for consideration.
 - c. Recommend a publication format for Domestic Competition Regulations that includes:
 - i) FIVB and World ParaVolley (WPV) rules with safety notations and translation commentaries;
 - ii) Modifications for outdoor, developmental recreational and other play;
 - iii) Modifications for special categories of play to include Co-Ed, Reverse Co-Ed and other rules as requested by Member Organizations; and
 - iv) Modifications for USA Volleyball nationally-sanctioned championship events.

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- d. Send a Commission member to represent the RC at the meeting of the rules committees of the NCAA, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and of any other organization deemed appropriate by the Commission. All appointments shall be made by the Chair and approved by the CEO.
 4. Composition: qualified individuals appointed by the Commission Chair in consultation with the staff liaison.
- B. Indoor Championship Events Commission (CEC)
1. Authority: The Board of Directors may establish a Championship Events Commission to assist the Events Department of the Corporation by addressing issues and making recommendations regarding various areas related to USA Volleyball Championship Events and the qualification therefor.
 2. Accountability: The CEO shall appoint a Chair for the CEC and recommendations of the Commission shall be directed to the CEO for review and action, if any.
 3. Mission/Responsibilities:
 - a. Serve as the primary lay substructure to assist and advise the Events Department of the Corporation with regard to all USA Volleyball National Championships and USA Volleyball National Qualifier Events.
 - b. Evaluate programs of USA Volleyball Championships and USA Volleyball National Qualifier Events to ensure the quality of the events and the quality of event management.
 - c. Ensure that the events meet the needs of all participants.
 - d. Forward the concerns of the USAV constituencies that are involved in championship events for discussion and recommendation to the Events Department of the Corporation.
 - e. Continually evaluate the selection process and the assignment of teams to appropriate tournaments and levels of play.
 - f. Assist Member Organizations, through a defined process, on how they may access USA Volleyball Championship Events.
 - g. Identify needs and propose appropriate budget adjustments for recommendation to the Events Department of the Corporation.
 - h. Ensure established policy related to the conduct of all USA Volleyball Championship Events is followed.

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- i. Assist with the training and mentoring of a cadre of arbitrators and event specialists.
 - j. Ensure USA Volleyball Championship Events adhere to the established policies, rules and regulations of all entities which may have regulatory authority over USAV events.
 - k. Forward recommendations from individual events regarding site selection, championship staff additions or changes, arbitrator issues, procedures of ethics and eligibility panels, computer needs, equipment/supplies upgrades and awards/recognitions to the Board of Directors and/or the Events Department of the Corporation.
4. Composition: qualified individuals appointed by the Commission Chair in consultation with the staff liaison.
- C. Recognitions and Awards Commission (RAC)
1. Authority: The Board of Directors may establish a Recognitions and Awards Commission.
 2. Accountability: The CEO shall appoint a Chair for the RAC and recommendations of the Commission shall be directed to the CEO for review and action, if any.
 3. Mission/Responsibilities: Subcommittees may be established to recommend to the Board recognition of leaders, administrators, officials and athletes. In addition, this committee shall be responsible for conducting the "Dorothy C. Boyce Annual Awards Banquet."
 4. Composition: One representative for each recognition category (i.e. Leadership, Athletes and Coaches, Officials and Juniors) appointed by the Commission Chair with the appointments preferably from among incumbent award committee chairs in consultation with the staff liaison.
- D. Sitting / Disabled Sports Commission (DSC)
1. Authority: The Board of Directors may establish a Sitting / Disabled Sports Commission.
 2. Accountability: The CEO shall appoint a Chair for the DSC and recommendations of the Commission shall be directed to the CEO for review and action, if any.
 3. Mission/Responsibilities:
 - a. Serve as the primary lay substructure to assist and advise the USAV staff with respect to all areas relating to volleyball athletes with physical and mental disabilities.

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- b. Monitor and evaluate the activities conducted to identify and train international caliber disabled athletes within USAV.
 - c. Monitor and evaluate the activities conducted to provide opportunities for all levels of disabled athletes within USAV.
 - d. Assist Member Organizations as requested to evaluate activities for athletes with physical and mental disabilities.
4. Composition: qualified individuals appointed by the Commission Chair in consultation with the staff liaison.
- E. Other Commissions, Sub-Commissions and Caucuses:
- 1. Authority: The Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the CEO established other Commissions that include:
 - a. Men's Collegiate Commission;
 - b. Gender Commission;
 - c. International Indoor Officials Commission;
 - d. National Indoor Officials Commission;
 - e. International Beach Officials Commission; and
 - f. National Beach Officials Commission.

