



***USA*Volleyball®**

## **NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP MANUAL**

### **Girls' Spring Junior National Championships**

**(The following manual contains information regarding both the National Qualifiers and the  
Girls' Spring Junior National Championships)**

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**2017/2018 Season**

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# INTRODUCTION

## USA VOLLEYBALL AND THE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

USA Volleyball (USAV), recognized by the United States Olympic Committee as the National Governing Body for volleyball, holds several national championships annually, including the USA Volleyball Spring Girls' Junior National Championships (SGJNC). The USA Volleyball Girls' Junior National Qualifiers (NQ) are one avenue for teams to gain entry into those championships.

The SGJNC provides competition by age classifications in various divisions of the Championships. Teams have to qualify to play at the SGJNC for all Divisions except the Patriot Divisions through one of two main paths; one is the NQ process and the other is the Regional process. In the case of the Patriot Divisions, a team may simply enter the tournament through the established means.

A team can earn a bid to the SGJNC's by finishing in a bid award position at a NQ, through the Open At-Large bid process (for Open divisions only), through a Region's qualifying process (for National and American divisions, as well as possibly the USA division), or through the Region Reallocation process (for National and American divisions only).

## PURPOSE OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP MANUAL

The NQs are licensed by USAV and must operate within parameters set by USAV. Those parts of the NQs that impact play, and thus entry into the SGJNC, must adhere to standards set out in this Championship Manual (CM).

The primary purpose of this CM is to publish the standards established by USAV for the SGJNCs and the NQs. The secondary purpose is to explain the process of qualifying to play at the SGJNC.

The CM is intended to be a resource to those hosting one of the NQs and to those organizations whose teams attend the SGJNC and the NQs.

Note: A separate manual has been established to cover the GJNC and its qualifying process.

## CHANGING THE CHAMPIONSHIP MANUAL

The CM is a USAV corporate document. Only USAV staff authorizes changes, deletions and additions to this CM and to the qualifying process itself.

Suggestions to change the CM and the qualifying process can come from the USAV Junior Assembly (JA), USAV Commissions, USAV Events Department (Events Department), the National Qualifier Directors (QD) or any USAV Member Organization. Suggested changes must follow a review process in order to be approved; changes that have monetary or legal significance may require a review by the QDs. Once a suggested change is approved, the implementation may take up to two full seasons.

The Events Department annually updates the CM and distributes an electronic copy of the updated version to each QD no later than October 15<sup>th</sup> each year. The Events Department also posts the update on the USAV website, no later than November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**American Division:** A Division of the SGJNC where teams must obtain a bid to participate. Bids are earned through finishing in a “bid” position in the American Division of a NQ or the team’s Region, through a trickle down at that event, or through the reallocation process. Should a team that has won an American Bid later win an Open, USA, or National bid, the American Bid will be allocated by process described in the “Reallocation Bids” section of this manual. The SGJNC field size for American divisions will be 64 teams.

**At-Large Bid:** See “Bid.”

**Bid:** A bid is an invitation to a team to play in the SGJNC. To use the bid, a team must meet all entry deadlines and other requirements set by both their USAV region and the USAV national office.

**At-Large bid:** A SGJNC bid awarded upon the completion of the Qualifier Season (both National and Regional) by a Committee of National Staff or its Designees based on performance during that season, in relation to other non-qualified teams in that age group.

**Reallocation bid:** A National, USA or American division bid to the SGJNC that is unused and is returned for reallocation to a Region. Reallocation is performed by the Events Department.

**Trickle Down Bid:** A SGJNC bid awarded at a NQ to a team finishing lower than a usual bid award position. This happens in some situations when a higher finishing team has previously accepted a SGJNC bid from another NQ or a region process or a bid is declined, at an 18s’ Division of a NQ.

**CM:** Championship Manual

**Event:** Multiple tournaments or activities associated within the same title, sanction and host organization.

**Frozen Player:** A player who is restricted from participating on the roster of another team. The specifics of the “Frozen Player” are numerous and can vary between the SGJNC and the GJNC. Please refer to these specifics found on Page 25 of this document.

**GJNC:** Girls’ Junior National Championships

**JA:** Junior Assembly of USA Volleyball

**Match:** A head-to-head competition between two teams within a specified round of a tournament. While typically two sets out of three, matches may also involve an automatic three sets, or simply one set (used in tie breaking situations).

**Qualifying match:** A match that “qualifies” a team for the SGJNC.

**Seeding match:** A non-elimination match meant to place or “seed” teams into the next round of play.

**National Division:** A Division of the SGJNC where teams must obtain a bid to participate. Bids are allocated to the Regions for distribution to its teams. Regions will receive bids for this tournament, depending upon enrollment from the previous year. Unused Region bids will be reallocated to other Regions. The SGJNC field size for National Divisions will be 48 teams.

**NQ:** National Qualifier Event

**Open Division:** A Division of the SGJNC where teams must obtain a bid to participate. Bids are earned through finishing in a “bid” position in the Open Division of a NQ, through a Trickle Down at that Event, or through the At-Large process. Open bids are not available for allocation through the Regions. The SGJNC field size for Open Divisions will be 36 teams.

