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Section V: Administrative Procedures

SPECIAL INFORMATION CONCERNING USAV CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

- I. GENERAL SUPERVISION:** Listed herein is general information, rules, regulations and procedures for USA Championship events conducted by USA Volleyball, acting as the National Governing Body (NGB) for volleyball in the United States. This information supplements that included in the current USA Volleyball *Guidebook* publication, which includes the USAV Bylaws and Operating Code, Participants Code of Conduct, Codes of Behavior and Policies and Penalties for Substance Abuse. Event participants are specifically directed to the Bylaws, Article X (Athlete Rights) and the Operating Code, Article IX (Participant, Team Eligibility and Championship Events). This information also supplements pre-tournament information released in a more timely manner. If the information herein is in conflict with any of these cited documents, said documents will prevail.
- II. SPECIFIC AUTHORITY:**
- A. Policies, Rules and Regulations: The USAV Board of Directors has the ultimate authority over all policies governing USA Championship events. All USA Championship events shall be conducted consistent with the USAV Bylaws, Operating Code and current policies and procedures. The USAV Events Department has authority to and may implement rules and regulations governing the conduct of these events. The Regional Volleyball Association Assembly (RVAA) and Junior Assembly (JA) may suggest rules, policies and regulations for entry into these events as it pertains to their charge. These Assemblies may submit their recommendations to the USAV Events Department for consideration for implementation for event conduct.
- B. Rules of Play: All USA Championship competition shall be conducted in strict accordance with the Domestic Competition Regulations (DCR), as approved by the USAV Rules Testing Commission (RTC). Mid-year approval for waivers to the Domestic Competition Regulations by the RTC shall be allowable. Specific reference is made to the USAV Operating Code, Article IX. In order for teams to prepare properly for participation in all indoor championship events, we specifically cite the rule defining the legal player's uniform. Unless specified in the pre-tournament information, there is not a uniform requirement for outdoor USA Championship events.
- III. EVENT ADMINISTRATION:** USA Volleyball conducts several national championship events, each composed of multiple United States National Championship Tournaments in various classifications. The USAV Events Department conducts and administers each event as directed by current policy.
- IV. SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY FOR INDOOR EVENTS:** Subordinate to, and as a subset of the authorities outlined in Section III above, the following committees have been granted the responsibility to fulfill the listed general responsibilities consistent with current policies, rules and regulations. Individuals may be assigned to more than one event committee so long as they are not in conflict.

- A. Event Director: The ED will be a staff assignment from the Events Department with responsibility and oversight of all facets of the event. The Event Director will have the final authority over all matters relevant to the conduct of the event.
- B. Championship Committee: This committee is chaired by the Competition Director, as appointed by the USAV Event Director, and shall have responsibility for the oversight of all facets of competition. The Competition Director shall be the final authority on all matters relevant to competition issues as depicted in all materials pertaining to the event (Pre-Tournament, Approved Formats, Seeding, etc.).
- C. Officials Committee: The Officials Assembly Chair/designee may recommend committee membership to the Events Department. However, once named, all members of the committee and all working officials become aligned to the Event Director and the Championship Committee and shall be fully accountable to the Competition Commission in regards to competition issues. This will include the Rules Interpreter and the Head Referee and Scorekeeper. By agreement, the Rules Interpreter and Head Referee may be the same person.
- D. Other Support Committees: The All-Tournament Selection, Awards, Computer and Equipment Committees complement the Championship Committee by providing ancillary logistics for the event.
- E. Team Entry Registration: The National Office is administering team registration for entry into all championship events. The Event Director shall be the final authority for the acceptance/rejection of entries in accordance with currently prescribed policies, rules, regulations and procedures developed and approved by the USAV Board of Directors and other authorized entities.