Article IV. REGIONAL VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATIONS OF USA VOLLEYBALL

- 4.01 Authority: Refer to Bylaws, Article 5.01 A.
- 4.02 Accountability: In order to maintain affiliated status each Regional Volleyball Association of USA Volleyball (RVA) shall be required to continue to be in compliance with the criteria stated in the Bylaws Article 5.01 A.
- 4.03 Requirements:
- A. In addition to being in compliance with the requirements specified in Article 5.01 A of the Corporation's Bylaws, each RVA shall be required to:
 - 1. Determine the plan of organization and create substructures required for optimum development and accomplishment of the mission of the RVA.

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2. Cooperate with local branches of other Member Organizations and attempt to ensure their representation on committees of the RVA.
3. Sanction/approve, promote and conduct volleyball competitions, exhibitions and events held within the geographical area of the RVA.
4. Enforce all policies, rules, regulations and guidelines, as adopted by the Board of Directors of the Corporation and/or the Board of Directors of the RVA.
5. Appoint and identify to the Corporation the current referees' chair, scorers' chair or an officials' chair.
6. Be responsible for the regional certification of referees and scorers and recommendation of candidates for national certifications.
7. Be responsible for compliance with the Corporation's requirement for any person coaching a junior team to have at least IMPACT or USAV-approved equivalent coaching certification within a reasonable amount of time after participation as a coach in junior levels.
8. Be responsible for compliance with the RVA Assembly Background Screening Policy.
9. Submit the following reports:
 - a. The RVA shall inform the Corporation of the date when Tax Form 990 was filed with the Internal Revenue Service.
 - b. The first regional membership report, fee payment and data transfer to the National Office is due no later than the 15th of the second month of the season. Data transfers shall be done no less than twice a month. Such data transfers shall include all membership data available at that time. Membership reports and fee payments shall be done no less than once a month through the end of the season. The membership and insurance start date for the RVA season shall be September 1st.
10. Discipline individual and team registrants for any period of time the RVA deems appropriate for any rules, regulations, and code or policy violations of that RVA and/or the Corporation. All such disciplinary actions shall be subject to the due process requirements of the RVA and the Corporation's Bylaws Article XIV.

4.04 Redistricting

- A. Preamble: USA Volleyball continues to experience a steady growth of its membership and interest in Volleyball. It also continues to experience the desire by applicant members toward the formation of new or Sub-RVAs within the existing geographic configuration forming the present corporation. In facilitating the growth of Volleyball, USA Volleyball adopts the following guidelines concerning redistricting of both the geographic and membership of the Volleyball community.

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- B. USA Volleyball further recognizes that each existing Regional Volleyball Association (RVA) has been formed under the laws of the state(s) in geographic areas. Redistricting may occur within a single state, or may affect a number of states and their laws. Not all state laws are identical. Likewise, redistricting will have an impact on Parent RVAs, how they are left to operate, their financial structure, and on how bids are allocated for National Championships. In order to assist the existing RVAs and members toward redistricting in a harmonious manner, the following process and procedure has been approved. Each applicant and RVA should consult counsel of their choice and comply with their own state laws in effectuating a change of existing Regional Volleyball Associations (RVAs).
- C. Definitions.
1. "Redistricting". Refers to the process in which an RVA is formed, whether by separating from an existing RVA within one state, or separating from existing RVAs and forming one RVA within a geographical area.
 2. "Parent RVA". Refers to those geographic areas whose physical boundaries are presently recognized by USA Volleyball.
 3. "Sub-RVA". Refers to that separated geographic area of an existing Parent RVA within one state/RVA's geographic area, whose application has been approved by the RVA, Zone, and the RVA Assembly. Sub-RVA status shall be computed beginning the date the application is approved by the RVA Assembly, for a minimum of one (1) year or longer, when necessary, until all requirements of a RVA are satisfied, as reflected in the RVA Administrative Manual. Once the requirements are met and the trial period completed, the application shall be submitted by the RVA Assembly to the USAV Board of Directors for final approval as a new Regional Volleyball Association (RVA).
 4. "Provincial RVA". Refers to that separated geographic area of more than one existing Parent state/RVA whose application has been submitted and approved by each impacted Parent RVA, zone, and the RVA Assembly. Provincial RVA status shall be computed beginning the date the application is approved by the RVA Assembly, for a minimum of one (1) year or longer, when necessary, until all requirements of a RVA are satisfied, as reflected in the RVA Administrative Manual. Once the requirements are met, and the trial period completed, the application shall be submitted by the RVA Assembly to the USAV Board of Directors for final approval as a new Regional Volleyball Association (RVA).
 5. "Associate RVA". Refers to that separated geographic area of one or more existing Parent RVA(s) whose application has been rejected by one or more of the existing Parent RVA(s), but whose application is approved by the RVA Zonal Committee after an independent review. An Associate RVA status shall be computed beginning the date the application is approved by the RVA Assembly, for a minimum of one (1) year or longer, when necessary, until all requirements of a RVA are satisfied as