**Patriot Division:** A Division of the SGJNC where teams may gain access to the tournament by simply entering the Event through the established process. Order of acceptance will be initially based on date of entry until the tournament is full. The SGJNC field size for Patriot Divisions will range from 24-72+ teams.

**Playing Surface:** Area deemed as “playable” by the ground rules for that court.

**Reallocation Bid:** See “Bid.”

**Round of play:** A specified segment of a tournament (typically a pool or playoff bracket). Tie breaker competition is NOT considered a round of play. All teams may not play in all rounds of play.

**Sanction:** Recognition and coverage of a given event, and/or tournament within an event, by either a Region of USAV or the National Office.

**Seeding:** The order in which teams are ranked to begin a tournament.

**SGJNC:** An 18 & Under National Championship that takes place in the spring with the 18 Open, 18 National, 18 USA, 18 American, and 18 Patriot Divisions.

**Team:** A minimum of 6 rostered players and at least one coach who is registered, IMPACT & SafeSport certified, and background screened.

**Tie:** When two or more teams end pool play with identical match records.

**Tie Break:** Method by which ties, after pool play has concluded, are given a ranked order of finish to either advance to the next round of play or be placed into a competitive tie breaking match or series of matches.

**Trickle Down Bid:** See "Bid."

**Tournament:** Competition of a specific group of teams (i.e. Girls' 18 & Under Open Tournament) that could also be known as a "Championship."

**USA Division:** A Division of the SGJNC where teams must obtain a bid to participate. Bids are earned through finishing in a "bid" position in the USA Division of a NQ, or through a Trickle Down at that Event. Should a team that accepted a USA Bid later win an Open or National bid, the USA bid will remain in the Region of the team that originally accepted the USA bid. If the Region refuses to allocate this USA bid, would go into an At-Large process. The SGJNC field size for USA Divisions will be 48 teams.

**USAV:** USA Volleyball



***USA******Volleyball***®

## **CHAPTER 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION**

# USA VOLLEYBALL JUNIOR PLAYER AGE DEFINITION

## For use during the 2017-2018 Season

Once a player participates (including but not limited to practicing, training, attending official 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 national programming, which includes but is not limited to national JNC qualifying and championship events.

**To determine the correct age division, please find the Month of Birth in the left column and then the year of birth in the same row. The heading of the column matching the Year of Birth is the correct age bracket.**

	<u>18U1</u>	<u>18U</u>	<u>17U</u>	<u>16U</u>	<u>15U</u>	<u>14U</u>	<u>13U</u>	<u>12U</u>	<u>11U</u>
<b>Sept</b>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
<b>Oct</b>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
<b>Nov</b>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
<b>Dec</b>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
<b>Jan</b>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
<b>Feb</b>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
<b>Mar</b>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
<b>Apr</b>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
<b>May</b>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
<b>June</b>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
<b>July</b>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
<b>Aug</b>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>

**1 Players who were born on or after September 1, 1999 OR players who were born on or after September 1, 1998 and a high school student in the twelfth (12th) grade or below during some part of the current academic year.**

**Note:** These age definitions are used by domestic club programs and are NOT the same as the age definitions for the International and Domestic High Performance programs for 2018.

The Age Definition Policy was most recently revised by the USA Volleyball Board of Directors on January 19, 2002.

The classification cut-off date of September 1 was reviewed by the USAV Junior Assembly and the USA Regional Volleyball Association Assembly prior and during the USAV 2017 Annual Meetings and research justified the continuation of the cut-off date of September 1. These definitions will be reviewed again in October of 2020.

## ***Age Exceptions for 2018***

- An age EXCEPTION will be granted to a high school junior whose date of birth is prior to September 1 of 2000 to participate in the GJNC. This exception only applies to the GJNC event. It does not extend to National Qualifier events.
- A player may participate in the qualification process with one club in a given season that has not yet qualified in that season. Once a team has qualified, the players on the roster used to qualify are frozen to that team for the championship (GJNC or SGJNC) and may not participate with any other team, qualified or non-qualified, at a national qualifier. If that player is eligible by age definition to play in an age group younger than 18s, she may participate at the Championship that does not coincide with the age group with which she qualified, provided it is within the same club
  - EXAMPLE 1: A player in the 17s age division plays on an 18s team at a national qualifier and that team Qualifies for the SGJNC in the Open Division. That player may not play on any other team (e.g. a 17s team trying to qualify for 17 Open) at any National Qualifying events to help that team qualify for the GJNC for the remainder of that club season. She may, however, be added to the 17 Open roster to play in the GJNC within that club.
  - EXAMPLE 2: A club has a team that has qualified for the 18 USA Division of the SGJNC, they may add a player from their club who plays on a younger team to play in the SGJNC even if the younger team has qualified for the GJNC.