V. DUE PROCESS, PENALTIES AND APPEALS: Pursuant to the USAV Bylaws, Article IX (Athlete Rights), and with the approval of the USAV Board Chair, the Executive Ethics and Eligibility Committee Chair shall consult with the USAV Events Director for the annual appointment of Event Arbitrators for each event. An appointment of an event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee will be established as needed on-site. The Event Arbitrator assumes authority for all ethics and eligibility questions 48 hours prior to the first competition for the event, or when a team or participant arrives in the city, whichever is earliest. The Event Arbitrator is the sole authority, and shall act as a committee of one, for rulings on protests and allegations relevant to an ethics and/or eligibility violation, either in the playing venue, or in the host city, during the event. Decisions of the Event Arbitrator may be appealed to an Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee. All decisions of this committee pertaining to the event are FINAL and cannot be appealed. The USAV Operating Code governs protests on the Rules of Play and is NOT within the purview of the Event Arbitrator or the Competition Commissioner.

VI. ELIGIBILITY FOR USA CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS:

- A. General Rules: The USAV Bylaws and Operating Code provide the general governance for all participants in USA Volleyball Championships. They are supplemented by Event policies, rules and procedures, as depicted in the Pre-Tournament Manual for each event. The Pre-

Tournament Manual shall reflect all applicable rules and regulations. RVAA and/or JA of USA Volleyball may suggest eligibility rules governing entry into Junior National Volleyball Championships. All participants in a USA Championship event shall be registered with USA Volleyball in an approved manner.

- B. Interpretation and Ruling of Eligibility: Detailed eligibility requirements will be listed in the pre-tournament information for each event.
 - 1. The Chief Executive Officer/designee of each Member Organization shall interpret and rule on eligibility questions for its members until a team entered into a USA Championship event has arrived on site, or 48 hours prior to the first competition of the event, whichever is earlier.
 - 2. The Event Arbitrator shall interpret and rule on eligibility questions once a participant/team has arrived on site as qualified above.
- C. Special Action: Special considerations which are beyond the control of either the sponsoring organization or a participant shall be reported in writing by registered mail to the Chief Executive Officer/designee of the Member Organization, for action at least 30 days prior to the first day of the draw for the event being conducted.
- D. Protests and Appeals: The USAV Bylaws, Article XIII, titled "Ethics and Eligibility Procedures," authorizes the Event Arbitrator to administer the process for alleged violations of ethics and eligibility at USA Championship Events.
 - 1. The Member Organization shall resolve all protests and appeals on ethics and eligibility associated with that Member Organization prior to a USA Championship event.
 - 2. Protests and appeals on ethics and eligibility at a USA Championship event shall be resolved consistent with the provisions outlined in Article XIV of the USAV Bylaws.
- E. Minimum number of teams entering a tournament: In all U.S. Club National Championship Tournaments, a minimum of six (6) teams is required to conduct the championship tournament. In all other U.S. National Championship Tournaments, i.e., Open, Co-Ed, Masters and Seniors, a minimum of five (5) teams is required to conduct the championship tournament. EXCEPTIONS: A non-championship tournament may be conducted with four (4) teams entering if all four teams agree to participate (it must be unanimous). In NO case will a tournament be conducted with three (3) or fewer teams. A non-championship tournament may not have awards or All-Tournament selections. It will not have a national championship declaration.

VII. ENTRY PROCEDURES:

- A. Pre-Tournament Manuals and Entry Procedures: Each Team Representative should have all of the pre-tournament information. This can be downloaded from the USA Volleyball web site, or a manual can be obtained from the local RVA Office, or the USA Volleyball National Office. Entry procedures for each event will be published in the Pre-Tournament information.
- B. Number of Entries: In the USA (adult, indoor) Open Championships Event only, each Member Organization is guaranteed one entry in each of the U.S. Club Tournaments, provided the entry is complete and received by the Event Director on or before the published deadline. Additional teams may be accepted for consideration after consultation between the Chief Executive Officer/designee and the Event Director. The decision will be

