

Chapter 2

General Tournament Information



USA***Volleyball***®

OPEN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

May 24– May 29, 2019
Greater Columbus Convention Center
Columbus, OH

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General Seeding Information

Information about the brackets, seeding of the tournament and scheduled match times will be available during the check-in process. It will also be posted at the “Results” stations near the Championship Desk in the playing venue.

Seeding for the USA Volleyball Open National Championships is determined by examining various criteria provided by the regions, team representatives and past results. Upon registration, please fill out and submit the USAV digital seeding form. Seeding criteria include but are not limited to those items listed below:

1. **OPEN** Teams

- a. Gold Flight Finish from previous year (four returning starters retain seed)
- b. Roster strength (when known)
- c. Previous National experience
- d. Region Ranking
- e. Balance within pools as to geographical area

2. **CLUB** Classification Teams (AA, A, BB, B)

- a. Gold Flight Finish from previous year (four returning starters retain seed)
- b. Previous National Experience (depending on overall finish)
- c. Zonal Finish
- d. Results from “out of region” tournaments
- e. Typical Strength of region teams
- f. Ranking within region (provided by the region’s commissioner)
- g. Balance within pools as to Zone, Region and geographical area

3. **AGE** Classification Teams

- a. Gold Flight Finish from previous year (four returning starters retain seed)
- b. Teams moving up in age classification who were Gold Flight finishers in previous national tournaments
- c. Previous National Experience
- d. Results from “out of region” tournaments
- e. Ranking within region (provided by the region’s commissioner)
- f. Balance within pools as to Zone, Region and geographical area

Forfeits & Withdrawals

When your team enters this Championship Event, you have made a commitment to play the full tournament. USAV places high importance on attendance of Finals Matches at every level. In other words: Schedule your travel to allow competition through the completion of the tournament.

- **Matches CANNOT BE RESCHEDULED to accommodate travel schedules.**
- Be prepared to play at 8am on the first day and as late as 9pm on the championship day.

WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE

If a team has to withdraw from a match, it is the responsibility of the team representative to inform the Competition Director no later than **one (1) hour** after completion of the team's last match.

The Championship Committee will attempt to fill the Finals Match of any flight, and / or determine an alternative action as required.

WITHDRAWAL RULES

If a team withdraws from competition after pool play has begun, and prior to the conclusion of subject pool play, all match records shall stand. All un-played matches shall be forfeited per the Rules of Play and counted in the win-loss tabulation accordingly. All other teams in that pool shall be advanced for assignment to the next stage of competition.

WITHDRAWAL PENALTIES

Barring injury or emergency, withdrawal from a match will result in the following at the discretion of the Championship Committee:

- Forfeiture of all standing in the tournament (including seeding for future events)
- Recommendation for disciplinary action to the Organization which they represent
- Disciplinary action including suspending participation in future USA Championship Events.

Officials



Referees: USA National Referees will be assigned to the USAV Club, Masters / Seniors tournaments. USA National Referees and FIVB Arbiters will be assigned to the USAV Open tournaments. The Officials' Division may approve the use of lower USAV-rated Referees for the second referee (R2) position, as necessary, in the USAV Club BB and B tournaments, and in the Masters / Seniors tournaments only.



Scorekeepers: USA National Scorekeepers will be assigned to all matches in the Event. The Officials' Division may approve the use of lower USAV-rated Scorekeepers, as necessary, in the USAV Club BB and B, Masters/Seniors tournaments.

Team Officiating Duties

1. Teams entered in the Open Division will **NOT** be required to provide work teams. The higher entry fee provides for full officiating support teams and best of five (5) set matches.
2. Teams entered in the Club (AA, A, BB, B), Masters / Seniors, and Sitting tournaments are required to provide a total of four (4) support officials: two (2) line judges, one (1) Libero Tracker and one (1) scoreboard operator. Officiating assignments will be listed on-line through AES. These assignments generally will be immediately prior to or after the match in which the team has played.
3. Only the Competition Director / designee may release a team from an officiating assignment.
4. Failure to provide officials as assigned will result in the following actions:
 - a. **1st Offense:** For every minute the officiating team is late, or does not appear, one point shall be assessed and given to their next opponent – up to a 25-0 forfeit of the first set. This time calculation will begin at the designated warm-up time ten minutes prior to the time when the assigned match begins.
 - b. **Additional Offenses:** Forfeiture of assigned team's next match.