# SGJNC DIVISIONS OF PLAY - OPEN, NATIONAL, USA, AMERICAN & PATRIOT

There are five major divisions of play at SGJNC – Open divisions, National divisions, USA divisions, American divisions, and the Patriot divisions.

The goal of the SGJNC **Open division** is to identify, through competition, the best team in each age group from among 36 teams that have earned bids. The NQ Open divisions are designed to select those 36 teams.

- To participate in an Open division at the SGJNC, a team must earn a bid from participating in an NQ Open division – either winning the bid outright at an NQ or being selected for an At-Large Bid after competing in an NQ Open division (see *Open At-Large Bids*).

The goal of the SGJNC **National, USA and American divisions** is to showcase regionally strong teams and provide the opportunity for more teams to participate at the SGJNC.

- Teams have three avenues to earn a bid for a SGJNC National, USA or American division:
  - Earn a bid at a NQ (National (USA or American));
  - Earn a bid through their region’s qualifying process (National or American); or
  - Earn a bid from their region through the Re-allocation process.

## *Age Classification, Divisions & Team Entries*

	<b>18 &amp; Under</b>
OPEN Division	36 teams
NATIONAL Division	48 teams
USA Division	36 teams
AMERICAN Division	64 teams
PATRIOT Division	48* teams

\*Patriot divisions will have a soft cap of the number listed above, but may accept additional teams in a tournament, in multiples of 4 teams, dependent on available court space.

(For dates determining player eligibility for each age division, please see the USAV website: [www.usavolleyball.org](http://www.usavolleyball.org)).

## NATIONAL QUALIFIER PROCESS

The primary purpose of the NQs is to select, through tournament competition, Open, USA and American teams in various age divisions to compete at the SGJNC. Teams may qualify for a bid outside the NQ process for the National, USA, and American Divisions. There are a number of secondary purposes for the NQs, including:

- Promote inter-regional play.
- Provide a high level of competition for teams at different levels within each age division.
- Showcase junior talent for college recruiters and National Team programs.
- Promote the growth and development of volleyball in a particular geographic area.
- Provide a training ground for officials.

NQs are geographically assigned to cover a large portion of the United States to the extent that most teams can attend at least one NQ within 8 hours drive. Currently, there are 16 NQs for the SGJNC:; Beast of the Southeast (Atlanta), Big D (Dallas), Boston VB Festival, Colorado Crossroads (Denver), Golden State (San Mateo, CA), Florida National 18s (Ft. Lauderdale), Girls' Winter Volleyball Championships (Chicago), Music City Volleyball Championship (Nashville), Lone Star (Houston), Mideast (Indianapolis), Northeast (Philadelphia), Northern Lights (Minneapolis), Ohio Valley 18s National Qualifier, Pacific Northwest (Spokane), KCMLK (Kansas City), Southern California (Anaheim).

## USAV'S ROLE IN NATIONAL QUALIFIER EVENTS

The NQs are licensed by USAV, with sanction from the USAV National Office, which develops, standardizes, evaluates and oversees the qualification process for the SGJNC through the Events Department. USAV and the Events Department monitor the qualifying process each season, and, with their various Commissions:

- Approve formats and flow charts for the NQ divisions.
- Determine the process by which teams are accepted or denied entry into a NQ division.
- Approve each NQ competition schedule grid.
- Approve systems to seed the NQ Open Divisions.
- Review and recommend improvements for NQ operations.
- Establish and verify individual eligibility requirements for all participants in both bid and non-bid divisions.

## DIVISIONS & SIZE OF FIELD AT NQ EVENTS

The Events Department, with input from the Directors of each of the NQs, determines the maximum number of teams a NQ may host in each Open, USA division. Currently, a NQ may host a maximum of 48 teams in each Open division and 128 teams in each USA and American division. On a case-by-case basis, the Events Department may grant a waiver for a NQ division to exceed these numbers.

## SGJNC BIDS AWARDED BY A NATIONAL QUALIFIER

USAV allows each NQ to award a certain number of bids to the top finishing teams in Open, USA and American divisions. The number of bids a NQ has to award is pre-determined according to the number of teams entered in the NQ division on the NQ's deadline date or the date the division's seeding is finalized, whichever number is larger (see the following chart).

OPEN: 18's#&		USA: 18's *#		AMERICAN: 18's	
Number of Teams	Number of Bids	Number of Teams	Number of Bids	Number of Teams	Number of Bids
< 8	0	< 8	0	<8	0
8 - 11	1	8 - 15	1	8-128	1
12 - 15	2	16 - 23	2		
16 - 48	3	24 - 128	3		

\*Available USA Division bids will be allocated through an at-large process. Eligible teams must have competed in a USA Division to be considered.

# For 2018, 18s NQs are capped on the number of bids they may offer. See chart for the maximum number of bids allocated by each 18 NQ.