- based on space availability. U.S. Club Tournaments may be capped at 48 teams conditional to time and court availability. If this cap is applied, teams will be accepted on the entry formula adopted by the RVAA. Entry into the indoor USA Junior National Volleyball Championships is based on a formula and specific qualification criteria reviewed annually. Questions may be directed to the Events Department.
- C. **Entry Fee:** The USAV Board of Directors establishes entry fees for all championship events no later than the Annual Meeting (in the previous calendar year). The current entry fee for each championship event will be published in the pre-tournament information.
 - D. **Refunds:** The refund policy and schedule will be fully stated in pre-tournament information. Generally the following will apply:
 1. Any team whose entry is refused by the Events Department for any reason is entitled to and shall receive a full refund of the entry fee.
 2. Entry fees shall not be refunded to a team that withdraws from a championship event following the deadline for submittal of entries.
 3. Teams opting to withdraw from a championship event prior to the deadline date for submittal of entries may be subject to a penalty fee equal to as much as one half (50%) of the entry fee. The final decision will be vested with the Event Department and shall be for just cause. A team may appeal (in a timely manner) the decision of the Event Department to the USAV Senior Staff.
 - E. **Information to be Submitted:** Information to be submitted will be requested in the pre-tournament information. This information can be downloaded from the USA Volleyball web site at www.usavolleyball.org. In the case of all Indoor Championships, entry deadlines will be published in their respective pre-tournament information. Deadlines for all outdoor events are usually shorter, and some allow same-day entry based on space available. This will be outlined in the pre-tournament information.
 - F. **Changes in Information:** Each championship event has different dates and requirements for changes to the rosters, jersey numbers and other adjustments. There is often a fee attached to a change. It is important participants are familiar with the fee schedule and timeline for adjustments, as applicable. It is important you familiarize yourself with the pre-tournament information for each event to be entered.
 - G. **Affiliate Organization Access to USA Junior National Volleyball Championship Events.**
 1. Affiliate Organizations other than USAV Regional Volleyball Associations that wish to access these championships may petition the Events Department no later than September 1 of the previous calendar year. Inquiries and applications are to be submitted to the National Office.
 2. Other criteria for qualification may be recommended by the Junior Assembly, in consultation with the RVAA; however, all changes shall adhere to requirements of Article XIII of the USAV Bylaws.

VIII. USAV AGE AND IDENTITY FALSIFICATION POLICY (Adopted

by BOD January 2004): For all USA Volleyball corporate events, any person who alters any document that certifies the age or identity of a participant, or falsifies any statement which lists the age or identity of a participant, will be sanctioned as follows:

- A. Be immediately suspended from USA Volleyball registration, RVA mem-

- bership and barred from further participation in the event;
- B. Be barred from participation in any USAV Corporate events in any capacity for a minimum of two (2) years; and
- C. Have a minimum probation of one additional year to run consecutively with the suspension.

A junior player who knowingly plays in a lower age classification than which he or she is actually eligible, or an adult player who knowingly plays in a higher age classification for which he or she is actually eligible, or any player who knowingly misrepresents his/her identity shall:

- A. Be immediately suspended from USA Volleyball membership and barred from further participation in the event;
- B. Be barred from participation in any USAV Corporate events in any capacity for a minimum of two (2) years; and
- C. Have a minimum probation of one additional year to run consecutively with the suspension.

Any player in question must provide proof of identity and age eligibility, if requested.

When discovered and confirmed during an event, these penalties shall be the required **minimum** penalty imposed by the Event Arbitrator or the Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee.

The Event Arbitrator or the Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee may recommend a more severe penalty. The Event Arbitrator or the Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee shall file a report of any age or identity violation with the Corporation's Ethics and Eligibility Committee and with the registering Affiliate Organization with its recommendation.

IX. USAV GENDER IDENTIFICATION POLICY: The vast majority of athletes are expected to compete as a member of the gender noted on their birth certificate. Athletes who wish to compete as a member of the gender opposite that noted on their birth certificate must register with USAV and provide appropriate documentation of their adopted gender to the USAV Gender Identification Committee (GIC) at least two (2) months prior to their first USAV competition. Compelling medical documentation must accompany this registration, including medical records and physicians' statements.

The GIC reserves the right to consult and share relevant information with experts, as deemed necessary.