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reflected by the RVA Administrative Manual. Once the requirements are met and the trial period completed, the application shall be submitted by the RVA Assembly to the USAV Board of Directors for final approval as a new RVA.

6. "RVA Zonal Committee". Refers to the committee chaired by the appropriate Zonal Chair and will be comprised of all Regional Commissioners within a designated USAV geographic Zone where the redistricting proposal is originating. Presently these Zones are: Atlantic (North and South), Border (East and West), Central (East and West), and Pacific (North and South).
 7. "Corporation". Refers to USA Volleyball (USAV), the national organization.
 8. "RVA"s. Refers to Regional Volleyball Associations: A RVA Member Organization of USA Volleyball.
 9. "RVA Assembly" [formerly the Regional Operations Division]: Refers to the collective organization of Regional Volleyball Associations (RVAs).
- D. Application Process. The following process/procedure should be followed by all applicants seeking redistricting.
1. A written application shall be filed with each RVA impacted by a redistricting proposal, with copies provided to the RVA Zonal Committee Chair, the RVA Assembly Chair, and the USAV Administrative Office.
 2. All written applications shall follow RVA redistricting procedures, if any, prior to any application being considered by the RVA Zonal Committee, the RVA Assembly, or USA Volleyball.
 3. Each written application shall be signed by at least five (5) persons supporting the redistricting, under penalty of perjury, with applicants attesting that the information provided for in the application is true, accurate and brought in good faith.
 4. Each written application shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a. The name of the proposed Sub, Provincial or Associate RVA.
 - b. The name(s) of all Parent RVA(s) and all USAV Zone(s) impacted by the redistricting.
 - c. A reference to whether prior application(s) has/have been presented to the Parent RVA(s), the date, and a written summary regarding the prior application(s) status.
 - d. A clear description of the geographic area impacted by the application; whether it impacts more than one RVA (a detailed map should be provided); the population base of the new applicant area; the population base of the existing Parent RVA(s) being impacted; and membership base of the new and Parent RVA(s).

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- e. A clear description of the membership and teams (adult, juniors, boys and girls) impacted by the application, including the number of members and teams to be in each RVA, the growth rate of volleyball in the area over the last three (3) years, the number of referees and scorekeepers in each RVA, and any other information which the applicant deems helpful to the review committee.
 - f. An accurate summary of the impact the application has on existing membership in each impacted Parent RVA, including but not limited to fiscal impact on the existing Parent RVA(s); impact on adult and junior tournament schedules; impact on junior team bid allocation; and other issues which the RVA Zonal Committee may determine to be relevant.
 - g. A clear statement of the purpose for which the application is made.
 - h. The names, addresses and USAV membership number of persons proposed as the Commissioner, the Board of Directors and Officers, and the Officials Chair.
 - i. A list of at least 200 adults or 500 members, their names, addresses, phone numbers, USAV membership number, team affiliation, and signature supporting the application. These 500 members shall include at least two-thirds (2/3) players (both adults and juniors) as well as coaches and team representatives.
 - j. A copy of the applicants proposed Articles of Incorporation; proposed By-laws, and handbooks, which shall include due process procedures, sexual harassment policy, fiduciary policy concerning financial matters, and steps taken to obtain non-profit tax status.
 - k. A copy of the applicant's proposed budget and inventory of capital assets, financial status, income sources, and liabilities.
 - l. A copy of a proposed reciprocity agreement with existing Parent RVA(s) authorizing members of each RVA to participate in tournaments sponsored or sanctioned by the new RVA or Parent RVA(s).
 - m. A statement whether the applicant provided a copy of the application or notice of intent to seek redistricting to the existing Parent RVA(s), and a summary of the steps the Parent RVA(s) have taken:
 - i. To inform the Parent RVA(s) membership;
 - ii. Information on any polls and their results, and
 - iii. The number of occasions the Parent RVA(s) and applicants have met and the results of those meetings. Such statement shall include any agreements or recommendations a RVA may have to such application.
- E. Procedure.
- 1. Each applicant shall submit a copy of the application for redistricting or a notice of intent to seek redistricting to each existing Parent RVA impacted by the application at least ninety (90) days prior to an application being submitted to the RVA Zonal Committee Chair, with copies provided to the RVA Zonal Committee Chair, the RVA Assembly Chair, and the USA Volleyball Administrative Office.
 - 2. Each Parent RVA shall have a redistricting policy to address such applications. Each Parent RVA shall submit the application or notice to its members and obtain a consensus of the majority of its members for the application to be considered.