2018 Dates	Qualifier	Location	Open bids	USA Bids	American Bids
January 13-15	Girls Winter Volleyball Championship	Chicago, IL	2	3	1
January 13-15	KC MLK 18s National Qualifier	Kansas City, MO	2	3	1
January 26-28	Northern Lights 18s Qualifier	Omaha, NE	2	3	1
January 26-28	AVC Dallas	Dallas, TX	2	3	1
February 2-4	Ohio Valley	Columbus, OH	1	3	1
February 2-4	Music City Volleyball Championships	Nashville, TN	2	3	1
February 17-19	Florida National 18Q	Jacksonville, FL	1	3	1
February 23-25	Beast of the Southeast	Atlanta, GA	2	3	1
March 2-4	Boston VB Festival	Boston, MA	2	3	1
March 2-4	Golden State Qualifier	San Mateo, CA	3	3	1
March 2-4	Southern California 18s	Anaheim, CA	3	3	1
March 16-18	Crossroads 18s	Denver, CO	3	3	1
March 23-25	Lone Star 18s	Houston, TX	3	3	1
March 23-25	Pacific Northwest Qualifier	Spokane, WA	2	3	1
March 23-25	Midwest 18s	Indianapolis, IN	3	3	1
March 24-26	Northeast Qualifier	Gaylord National Harbor, MD	1	3	1

Bids awarded at NQs must be accepted in writing at or prior to the time of the bid award, with some limited exceptions (see [Rules for Priority of Bid Use](#) and [SGJNC Bids Awarded Through a Region Process](#)).

**For a team to use a bid earned in any qualifying process, the team must complete all entry requirements for their region and for the SGJNC by the deadline dates.** If a team has not met all the entry requirements by the deadline date, that team may not use its bid and also may be subject to additional sanctions (see [Penalties for Not Using a Bid](#)).

Teams that earn and accept a bid at a National Qualifier will receive an email from the USAV Events Department by the Wednesday following their qualification. This email will detail the requirements for entry into the SGJNC.

## ***National Qualifier Bids – Open Divisions***

In the NQ Open divisions, bids go to the teams that finish the competition in a bid award position.

If one or more teams wins a bid award position at a NQ and previously earned an Open bid at another NQ, the bid(s) can trickle-down to the next highest finishing team, provided the next highest finishing team finished no lower than eighth place in the tournament.

If a team previously or subsequently earns a National, USA or American bid either from a region or a NQ, the team must use the Open bid. The [Rules for Priority of Use of a Bid](#) (see section below) determine which team receives the National, USA or American bid.

## ***Open At-Large Bids***

The Events Department, with the assistance of its appropriate Commission, awards some SGJNC Open bids as At-Large Bids. An At-Large bid is an Open bid that was not awarded to a team at a NQ because of a trickle-down limitation, or a bid that was reserved for the At-Large Pool. Teams will automatically be considered for an At-Large bid provided that the team must:

- Play in at least one NQ in the same SGJNC Open division age group for which the team is applying; and,
- Comply with the both their region's and USAV's SGJNC deadline dates and application processes; and,
- Submit to the Events Department complete, accurate and up-to-date results for all of the team's competition through the last day of the last NQ, not later than the end of business on the Tuesday after the finish of the last NQ.

The Events Department will announce the teams winning SGJNC Open At-Large bids no later than the second Monday after the last NQ. The Events Department will notify teams awarded an At-Large bid by email, sent to the Coach and Club Director whose emails are included on the SGJNC entry application.

## ***USA Division Bids***

At a NQ, the USA division has up to three bids. A USA Division must have at least eight (8) teams to be able to award a bid in that respective tournament.

A team must accept or reject a USA bid in writing upon earning the bid. If rejected, the bid will trickle down to the next eligible, highest finishing team, provided that team finished no lower than 8<sup>th</sup> place in a tournament.

Trickle down scenarios for a USA Bid:

- If a team that wins a USA bid earned an Open bid or accepted a USA bid from a previous NQ, or accepted a National bid from a Regional Bid Tournament, the current USA bid may trickle down to the next eligible, highest finishing team, provided that team finished no lower than 8<sup>th</sup> place in the tournament.

## ***American Division Bids***

At a NQ, the American division has one bid. An American Division must have at least eight (8) teams to be able to award a bid in that respective tournament.

A team must accept or reject an American bid in writing upon earning the bid. If rejected, the bid will trickle down to the next eligible, highest finishing team, provided that team finished no lower than 8<sup>th</sup> place in the tournament (see [SGJNC Bids Awarded Through a Region](#)).

Trickle down scenarios for an American Bid:

- If a team that wins an American bid earned an Open bid or accepted a USA bid from a previous NQ, or

accepted a National bid from a Regional Bid Tournament, the current American bid may trickle down to the next eligible, highest finishing team, provided that team finished no lower than 8<sup>th</sup> place in the tournament. The trickle down process must be applied at the conclusion of the division's competition.

- If a team earns and accepts an American bid through a region tournament and then earns an American bid at a NQ, the NQ American bid will supersede the region American bid and the region American bid will return to the region it was originally awarded from for reallocation.
- If a team that wins an American bid accepted an American bid from a previous NQ, the current American bid goes to the next eligible, highest finishing team, provided the next highest finishing team finished no lower than 8<sup>th</sup> place in the tournament. The trickle down process must be applied at the conclusion of the division's competition.