USAV has reviewed and in general agrees with the International Olympic Committee's Stockholm Consensus on transsexual athletes, and therefore requires these athletes meet the following criteria in order to be eligible for competition:

- A. Hormonal therapy appropriate for the adopted gender shall have been administered in a verifiable manner and for a sufficient length of time (at least two years) to minimize gender-related advantages in sport

competitions;

- B. Surgical anatomical changes have been completed, including modification of the external genitalia and gonadectomy.

In addition, USAV requires that a transsexual athlete provide:

- A. Evidence that the individual's adopted gender has been legally accepted (e.g., a copy of the athlete's driver's license, passport, or a current insurance policy indicating the individual's current gender).

Note that the above conditions apply to individuals undergoing gender reassignment procedures following the onset of puberty. Any individual undergoing gender reassignment prior to the onset of puberty is (for practical purposes) considered to have been born into the postoperative gender.

Once established by the GIC, an athlete's gender of record will stand for all future USAV competitions. In the event that the gender of an athlete competing in a USAV sanctioned event is questioned, the matter shall be referred to the Tournament Director or Arbitrator. If reasonable discussion cannot resolve the dispute at its inception, the matter will be referred to the GIC, which shall undertake a confidential case-by-case evaluation, as appropriate. While the case is under review, the athlete whose gender is in question may compete in USAV sanctioned events. The GIC shall have the authority to request any and all tests and measures for the determination of the gender of a competitor, according to accepted medical standards.

USAV assumes no liability for the costs involved in this process. Any and all expenses incurred as part of the GIC's confidential evaluation shall be the negotiated responsibility of the parties involved. If the GIC concludes that the athlete in question intentionally and deliberately attempted to engage in gender fraud, the athlete will be suspended from further participation in USAV sanctioned events for a minimum of two years. Frivolous or unfounded allegations of sexual misrepresentation will also be sanctioned. Although the GIC shall serve as the final arbiter for USAV in such matters, an appeal of its findings and decisions may be made within 30 days of their release in accordance with USAV Bylaws.

An Example of the Proposed Process

1. An athlete's gender is felt to be incongruous with the category in which the athlete is competing.
2. The tournament director or arbitrator is informed of the allegations of gender misrepresentation.
3. The TD/A reviews the available documentation and gathers information in an effort to resolve any misunderstandings that prompted the allegation.
4. If unable to resolve the issue to the satisfaction of all involved, the case will be referred to the USAV GIC.
5. The GIC will review the available information, and shall have the authority to request further information and/or testing as indicated.
6. Once all requested data is available for review, the GIC will render a formal opinion on the validity of the accusations.
7. If the GIC decides that the athlete has intentionally misrepresented

his/her gender, the athlete will be sanctioned. Frivolous or unfounded allegations against an athlete will also be cause for sanction.

8. The GIC's opinion may be appealed within 30 days according to USAV Bylaws.

X. USA VOLLEYBALL POLICY ON FOREIGN INDIVIDUAL AND FOREIGN TEAM PARTICIPATION

DEFINITIONS:

"Foreign Participant": A participant who is not a citizen of the United States OR a citizen residing in a U.S. territory having its own National Volleyball Federation to which the participant is affiliated.

"Non-Resident" Foreign Participant: A person who is not a citizen of the United States residing outside the 50 United States OR an individual residing in a U.S. Territory, having its own National Volleyball Federation to which the participant is affiliated.

"Resident" Foreign Participant: A person who is not a citizen of the United States residing in one of the 50 United States and holding "resident" versus "visitor" status. Proof of "Resident" status includes providing documentation substantiating enrollment and attendance in an educational institution in the United States (excludes on-line courses) OR proof of employment in the United States AND a corresponding physical residence address (excludes a P.O. Box or "care of" address). A copy of a current student or work visa is required for the duration of eligibility.

Foreign Participant "Release":

Written approval by a foreign participant's national volleyball federation of origin for that person to affiliate or participate with USA Volleyball.