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3. A summary of the RVA's action, manner of polling its members, polling results, and/or membership responses shall be submitted in written form to the RVA Zonal Committee Chair no later than thirty (30) days prior to the RVA Assembly Annual Meeting. The summary shall include, but not be limited to, any information the Committee deems relevant and helpful toward its consideration of the application. The scope of the review shall also consider steps taken by the Parent RVA to inform and poll its members, the fairness of the procedure used to allow the application full and fair consideration, and any other information the Committee deems appropriate.
4. An applicant whose application for redistricting is rejected by the Parent RVA(s) may submit the same for reconsideration by the RVA Zonal Committee.
5. The RVA Zonal Committee in which the redistricting application is initiated shall meet, review, and make appropriate inquiries regarding the redistricting application or request for reconsideration prior to the RVA Assembly Annual Meeting, and submit a status report or recommendation to the RVA Assembly. The Committee shall make appropriate recommendations regarding the redistricting application or reconsideration motion to the RVA Assembly. The RVA Zonal Committee may elect to (a) support the application and recommend to the RVA Assembly the formation of a Sub or Provincial RVA; (b) reject the application; (c) recommend a formation of an Associate RVA, or (d) direct that further action be taken on the application.
6. If the RVA Zonal Committee believes, by a majority, that the impacted Parent RVA(s) have failed to provide the application a fair investigation, review, hearing or fair assessment in the determination as to whether such redistricting application is favored by the majority of the membership of the impacted RVA(s), the Committee may recommend to the RVA Assembly that the application be submitted as an Associate RVA. Such recommendation may be considered by the RVA Assembly. Alternatively, the RVA Assembly may hold its own poll and determine whether such an action is in the best interest of the RVA(s) and area membership. The cost of such poll shall be assessed against the Parent RVA(s).
7. If the RVA Zonal Committee finds that an application is supported by the impacted Parent RVA(s), the Committee shall recommend that the redistricting be approved by the RVA Assembly.
8. If the RVA Zonal Committee finds insufficient basis for redistricting to occur, the Committee may in writing reject the application. Such rejection shall be final. A copy of this determination letter should be sent to the RVA Assembly Chair.
9. If the RVA Zonal Committee, after full evaluation, finds support for the redistricting, opposite of the Parent RVA(s) recommendation, the Committee may recommend that an Associate RVA be established.

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10. If the RVA Zonal Committee believes, by a majority, that the applicant has brought the application in bad faith, or has provided false information or misrepresented facts to the Committee, the Committee may elect to reject the application. If the Committee finds insufficient basis to recommend redistricting, the Committee may in writing recommend rejection of the application. A copy of this determination letter should be sent to the RVA Assembly Chair.
11. If an application is rejected by the RVA Zonal Committee for bad faith or because it was based on false or misleading information, the Committee may recommend sanction of the applicants whose signature appear on the application and that no application for redistricting be permitted for a period of two (2) years.

F. Limitations on Redistricting.

1. No application for redistricting shall be approved by the RVA Zonal Committee or RVA Assembly unless applicant RVA shall have at least one third (1/3) of the impacted Parent RVA(s) registered members, with no less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the new RVA members registered as adult members and the remainder junior members, provided the Committee may relax such limitation if the Parent RVA(s) support an application.
2. No application for redistricting shall be approved if the impact of such redistricting will reduce an impacted Parent RVA(s) by more than one half of its membership in any existing category, or below a minimum of 250 adult members and 750 junior members.

G. Dispute Resolution. The Corporation encourages mutual agreements between Parent RVA(s) and applicant members who seek redistricting consideration. If the Parent RVA(s) are unable to reach mutual agreements with an applicant, any disputes shall be submitted to arbitration before a three-person panel comprised of RVA representatives or an arbitrator agreed to by the parties. Each of the parties agrees that the arbitrator's decision shall be binding.