## SGJNC BIDS AWARDED THROUGH A REGION

Regions award bids to two Divisions at the SGJNC – National and American. Each Region will receive at least 1 National bid to award at their discretion. As there are a total of 48 bids to be allocated to 40 Regions, the 8 largest Regions based on Girls' Junior registrations from the previous season (except as noted below) will be awarded a 2<sup>nd</sup> bid to the National Divisions at the SGJNC.

Of the 48 American Division bids, 16 will be awarded at NQ Events with the remaining being allocated to the 32 largest Regions based on Girls' Junior registrants from the previous season except as noted below:

The number of bids received by a particular region may change from year to year.

### ***Reallocation Bids***

Some regions may not use all of their originally allotted bids; in each age division. These unused bids, along with any American bids not accepted by eligible teams at an NQ, become Reallocation bids. The Events Department distributes Reallocation bids to the regions in an order determined both by the number of junior female members and the proximity of that number to certain benchmark membership numbers. The rank order that results from this determination may not be the same rank order that determines which regions get additional bids from the original allotment of SGJNC bids for regions to award.

The Events Department notifies each region of its original bid allotment and any reallocation bids it may receive for each age division.

## RULES FOR PRIORITY OF BID USE

Some teams participate in more than one qualifying process in a season, either through their region, by attending NQs, by applying for an At-Large bid, or by some combination of these processes. If the team earns more than one bid, the following rules apply as to which bid the team must use, and what happens to the other bid(s).

Generally, the priority of bid use is as follows:

1. Open
2. National
3. USA
4. American

When an Open bid is the second bid a team earns, from either a NQ or the At-Large Process:

- If a team previously accepted a USA bid, the team must use the Open Bid. The USA bid will remain in the

region of the team that originally accepted the USA bid. If the region refuses to allocate this USA bid, it reverts back to the NQ and follows the trickle down process.

- If a team previously accepted a National or American bid, the team must use the Open Bid. The National or American bid will remain in the region of the team that originally accepted the National or American bid. If the region refuses to allocate this bid, it reverts back to the NQ and follows the trickle down process.

When a National bid is the second bid a team earns and accepts:

- If a team previously accepted a USA bid, the team must use the National Bid. The USA bid will remain in the region of the team that originally accepted the USA bid. If the region refuses to allocate this USA bid, it reverts to an at-large allocation.
- If a team previously accepted an American bid, the team must use the National Bid. The American bid will remain in the region of the team that originally accepted the American bid. If the region refuses to allocate this bid, it reverts back to the NQ and follows the trickle down process.

When a USA bid is the second bid a team earns:

- If a team previously accepted a National bid from a region, the team must keep the National Bid. The USA bid will trickle down to the next eligible team (see [USA Division Bids](#) for trickle down rules).
- If a team previously accepted an American bid from either an NQ or a region, the team must use the USA bid. The American bid will remain in the region of the team that originally accepted the National or American bid.

## ***Penalties for Not Using Bids***

A team that does not use an earned and accepted bid in the Open, National, USA or American Division of the SGJNC, may be subject to the following penalties:

- If a team earns and accepts an Open bid at a NQ, earns and accepts an Open At-Large bid, or earns and accepts a National or USA bid and subsequently does not participate in the SGJNC, ALL members of the club, to include players, coaches, and the Club Director could be subject to a suspension penalty which involves not being allowed to participate in all NQs, Regional Qualification Events, and the JNCs (both Spring and Summer) for the following season; and,
- The team could be subject to further penalties within the current season; and,
- The Club must pay USAV the SGJNC entry fee for the team.
  - If the Club does not pay the SGJNC Event Entry Fee, the suspension from competing in qualifying events will remain in force until the fee is paid in full.

# NATIONAL QUALIFIER TOURNAMENTS

All NQs must use competition formats approved by the Events Department. The information in this section applies to all NQ tournaments as well as the SGJNC.

## RULES OF PLAY

The rules of play are as prescribed in the USA Volleyball Domestic Competition Regulations. (Note for the 2017-2018 season, the GJNC, SGJNC and NQ events will be using the “TEST” rule for score keeping (DCR pg. 15)).

## TOURNAMENT FORMATS

The tournament format determines the number of pools in a division, the number of teams in each pool and the sequence of play, from pool play through playoffs. A tournament “flow chart” illustrates the sequence of the format components.

## MATCH FORMATS

The preferred match format is pools of 4 playing the best 2-out-of-3 sets.

- The first two sets play to 25 points, rally scoring, with one team winning by two points and no point cap.
- If a third (deciding) set is necessary, it is played to 15, rally scoring, with one team winning by two points and no point cap.
- Some pools of 3 may play all three sets to 25, regardless of whether a team wins the first two. This exception depends on the number of pools of 3 in a division.
- In a 3-team pool, where 3 sets to 25 are played instead of 2 out of 3, and the final finish in the pool is determined by match record. Should one team win the first two sets of the match, that team has won the match, but teams will still play the 3<sup>rd</sup> set. Should there be a 3-way tie in the pool with all 3 teams having a 1-1 match record, ALL sets played will be used when determining set percentage when going to a tie-breaker. When playing the 3<sup>rd</sup> set, there will be a coin flip between sets two and three to determine side, serve and receive, and teams will switch sides when a team reaches 13 points.