POLICY:

- I. Concurrent registration with more than one National Volleyball Federation is prohibited.
 - A. A Resident Foreign Participant who has competed in international competition representing his/her country/federation of origin (i.e. Youth National Team, Junior National Team, Senior National Team, or other "elite" team that has represented that country in international competition) is required to have a written release from that volleyball federation of origin before he/she can become a registered member of a Regional Volleyball Association.
 - B. This would not apply to a participant who has been in continuous legal residence in the United States and unaffiliated with a foreign national volleyball federation for greater than two years.
- II. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS - ADULT
 - A. Foreign Individual Participation in National Adult Competitions (e.g. USA Volleyball Open Championships),

1. Subject to Paragraph I, a Resident Foreign Participant (residing legally in the United States) may participate if he/she is duly registered with a USA Volleyball Regional Volleyball Association (RVA) and follows all event participation policies and registration procedures.
 2. A Non-Resident Foreign Participant may participate only with conglomerate classifications (e. g. Open and age classification tournaments) on the condition that he/she has been granted a written release from his/her national volleyball federation of origin and follows all event participation policies and registration procedures.
 3. A Non-Resident Foreign Participant shall not participate on a USA Volleyball Club Team (e.g. AA, A, BB and B classification tournaments).
- B. Foreign Team Participation for National Adult Competitions (e.g. USA Volleyball Open Championships)
1. A Foreign Team (registered with its National Volleyball Federation) may participate if it duly applies for and is accepted in compliance with the event's regulations, is not representing its country in an official capacity, and the federation of origin grants permission for participation.
- C. Each Foreign Participant (on a conglomerate team) and all members of a Foreign Team must purchase foreign participant insurance, which will be provided by USA Volleyball. The expense shall be debited to the event at cost and shall be added to the entry fee.
- D. A waiver to the foreign participant insurance fee shall be granted to Canadians who provide written proof of 24-hour health coverage valid in the United States.
- E. Each Foreign Participant and all members of a Foreign Team shall have in their possession, and shall have previously filed with the Event Director, the following documents:
1. Photo identification (Driver's license, passport or comparable government issued document), and
 2. A signed copy of the USA Volleyball Code of Conduct and Waiver and Release of Liability (provided on page 2 of the Foreign Participant Registration form).

III. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS - JUNIOR

- A. Foreign Individual Participation in National Junior Competitions (e.g. USA Volleyball Junior National Championships, National Invitational and all events that qualify teams for USA Junior National Volleyball Championship Events),
1. Subject to Paragraph I, a Resident Foreign Participant (residing legally in the United States, e. g. exchange student) may participate if she/he is a duly registered member of a USA Volleyball Regional Volleyball Association (RVA) and follows all event participation policies and registration procedures.
 2. A Non-Resident Foreign Participant shall not be eligible to participate.
 - a. See the Foreign Guest Coach Policy for exceptions.

- B. Foreign Team Participation for National Junior Competitions (e.g. USA Volleyball Junior National Championships, National Invitational and all Qualifying Events)
1. A Foreign Team (registered with its National Volleyball Federation) may participate if it duly applies for and is accepted in compliance with the event's regulations, is not representing its country in an official capacity, and the federation of origin grants permission for participation.
 2. Foreign Teams must purchase foreign participant insurance, which will be provided by USA Volleyball. The expense shall be debited to the event at cost and shall be added to the entry fee.
 3. A waiver to the foreign participant insurance fee shall be granted to Canadians who provide written proof of 24-hour health coverage valid in the United States.
 4. Each member of a Foreign Team shall have in his/her possession(s), and shall have previously filed with the Event Director, the following documents:
 - a. Photo identification (Driver's license, passport or comparable government-issued document), and
 - b. A signed copy of the USA Volleyball Code of Conduct and Waiver and Release of Liability (provided on page 2 of the Foreign Participant Registration form). Additionally, for junior-age competitions, each foreign player (of a foreign team) must also possess and have on file with the Event Director:
 - c. Copy of birth certificate or Government Issue Identification with birth date
 - d. USA Volleyball's "Consent for Medical Treatment & Release" form, signed by the player's parent or legal guardian.