H. Trial Period.

1. A redistricting application supported by the impacted Parent RVA(s) shall enjoy Sub or Provincial RVA status for a period of one (1) year following approval of the RVA Assembly and the USAV Board of Directors. Supervision of the Sub or Provincial RVA shall be by the Parent RVA(s).
2. A redistricting application approved by the RVA Zonal Committee and not supported by the impacted Parent RVA(s) shall enjoy Associate RVA status for a period of one year following approval of the RVA Assembly and the USAV Board of Directors. Supervision of the Associate RVA shall be by the RVA Zonal Committee.

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3. A new RVA shall conduct elections, obtain appropriate non-profit tax status, complete all organization legal requirements and otherwise demonstrate to the RVA Zonal Committee that it has complied with all RVA requirements as reflected in the Corporate By-laws and RVA Administrative Manual prior to final approval of the RVA Assembly and USAV Board of Directors.
- I. Redirection of Assets, Liabilities and Responsibilities on Redistricting.
1. At no time shall the impacted Parent RVA(s) be placed in such a posture that they are required to obtain financial loans to meet their operation expenses, or be placed in such financial posture that their credit status is jeopardized.
 2. If a redistricting application is made and approved, all Parent RVAs shall provide minimum "start-up" assistance comprised of services, monies or materials to provide the fledging RVA with rulebooks, guidebooks, or funds to begin a new season. Such start-up assistance shall be based on the proration of expected membership. Any further assistance shall be at the option of the Parent RVA(s) and shall be based on fairness.
 3. If a new RVA lacks financial resources or funding to properly equip their offices and meet the requirements of an RVA, as set forth in the RVA Administrative Manual and the By-laws of the Corporation, the application shall be suspended until proper funding can be available to allow the new RVA to function appropriately.
- J. Allocation of Championship Bids. Each RVA shall be entitled at least one bid per age division to the Junior National Championships (JVC) based on Junior membership. A Sub, Provincial, or Associate RVA shall be entitled to share in any bids available to the Parent RVA(s) if more than one is available based on a pro rata formula of junior memberships in each of the RVAs. If a Parent RVA is afforded only one bid, then a Sub, Provincial or Associate RVA may be allocated a bid from the at-large bid pool by the championship bid committee, provided the new RVA has been approved.
- K. Reciprocity Agreements. Each Parent RVA and any Sub, Provincial or Associate RVA, shall enter into a reciprocity agreement for the first three (3) years of the new RVA's existence, allowing teams and player members to continue to participate in tournaments in the Parent RVA(s). Likewise, Parent RVA(s) teams and player members may participate in tournaments sanctioned by the Sub, Provincial or Associate RVA during the same time period.
- L. Membership Obligations. Membership requirements for Sub, Provincial or Associate RVA are as follows:
1. Communication Obligations.
 - a. RVA newsletter - minimum of two (2) issues during its year(s) as a Sub, Provincial or Associate RVA. (See Chapter 12, Newsletter).
 - b. RVA Player Handbook. (See Chapter 13, Player Handbook).

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- c. RVA Tournament Schedule must be made available to the members. (See Chapter 18, Tournaments).
 - d. USAV Guidebook material must be submitted at the RVA Assembly Annual Meeting just prior to the USA Volleyball Championship, or June 1, whichever comes first. (See Chapter 25, USAV Guidebook).
2. Administrative Obligations.
 - a. Register players and teams.
 - b. A Sub or Provincial RVA should pay the individual member's insurance premiums with its monthly membership fees/insurance report to the Parent RVA.
 - c. An Associate RVA should pay the individual members' insurance premiums with its monthly membership fees/insurance report to the USAV Administrative Office, with a copy of each report sent to the Zonal Committee Chair.
 3. Train and certify referees and scorekeepers with a minimum of two clinics for each category.
 - a. Establish minimum requirements.
 - b. Schedule as many clinics as possible which are reasonably accessible to all members.
 4. Coordinate and sanction tournaments.
 - a. Schedule adequate competition at various levels of play.
 - b. Establish a Court Conduct Code outlining minimum standards of conduct at tournaments.
 - c. Conduct Sub, Provincial or Associate RVA Regional Championships.
 5. Establish Due Process Appeal Procedures.
- M. Membership Benefits. Liability and secondary Sports Accident Insurance for currently registered players and voice with no vote at all RVA Assembly meetings.

Article V. NATIONAL REGISTRATION CATEGORIES

- 5.01 Authority: USA Volleyball Board of Directors.
- 5.02 Definitions.
- A. Registration Categories. Registration categories are subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
 - B. Registration. Registration is the process of recording and filing with the Corporation the name of an Individual, Team and Club with required ancillary information and the receipt of required fees(s).
 - C. Registered with the Corporation. Individuals, Teams and Clubs that are registered through any RVA or directly with the Corporation shall be considered registered with the Corporation.