For division sizes of 8-16 teams, pools comprised of more than 5 teams may be utilized.

### *Open Division Formats*

The top 4 to 12 teams in an Open division play 3 rounds of pool play, and, if necessary, a single elimination bracket to determine the overall winner of the tournament.

- The third round of pool play is known as the Gold Pools.
- If a team in one of the top 3 positions in an Open Division previously qualified for the SGJNC, additional matches may be required to determine which teams are awarded bids via the trickle down process.
  - The Events Department approves formats for additional trickle down matches prior to the start of the NQ; and,
  - The formats are announced in the tournament information prior to the start of the NQ.

Teams in finish positions lower than the Gold Pools play two rounds of pool play followed by a single elimination

bracket.

Some teams may have an additional qualifying, crossover or seeding match prior to Gold Pools or playoff brackets, depending on the number of teams in a division.

- For a field of less than 17 teams, should large pools (more than 6 teams) be used, one round of pool play followed by single elimination brackets is allowed.

## ***USA and American Division Formats***

All teams in National USA or American divisions play 2 rounds of pool play, followed by single elimination playoff brackets.

Some teams may have an additional qualifying, crossover or seeding match prior to Gold bracket or other playoff brackets, depending on the number of teams in a division.

## ***SEEDING OF DIVISIONS***

The seeding of divisions within a NQ may be either done by the NQ or the NQ may request that it be done by the USAV seeding committee. Should the NQ choose to seed the Open Divisions, the seed order must be approved by the committee prior to the release of the competition schedule. Alterations to these guidelines must be approved by the USAV Events Department.

Seeding for the SGJNC is determined by team results throughout the year as collected by USA Volleyball and entered into the official registration system using team codes. According to these results, the top quarter of all participating teams in a tournament (first seeded teams in the first round of pool play) are seeded numerically by strength.

## **POOL PLAY SEQUENCE**

Pool play sequences, listed below, are allowable for use with all respective pools in a NQ, unless another sequence is approved by the Events Department:

<b>Round</b>	<b>Four-Team Pools</b>	<b>Three-Team Pools</b>	<b>Five-Team Pools on 2 courts</b>
<b>Match 1</b>	1 vs. 3 (ref 2)	1 vs. 3 (ref 2)	1 vs. 5 and 2 vs. 4 (ref 3)
<b>Match 2</b>	2 vs. 4 (ref 1)	2 vs. 3 (ref 1)	1 vs. 4 and 2 vs. 3 (ref 5)
<b>Match 3</b>	1 vs. 4 (ref 3)	1 vs. 2 (ref 3)	1 Hour Break
<b>Match 4</b>	2 vs. 3 (ref 1)		1 vs. 3 and 4 vs. 5 (ref 2)
<b>Match 5</b>	3 vs. 4 (ref 2)		2 vs. 5 and 3 vs. 4 (ref 1)
<b>Match 6</b>	1 vs. 2 (ref 4)		1 vs. 2 and 3 vs. 5 (ref 4)

<b>Round</b>	<b>Four-Team Pools court 1</b>	<b>Four-Team Pools court 2</b>
<b>Match 1</b>	A 1 vs. 3 (ref B3)	A 2 vs. 4 (ref B2)
<b>Match 2</b>	B 1 vs. 3 (ref A3)	B 2 vs. 4 (ref A4)
<b>Match 3</b>	A 2 vs. 3 (ref B3)	A 1 vs. 4 (ref B4)
<b>Match 4</b>	B 2 vs. 3 (ref A2)	B 1 vs. 4 (ref A4)
<b>Match 5</b>	A 1 vs. 2 (ref B4)	A 3 vs. 4 (ref B1)
<b>Match 6</b>	B 3 vs. 4 (ref A1)	B 1 vs. 2 (ref A3)

A team's final pool finish is determined by match results. If team(s) are tied at the completion of pool play, tie breaker procedures will apply (See [Procedures for Breaking Ties](#)).

## PLAYING SCHEDULES

- All pool play matches are scheduled at least one hour apart. Some pools may have play on two days to complete the pool (for example, begin play one day in the evening and finish the next morning).
- The first match of a pool must begin at its scheduled time. Within a pool, and after the first match, a match may begin up to 15 minutes before the scheduled starting time provided the two teams competing, the officials and the tournament staff all agree to it, and provided that there is sufficient time for the warm-up protocol.
- For NQs, trickle-down matches are required to be played only if necessary to determine bid awards.
- Playoff brackets may not be larger than 24 teams.
- All teams will be scheduled for at least 1 match on the final day of competition.