IV. REGIONAL ASSOCIATION PROGRAMS AND EVENTS (Not to include any events which qualify teams for any National Events)

- A. Subject to Paragraph I, a Resident Foreign Participant (residing legally in the United States, e. g. exchange student) may participate if he/she is a duly registered member of a USA Volleyball Regional Volleyball Association (RVA).
- B. A Non-Resident Foreign Participant shall not participate on a USA Volleyball club team.
 1. See the Foreign Guest Coach Policy for exceptions.
- C. For Regional Volleyball Association competitions a Foreign Team:
 1. May participate if accepted by the Regional Volleyball Association in compliance with its regulations and is not representing its country in an official capacity.
 2. Must purchase foreign participant insurance, which will be provided by USA Volleyball. The expense shall be debited to the event at cost and shall be added to the entry fee.
 3. A waiver to the foreign participant insurance fee shall be granted to Canadians who provide written proof of 24-hour health cover

- age valid in the United States.
4. For Regional Volleyball Association (RVA) competitions, each Foreign Team member (all members of a foreign team) shall have in his/her possession, and shall have previously filed with the Event Director, the following documents:
 - a. Photo identification (Driver's license, passport or comparable government issued document), and
 - b. A signed copy of the USA Volleyball Code of Conduct and Waiver and Release of Liability (provided on page 2 of the Foreign Participant Registration form).
Additionally, for junior-age competitions, each Foreign Player (or all members of a Foreign Team) must also possess and have on file with the Event Director:
 - c. Copy of birth certificate or Government Issue Identification with birth date
 - d. USA Volleyball's "Consent for Medical Treatment & Release" form, signed by the player's parent or legal guardian

FOREIGN GUEST COACH POLICY

The Policy on Foreign Individual and Foreign Team Participation (FP Policy) states "Concurrent registration with more than one National Volleyball Federation is prohibited." Therefore, coaches who reside outside of the United States and are registered with a foreign volleyball federation cannot be registered with USA Volleyball, nor with the USA Regional Volleyball Association (RVA) in which they are participating.

These individuals must complete the Foreign Participation registration form, not the USA Volleyball registration form. The Foreign Participation fee (\$10 to the national office) covers insurance. The RVA may charge additional fees as it deems necessary (such as for background screening).

A Foreign Guest Coach of any team must meet the following criteria:

1. Be registered with his/her National Volleyball Federation.
2. Meet all criteria for a Foreign Team Participant as outlined in the current "Policy on Foreign Individual and Foreign Team Participation."
The Foreign Guest Coach must present documentation from his/her Federation that states he/she is registered, is in good standing and has the Federation's permission to assist a team in the United States.
3. Be at least 19 years old or no longer eligible to participate as a junior player according to the Junior Player Age Definition.

A Foreign Guest Coach of a junior team must also meet these additional criteria:

1. Complete a background screening form for Foreign Participation (Consent and Waiver Release form for Non-US citizens) and be cleared according to the listed criteria.
 - a. In addition, the coach may be asked to provide documentation from his/her Federation covering some type of background screening, stating the individual is clear of any of the behavior that would

- prevent a coach from coaching according to the Federation's policies.
- b. The documentation related to the background screening and the non-citizen consent and waiver form must be submitted to the RVA office. The RVA office shall forward the form to the National Office for submission to the USA Volleyball approved background screening vendor.
2. Be under the supervision of an adult rostered head coach who is registered with USA Volleyball through the RVA. This head coach must have a current background screening and meet any other requirements of USA Volleyball and the RVA. In addition, the Foreign Guest Coach must also meet all requirements of USA Volleyball and the RVA in order to be listed on the roster as an assistant coach.

XI. INQUIRIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION: Updated information relevant to all USA Championship events is maintained on the USA Volleyball web site at www.usavolleyball.org. For all other information, contact the Events Department at the USAV National Office.

**DEFINITIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR RVA-SANCTIONED
REGIONAL and INTERREGIONAL COMPETITION
(for Adult and Junior Teams and Players)**

These definitions, guidelines and conditions shall be used for team and individual eligibility for participation in USAV Regional Volleyball Association (RVA) sanctioned interregional competition. This may or may not apply to USAV-sanctioned competitions.

- A. Authority. Refer to Bylaws, Article XIII, Operating Code, Article VII (Regional Volleyball Associations), and the Regional Assembly *Administrative Manual*.
- B. Definitions. Refer to USAV Operating Code, Article VII
 1. Athletes.
 - a. Eligible Athlete. An athlete who is eligible for Olympic, FIVB and USAV competition pursuant to the current codes of eligibility of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), 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.
 - b. Ineligible Athlete. An athlete ruled to be in violation of the current eligibility requirements of the IOC, the FIVB, the USOC or USAV.
 - c. International Athlete. Refer to Bylaws.
 - d. Domestic Athlete. Refer to Bylaws.
 - e. 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).
 - f. 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.
 - g. Junior Volleyball Athlete. An athlete who meets the age/grade requirements, as specified, and is registered by a Member Organization that has been authorized by the Corporation to conduct Junior Volleyball activity.
 - h. Adult Athlete. An athlete who does not meet the definition of a Junior Volleyball Athlete.
- C. 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 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.
- D. Classification of Teams and Competitions of Member Organizations
 1. U.S. Open Tournament Teams. Teams composed of athletes from any source who are highly skilled, elite-level performers.
 2. U.S. Club Tournament Teams. Teams composed of athletes from the same Member Organization.
 3. U.S. Masters and Seniors Tournament Teams. Teams composed of athletes who meet the approved minimum age.
 4. U.S. Junior Tournament Teams. Teams composed of athletes from a Member Organization who meet the approved maximum age.

5. U.S. Park Volley and Beach Tournament Teams. Teams composed of athletes from any source consistent with tournament requirements.
 6. U.S. Co-Ed Tournament Teams. Teams composed of athletes meeting the definition of co-ed competition and consistent with tournament requirements. Teams may be conglomerated from any source.
 7. U.S. U-Volley Tournament Teams. Teams composed of female or male athletes who do not exceed the maximum individual height defined by the current FIVB Rules of Play.
- E. Volleyball Season for Regional Volleyball Associations: The RVAA and each RVA shall determine the dates of the fellowship and sanctioned seasons consistent with the USA Volleyball Championship Events program. The Regional Assembly shall ensure that such seasons are in conformance with the insurance contract/program of the Corporation.
1. The indoor six-player sanctioned season shall generally begin no later than January 1st and end August 31st or at the conclusion of the last USA Volleyball championship event, whichever is later.
 2. The Junior indoor sanctioned season generally is concurrent with the adult but may vary from state due to high school, leagues and other considerations.
 3. The season for any RVA competition may be established by the RVA and published by the RVA.
 4. The RVA Assembly/Junior Assembly shall inform the USAV National Office of any changes in applicable competition standards. In addition, the Assemblies shall ensure the dates and applicable standards are published, unless such requirements are already published as part of the USAV Operating Code.
 5. A player may compete in more than one season/discipline, either concurrently or consecutively.
- F. Rules of the Game Governing Play
1. FIVB Rules: The strict English translation of the playing rules approved and adopted by the FIVB Rules of the Game Commission.
 2. *Domestic Competition Regulations*: Clarification and safety modifications of the FIVB Rules as approved by the USA Volleyball Rules Testing Commission, for domestic competition and specified in the current *Domestic Competition Regulations* published by USA Volleyball.
 3. National Sanctioned Events: Must be played with the FIVB Rules or the *Domestic Competition Regulations* unless approved in advance by the USA Volleyball Rules Testing Commission. Such variance must be published with the tournament announcement.
 4. RVA Competition: Uses the rules of play adopted by USA Volleyball or a variation thereof approved by USAV.
- G. Sanctioning: Sanctioned competition protects a player's eligibility for participation in regional, zonal, national and international competition.
1. Any team or club desiring to conduct a volleyball tryout, trial, event, local, regional, or zonal competition shall seek a sanction/approval from the RVA where the competition is to take place.
 2. See the *USAV Guidebook* for sanction requirements for national and international competition, USA Volleyball Championship events and national team exhibition competitions, trials and events.
 3. The following competitions may require a sanction from the RVA.
 - a. Fellowship competition.
 - b. Recreation competition.