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1. Individuals. Individuals may register in one of the following registration categories:
 - a. Full Memberships. These memberships are considered unrestricted and are available for adult and junior registrants.
 - i) Adult Registrants. Registration is required of adult individuals participating in any RVA or Corporation-sanctioned activities in any capacity (as athletes, coaches, officials, chaperones and/or administrators, for example). Participants in RVA competitions and USA Volleyball Junior National Championships, including all qualifying events, shall register with the RVA in the geographical area in which they reside or in which their club/team is registered. Participants in other programs sanctioned by the Corporation are required to register and may do so either through the Corporation or with the RVA as applicable.
 - b. Junior Registrants: Registration is required of junior individuals participating in any RVA or Corporation-sanctioned activities in any capacity. Participants in RVA competitions and USA Volleyball Junior National Championships, including all qualifying events, shall register with the RVA in the geographical area in which they reside or in which their club/team is registered. Participants in other programs sanctioned by the Corporation are required to register and may do so either through the Corporation or with the RVA as applicable.
 - i) Junior registration is restricted to individuals who are:
 - a) 18 years of age or younger on September 1 of the current season or
 - b) 19 years of age or younger on September 1 of the current season and a high school student during some part of the academic year.
 - ii) Once a junior registrant, regardless of age, participates (including but not limited to practicing, training, attending workouts and/or competing) in a club or varsity program for any university, college, community college, or junior college, he/she is ineligible to take part in any regional and national programming, which includes but is not limited to USA Volleyball National Championships including all qualifying events.
 - c. Limited Memberships: These memberships are considered restricted, either in length of membership or participation, as per RVA or Corporation policy, and are available for adults and junior registrants.
2. Teams. Each team participating in any RVA or Corporation –sanctioned activities shall be considered registered with the Corporation by registering with its respective RVA.
 - a. Teams shall register in one of the following categories:
 - i) Regular. Registration required of teams composed either entirely of regular athletes or a composite of regular, junior volleyball and/or "other" athletes.

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- ii) Junior Volleyball. Registration required of teams composed entirely of junior volleyball athletes.
 - iii) Recreational. Registration which may be required of teams affiliated with recreational organizations and/or agencies. Team members are not required to register with a RVA. They are not eligible to participate in open USAV-sanctioned competition but may be eligible for specified USAV-sanctioned competition within their category. The contact person designated by the team shall be considered registered with the Corporation by registering with a RVA and shall receive appropriate mailings and publications.
 - iv) Each team shall register with the RVA in whose area the team representative resides.
3. Clubs: Each Club, consisting of one or more teams, shall be considered registered with the Corporation by registering with its respective RVA. Individuals and teams shall register in the same RVA in which the Club is registered. Each Club shall register with one RVA, as determined by the principal address of the designated club leadership and where the majority of its members reside.

EXCEPTION: A club composed of individuals primarily residing in one RVA may request to register in an adjacent RVA with the permission of the Principal Representatives of both RVAs.

- D. The registering RVA shall be empowered to govern activities within its geographic boundaries and of Individuals, Teams and Clubs registered with the RVA, for the duration of its registration. If a conflict occurs within a RVA's approved geographical boundaries Principal Representative may prohibit the sanctioning of events and activities within these approved boundaries by the registering RVA.
- E. Registration and/or sanctioning disputes shall be referred first to the RVA where the complaining party registered or seeks to register or sanction an event, then to the Ethics and Eligibility Committee of the RVA Assembly, only to determine whether due process was provided.

Article VI. MEMBERSHIP, ADMINISTRATIVE FEES AND BENEFITS

- 6.01 Authority: Refer to Bylaws, Article V.
- 6.02 Membership Fees. The Board of Directors may establish annual membership fees for all Member Organizations and include them in the Corporate Policies and Procedures Manual.
- 6.03 Affiliated Organization Benefits. Each Affiliated Organization shall receive a subscription to "Volleyball USA," a copy of the Official Guidebook, Domestic Competition Regulation and such other benefits as from time to time are provided.

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- 6.04 Administrative Fees. The Board of Directors shall establish a standard national administrative fee for each approved national registration category (Refer to Appendix E of the Corporate Policies and Procedures Manual). This national administrative fee shall not cover the costs for publications of the Corporation, general liability and sport accident insurance or other ancillary materials. The administrative fee shall be established by the Board of Directors annually no later than the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors and shall apply to the subsequent membership season. Each RVA has the authority to assess an additional fee for each of the approved registration categories, subject to Board-approved restriction. Upon request, Principal Representative(s) shall make available to the Corporation a copy of his/her regions fee schedule.