## COURT USE

- Events may not schedule more than 13 matches on a court in one day, unless otherwise approved by the USAV Events Department. Tie-breaking sets do not count as scheduled matches.
- Final matches of the day must be scheduled to begin no later than 9:00 p.m. (with an 8:00 a.m. start) or 9:30 p.m. (with an 8:30 a.m. start). For day 3 of competition, matches may not be scheduled to begin later than 3:00 p.m.
- If a division is larger than 64 teams, the first round of playoffs can be scheduled for the second day. Teams must still be given a minimum of 1 match on the third day.

## WARM-UP PROTOCOL

For Junior competition, when one team has exclusive use of the court, the other team must either be at its team bench or out of the playing area. Warming up with balls at the team bench or in the spectator walkways is not permitted. Only USAV members may be on the playing surface to assist with shagging balls during warm-ups. Only USAV members may be on the playing surface to assist with shagging balls during warm-ups.

**Primary Warm-up Protocol – (5-4-4):** – For all teams in their first match of a round of play.

- Five (5) minutes of shared court time for ball handling; and
- Four (4) minutes of exclusive court time for the serving team; and
- Four (4) minutes of exclusive court time for the receiving team.
- There will be no shared hitting time.

**Secondary Warm-Up Protocol (2-4-4):** For all other matches within the round of play.

- 2 minutes of shared court time for ball handling; and
- 4 minutes of exclusive court time for the serving team; and
- 4 minutes of exclusive court time for the receiving team.
- There will be no shared hitting time.

A crossover match or tie-breaking match that immediately follows pool play is part of that previous single round of play; teams follow the Secondary Warm-Up Protocol set out below.

A crossover match, seeding match or qualifying match that occurs after a scheduled break, after the conclusion of pool

play, is a separate round of play; teams in this round follow the Primary Warm-Up Protocol. If all Parties agree, the warm-up time may be shortened.

Only USAV members may be on the playing surface to assist with shagging balls during warm-ups.

# PROCEDURES FOR BREAKING TIES

At the conclusion of a pool, the pool finish positions of the teams are determined by their pool match records.

- If there is a tie in match record among 2 or more teams in the pool, tie(s) will be resolved using the SGJNC National Tie Break Rules.
- Even in 3 team pools where all 3 sets are required to be played, match record - not set record - will determine a team's finish in the pool.

## TWO-WAY TIES: 2 teams tied in match record

There will be *no* tie breaker sets.

- The higher finishing team will be the team that won the pool play match between the 2 tied teams (head-to-head). This is the procedure for **all two-way ties**, even when one team might still win a bid.

## THREE-WAY TIES: Where **no team can advance** to win a bid OR Non-Elimination Scenarios

If 3 or more teams are tied in match record, the ties are broken by applying the following steps, in order, without repeating any step, except when two teams remain tied when all steps in the process have been exhausted.

- Pool match record.
- Head-to-head results. (Pool larger than 4 teams.) Applied when a team has either defeated or lost to all teams with which it is tied.
- Set percentage (sets won divided by total sets played). This is done by determining each team's set percentage (divide each team's total sets won in the pool by the total sets played). The team with the highest set percentage is first.
- If some or all of the teams have the same set percentage, then determine the point percentage of the teams that are still tied (divide each team's total points scored by the total points scored by all the team's opponents in that pool).
- Should two teams remain tied, the result of their Head-to-Head match will break the tie.

## THREE-WAY TIES: Where **1 or more teams may advance** to win a bid

There are several scenarios in which three-way ties can occur. The resolution for each tie breaker scenario depends on both the number of teams that can advance to win a bid from the pool, AND which pool finish position is at stake for the tied teams.

## SEEDING TIE BREAKER SETS

The *seeds* for teams tied in match record involved in the tie breaker sets are determined by:

- Set percentage: The total number of sets played in the pool (sets won divided by total sets played).
  - The team with the highest set percentage is seeded highest.

If the teams are still tied:

- Point percentage: Each team's total points scored divided by the total points scored by the team's opponents in that pool.
  - The team with the highest point percentage is seeded first.

If the teams are still tied:

- Should two teams remain tied, the result of their Head-to-Head match will break the tie.

## **PLAYING TIE BREAKER SETS**

### ***Scenario One – 1 Team Advances***

- All tied teams will participate in tie breaker sets.
- Set 1: the #2 seed will play the #3 seed, and the #1 seed will officiate. The loser of Set 1 will be in position #3 of the tied teams and will officiate the next tie breaker set.
- Set 2: the winner of Set 1 will play the #1 seed and the loser of Set 1 will officiate. The winner of Set 2 will be in position #1 of the tied teams and the loser will be in position #2.

If, for any reason at the start of the warm up period for the receiving team (second warmup period), one of the tied teams is unavailable for the resolution of the tie at the time the court official is ready to proceed, that team will automatically become third of the tied teams and the other two teams will play one tie breaker set. "Unavailable" is defined for a team playing in the tie-breaker set as not having a legal roster to begin a match. For a team assigned to officiate a tie-breaker set, a team must have every required position covered.