NOTE: Non-sanctioned competitions are not covered by USAV insurance.

H. Eligibility for RVA-Sanctioned Competitions

1. Registration

- a. All participants (e.g., players, coaches, managers, team trainers, officials, teams and others) who are involved in a sanctioned competition shall be registered through the appropriate RVA.
- b. Refer to Foreign Team policy for foreign national player registration.

2. Representation

- a. **Indoor Six-Player Teams:** All participants shall abide by the rules and guidelines regarding club affiliation as established by the Regional Volleyball Association in which they hold a membership. A change in geographical location due to a job or military transfer, or scholastic or collegiate status, may receive special consideration. The player (or in case of a minor, the parents or guardian) desiring to change shall submit a request for transfer to the Commissioner of the RVAs involved. RVAs may establish exceptions to this rule, such as release and transfers between intra-regional teams.
 - b. **Fellowship, Co-ed and Outdoor Teams:** A player may represent any number of teams or clubs in sanctioned competitions during these seasons only, whether concurrent or consecutive.
 - c. **Conglomerate Seniors and Masters Teams:** Players of these teams may compete in all open sanctioned competitions during a current sanctioned season consistent with the rules and regulations of the RVA where they are registered, without jeopardizing their individual eligibility.
 - d. **Junior National Volleyball Teams:** All participants shall abide by the rules and guidelines regarding club affiliation as established by the Regional Volleyball Association in which they hold a membership. A family relocation due to a job or military transfer may receive special consideration. The player, or in case of a minor, the parents or guardian, desiring to change will be required to submit a request for transfer to another team or RVA to the Commissioner of the RVA(s) involved. RVAs may establish exceptions to this rule, such as release and transfers between intraregional teams. It is recommended that these guidelines be published and distributed.
3. **Non-Sanctioned Competition:** RVA-registered players and teams competing in non-sanctioned competition may jeopardize their eligibility, depending upon the policies and/or regulations of the Regional Volleyball Association where they are registered. USAV insurance is not in force during these competitions.
4. **Participant's Code of Conduct:** All participants in sanctioned competition shall sign and abide by the Participant's Code of Conduct as adopted by the Regional Assembly and Junior Assembly in concurrence with that document as issued by USAV. See the *USA Volleyball Guidebook* and the Governing Documents sections for the USAV wording of subject code.
5. **Substance Abuse Policy:** All participants shall abide by RVA and USAV Policies and Sanctions for Substance Abuse. See the *USA Volleyball Guidebook* and the Governing Documents section for the USAV wording of subject policies.

I. Eligibility Requirements for Sanctioned RVA Tournaments

1. Tournament Entry Requirements

- a. When a team applies for entry into a sanctioned event or tournament, it shall specify the division and classification of competition for which it is applying.
- b. When more than one classification of competition is conducted simultaneously by the sanctioning RVA:
 - 1.) a player shall be eligible to compete for only one team and in

- only one tournament, regardless of eligibility for more than one; and
- 2.) a team shall compete in no more than one tournament simultaneously, regardless of its eligibility for more than one.
2. General Eligibility Requirements: Players and teams shall satisfy the requirements in Section 1. RVAs may impose tournament-specific requirements.

NOTE: Information regarding Guidelines for Conducting Tournaments may be found on the web site at www.usavolleyball.org and in the *2013-2015 Domestic Competition Regulations*.

(Initially adopted in May 1976 and amended periodically as required. Any amendments made to this document not reflected here will be posted on the USA Volleyball web site at www.usavolleyball.org.)