Article VII. PARTICIPANT, TEAM ELIGIBILITY AND CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

These conditions and rules shall govern entrance to and competition in all Corporation events.

- 7.01 Authority: Refer to Bylaws, Article XIV.

- 7.02 Definitions.

A. Disciplines

1. Volleyball: traditional six-person competition played primarily indoors.
2. Beach Volleyball: traditional two-person competition played primarily outdoors on sand.
3. Sitting Volleyball: traditional six-person competition played primarily indoors.

B. Athletes.

1. Eligible Athlete. An athlete who is eligible for Olympic, FIVB, Paralympic, WPV and USAV competition pursuant to the current codes of eligibility of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the FIVB, the USOC and USAV. Eligibility rules for athletes who desire to compete in domestic and/or international volleyball competitions shall be no more restrictive than those of the FIVB or the WPV.
2. Ineligible Athlete. An athlete ruled to be in violation of the current eligibility requirements of the IOC, the IPC, the FIVB, the WPV, the USOC or USAV.
3. International Athlete. Refer to Bylaws, Article 2.01 L.
4. Domestic Athlete. Refer to Bylaws, Article 2.01 H.

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5. Foreign Athlete. An athlete who is not a citizen of the United States and desires to participate in any event sanctioned by the Corporation.
6. USA National Team Athlete. An athlete who has competed in protected competition (Indoor or Beach) as defined by the USOC Constitution and Bylaws or whose name has been included on a National Team roster (Senior, Junior, Youth).
7. Foreign National Team Athlete. A foreign athlete who has been certified by his or her National Federation to be a current member of one of its National Teams.
8. Junior volleyball athlete. An athlete who meets the age/grade requirements, as specified in Article, 5.02 C 1 b. of this Code, and is registered by a Member Organization that has been authorized by the Corporation to conduct junior volleyball activity.
9. Adult Athlete. An athlete who does not meet the definition of a junior volleyball athlete.

C. Teams.

1. Classification. Team assignment by age groups or skill level, i.e. AA, A, BB, B. In junior age group competition, it may be single age only or a maximum age and under. In master and seniors competition, it shall be minimum age and over. When the number of entries into a USA Volleyball National Championship cannot be accommodated with a single tournament, multiple tournaments may be scheduled within a single classification.
2. Division. A group of teams defined for tournament competition by gender of the participating athlete; e.g., female, male or co-ed.
3. Team. A combination of athletes participating as a single playing unit restricted to one division and classification.
4. National Team. A team officially recognized by a National Federation for international competition.

D. Clubs.

1. Club. A single team or teams registered with one RVA under the same club name, which may or may not have the same team name.
2. Club Team. A team affiliated with a club as defined in 1 above. If a club has more than one playing unit, each unit shall be registered as a separate team in only one RVA.

E. Divisions of Competition. The divisions for competition are:

1. Men's Division. Shall consist of teams composed of males only.
2. Women's Division. Shall consist of teams composed of females only.

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3. Co-Ed Division. Shall consist of teams composed of females and males consistent with the regulations adopted by the Corporation.
- F. Types of Team Competition.
1. Junior volleyball competition. Competition for athletes meeting the definition of a junior volleyball athlete in Corporation-approved age group classifications.
 2. Adult Competition. Competition primarily for athletes not meeting the eligibility standards for junior volleyball competition.
 3. Co-Ed Competition. Competition for teams composed of females and males playing in various combinations consistent with the regulations adopted by the Corporation.
- G. Classification of Teams for Corporate Events. Teams are classified by their Member Organization in order to identify their competitive level. (Athletes are not classified by the Corporation.) For events of the Corporation, the highest level of classification for a team shall be “Open” in all adult indoor events, “Open” in all indoor junior events, and triple A (AAA) in all outdoor events. Lower levels may be expressed by single and/or double letters of the alphabet in alphabetical order; e.g., AA, A, BB, B.
- H. USA Volleyball Championship Events. There shall be USA Volleyball Championship Events. Entry fees shall be stated in the Pre-Tournament information.
- I. US National Championship Tournaments: Tournaments may be conducted within each USA Volleyball Championship Events. Specific Eligibility Requirements shall be included in the USAV Pre-Tournament Manuals and on USAV’s website (<http://usavolleyball.org>).
- J. Rules Governing Play. The FIVB Rules of Play shall be the official rules of play in the United States. For domestic competition, the USA Volleyball Domestic Competition Regulations may be selected to promote the game.
- K. Eligible Officials. Referees and scorer who (1) are currently registered with the Corporation through a RVA and (2) are certified with a USAV-approved rating.
- 7.03 Eligibility Requirements for Sanctioned Competitions of the Corporation.
- A. Registration.
1. All athletes, coaches, managers, team trainers, officials, chaperones, teams and others who are involved in a sanctioned competition shall be registered with the Corporation and/or a RVA, as specified in Article V in this Operating Code.
 2. Eligibility for Foreign Participants is defined in the Policy on Foreign Participation as well as the Foreign Guest Coach Policy. Refer to the section on “Other Policies of the Corporation” in the USAV Official Guidebook or the USA Volleyball website (<http://usavolleyball.org>).