Awards

GOLD FLIGHTS * (Team and Individual Awards)	SILVER, BRONZE & COPPER FLIGHTS (Team Awards Only)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Champions ◆ Runners-Up ◆ 3rd Place ◆ All-Tournament & MVP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 1st Place

One All-Tournament team (six players only) will be selected from the men's and women's gold flight competition only.

Most Valuable Player: one player may be selected for this recognition in each classification from the gold flight only, and shall be in addition to the players named to the All-Tournament team.

***NOTE:** Should a 4-team tournament be approved for competition, there will not be individual awards or All-Tournament recognition.

All – Tournament & MVP Selection Criteria

1. The criteria for consideration of selection to an All-Tournament team are:
 - a. Playing effectiveness (60 percent)
 - b. Team play (20 percent)
 - c. Demonstration of good sportsmanship, general attitude and conduct on and off the court (20 percent).
 - d. Any player who has been sanctioned by either the Event Arbitrator and/or a match referee shall not be considered for All-Tournament selection.

2. The criteria for consideration of selection as the Most Valuable Player are:
 - a. Team play (75 percent)
 - b. Value to his/her team at critical times consistently throughout competition (15 percent)
 - c. Demonstration of strong leadership qualities during the conduct of competition (10 percent).

3. The selection process will utilize the Tournament Selection Committee as well as tournament participants.
 - a. The All-Tournament Selection Committee appointed by the Events Department for the event will assign observers and process nominations.
 - b. Participating teams will be given an opportunity to nominate outstanding players at each match during medal-round competition.
 - c. Team representatives will be given an opportunity to meet with an All-Tournament Committee member to determine the final selections on the final day of competition.

USAV Alcoholic Beverage Consumption Policy

USA Volleyball prohibits the consumption of alcoholic beverages on or near courtside by any participant listed on the roster (e.g., players, coaches, assistant coaches, team representatives, managers, and trainers) during competition and work assignments. Consumption of alcoholic beverages on or near courtside during competition or work assignments could result in disciplinary action such as a warning, deduction of point(s), participant disqualification, game or match forfeiture, team disqualification, or other such sanction.

Cooler & Ice Chest Policy

Coolers / Ice chests are **NOT** permitted inside the convention center facilities.

Practice Opportunities

Practice time on competition courts will be available beginning at 1:00 PM on Thursday, May 23rd. All practice sessions will be limited to a one (1) hour session. Teams may sign up for practice courts anytime that the registration / check-in desk is open. Teams beginning play after Friday, May 24th, will be assigned practice courts as / if available.

Ball Handling

All ball handling is restricted to the court surfaces within the convention center. No ball handling is permitted on the concrete surfaces or hallways of the facility.

Sports Medicine / First Aid / Taping

A taping / training area and athletic trainers will be available. Taping supplies will NOT be furnished. Players must provide the tape / bandage or the player will be charged for needed supplies. Hospitals are located near the playing venue / headquarters hotel. Emergency transportation (to hospitals only) will be provided if needed. The athletic trainers' facility will be located on the Convention Center floor in a central location.

Equipment Approvals

Prior to a team's first match, the Event athletic trainers shall approve all braces to be worn by participants during the tournament. Trainers will decide on the acceptability of a brace and give the player a written approval. Players should keep this document for the duration of competition.

NOTE: Ankle supports are specifically excluded.

Event Merchandise



Event merchandise may be purchased in the Greater Columbus Convention Center during the USA Volleyball Open National Championships.

NO USED TOURNAMENT BALLS WILL BE SOLD AT THIS EVENT.

Vendor Licensing & Restrictions

Under the terms of the contractual agreement between USA Volleyball and the Greater Columbus Convention Center, there are strict regulations and specified restrictions as to the sale of retail and wholesale merchandise and other items in all areas of the playing venue.

USA Volleyball also has regulations in respect to the sales of event-specific merchandise and resale items normally licensed through its Marketing Department. This notice is posted for your information.

Violations of these conditions by a Member Organization or registered individuals, and made known to USA Volleyball, are subject to disciplinary and possibly legal action by USA Volleyball.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: PERMISSION TO SELL: Sales of merchandise, services, officials' apparel and equipment, souvenirs, publications, food or drink and all other items at the playing venue is strictly prohibited unless prior written license is received from USA Volleyball specific to this Event and the Great Columbus Convention Center, as applicable.

Required Resources

We recommend that every Team Representative purchase or download and have in his / her possession a current copy of the USA Volleyball Guidebook and USA Volleyball Domestic Competition Regulations in order to be sufficiently aware of required information regarding the USA Volleyball Bylaws, Operating Code, other policies and procedures and the current Domestic Competition Regulations.