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- B. Participant's Code of Conduct. All participants shall abide by the Participant's Code of Conduct to which they have agreed as included in their membership application.
- C. Substance Abuse Policy. All participants shall abide by the United States Anti-Doping Agency protocols, which have been adopted by the USOC and USAV (Refer to the section on "Other Policies of the Corporation" in the USAV Official Guidebook).

Article VIII. ZONAL STRUCTURE

- 8.01 Purpose. To standardize the subdivision of the United States into geographic areas to accomplish one or more of the following:
 - A. A specific program or administrative function.
 - B. Strategically located trials and events.
 - C. A culminating open competition conducted by the Corporation or a substructure.
 - D. A national primary event(s) to ascertain entry or seeding into a USA Volleyball Championship Event.
- 8.02 Criteria. Two intermediate levels of organization, zones and sections, have been established with the following criteria considered: travel time and distance and the number of registered athletes.
- 8.03 Zones and Sections. Four zones have been established, with each subdivided into two sections:
 - A. Atlantic Zone.
 - 1. The North-Atlantic Section shall be composed of the Chesapeake, Garden Empire, Iroquois Empire, Keystone, New England, Ohio Valley, and Western Empire Regional Volleyball Associations.
 - 2. The South-Atlantic Section shall be composed of the Carolina, Florida, Old Dominion, Palmetto and Southern Regional Volleyball Associations.
 - B. Border Zone.
 - 1. The Border-East Section shall be composed of the Bayou, Delta, Gulf Coast, Lone Star, North Texas and Oklahoma Regional Volleyball Associations.
 - 2. The Border-West Section shall be composed of the Arizona, Southern California and Sun Country Regional Volleyball Associations.
 - C. Central Zone.

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1. The Central-East Section shall be composed of the Badger, Great Lakes, Hoosier, Lakeshore, North Country and Pioneer Regional Volleyball Associations.
 2. The Central-West Section shall be composed of the Gateway, Great Plains, Heart of America and Iowa Regional Volleyball Associations.
- D. Pacific Zone.
1. The Pacific-North Section shall be composed of the Alaska, Columbia Empire, Evergreen, Puget Sound and Rocky Mountain Regional Volleyball Associations.
 2. The Pacific-South Section shall be composed of the Aloha, Intermountain, Moku O Keawe and Northern California Regional Volleyball Associations.
- 8.04 Realignment. These boundaries may be modified by the Board of Directors.

Article IX. OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

- 9.01 Official Guidebook. The Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws, the Operating Code and other pertinent or required information will be made available to the membership, either in printed or digital form.
- 9.02 Domestic Competition Regulations. The Domestic Competition Regulations, based on the FIVB or World ParaVolley (WPV) Rules of Play, (both Indoor, Beach and Sitting) shall be published biennially, either in printed or digital form.

Article X. AMENDMENTS

- 10.01 Authority: Refer to Bylaws, Article XVII.
- 10.02 Procedures for Submission. Proposed additions, deletions or amendments to this Operating Code may be generated in the following ways:
- A. By any Member Organization, substructure or individual, provided such proposal is submitted in writing to the Corporation's CEO no later than sixty (60) days prior to the next meeting of the Board.
 - B. At any time by a Director of the Board.
- 10.03 Requirement for Action.
- A. Proposed changes shall only be considered if notice is mailed or sent electronically to each member of the Board at least thirty (30) days prior to the voting deadline for the next meeting of the Board.

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- B. A Bylaw may be adopted, amended or repealed by the Board by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those casting ballots at a legally constituted meeting.
- C. Waiver of Requirement: By a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the total voting power of the Board at a legally constituted meeting action may be taken by the Board without thirty (30) days prior notice.

END