### ***Scenario Two – 2 Teams Advance***

- The #1 seed does not have a playoff set. The #1 seed finishes in position #1 of the tied teams.
- The #2 seed will play the #3 seed and the #1 seed will officiate. The winner will be in position #2 of the tied teams and the loser of this set will be in position #3 of the tied teams.

If, for any reason at the start of the second warmup period, one of the tied teams is unavailable for the resolution of the tie at the time the court official is ready to proceed, that team will be ranked third of the tied teams. The remaining teams will finish first and second in the pool based on the tie breaker seeding process. No other penalty will be applied and no tie breaker set is played. "Unavailable" is defined for a team playing in the tie-breaker set as not having a legal roster to begin a match. For a team assigned to officiate a tie-breaker set, a team must have every required position covered.

### ***Scenario Three – Ties Involving More Than 3 Teams***

Within a pool, should a tie occur involving more than 3 teams, the process for breaking that tie should be coordinated by NQ staff with a member of the USAV Events Department prior to the start of the event.

## TIE BREAKER PROCEDURES FOR THIRD ROUND OPEN DIVISION POOLS (GOLD POOLS)

If three teams are tied, ALL THREE TEAMS WILL PARTICIPATE (PLAY and/or OFFICIATE) IN TIE BREAKER SETS. Follow the *Seeding the Tie Breaker Sets* to seed the teams, and *Scenario One* above for the Set Play Order.

\*\*\*If ***all teams*** in the Gold Pool are qualified, OR the result of a tie breaking process has no bearing on the awarding of a bid(s) in that pool (i.e. all teams involved in the tie either already have a bid or will receive a bid regardless of the tie break process) or any other teams in another pool of this round of play, there will be no tie breaker sets for that pool. Ties are resolved by ranking according to set percentage, or, if necessary, point percentage.

In the case that there is only one Gold Pool in the third round and two bids are available:

- The #1 seed does not have a playoff set. The #1 seed finishes first in the pool and receives the first bid.
- The #2 seed will play the #3 seed and the #1 seed will officiate. The winner will be second place in the pool and will receive the second bid. The loser of this set will be third place in the pool.

## FORMAT FOR TIE BREAKER SETS

- Tie break sets are played to 25 points with one team winning by two points, no cap.
- Teams will switch sides at 13 points.

## PENALTIES FOR MISSED TIE BREAKER SETS

- It is the responsibility of a team's coach to know if there is a potential tie in pool play finish and to have his/her team available courtside for tie breaker sets as soon as the last match of the pool is finished. Play of tie breaker sets will not be delayed in order to locate a team or provide time for a team to return to the court. "Unavailable" is defined for a team playing in the tie-breaker set as having a legal roster to begin a match. For a team assigned to officiate a tie-breaker set, a team must have every required position covered.

In a three-way tie, where one or more teams is not at courtside at the finish of the last match of the pool, the teams remaining will play for position, if necessary.

- The team(s) that left will finish lower than the team(s) that remained.
- The position of the team(s) that left will be determined following the tie break procedure as it pertains to the pool and advancing positions available.
- There are no other penalties for a team that is not present for tie breaking sets.

# TEAM AND PLAYER POLICIES

## PARTICIPATION IN MULTIPLE DIVISIONS

Each NQ that operates under one name or one USAV license is defined as a Single NQ Event, even if the NQ activity is held on multiple weekends or in multiple locations. **Exception:** An 18s NQ, even if using the same name as a NQ for the 11-17 age groups would be considered a separate 18's NQ Event if not conducted on the same dates as the NQ for the younger age groups.

- A player may only be on one team roster in a bid award division in a Single NQ, assuming the player has not been previously frozen to a roster. Players frozen to rosters may no longer play on a different team at NQ's.
- A team represented by a specific team code may participate in no more than 1 division of a Single NQ Event.

For the SGJNC and GJNC policies for multiple division participation are as follows:

- Athletes meeting the age definitions for age groups younger than 18 may participate in both events, but only 1 Championship Division per event (Spring or Summer). The qualification divisions for the 18-&-Under age group are Open, National, USA & American.
- A team represented by a specific team code may participate in no more than ONE (1) division that requires qualification of the SGJNC and GJNC combined. **EXAMPLE:** A 17 & Under team that qualifies and accepts a position for an 18s' division in the SGJNC may NOT play in a 17 & Under qualification division of the GJNC.

## PLAYING UP

A team should play in the division that conforms to the USAV age requirements for the team's players. The team's 11digit code stipulates its proper age division. If a team desires to play up an age division AND there is space available without denying an age appropriate team that has met the entry requirements an entry position, the team may play in an upper age division. A team may play up a maximum of two age divisions (i.e. a 15s team could only play up to 16s or 17s).

A team may be moved up at the request of the tournament, but if this team is accepted in the proper age group, they must agree to the move. A team unable to gain access may be offered the opportunity to play up by the tournament.

## TEAM FORFEITURES

A team that intentionally forfeits a match at an Event will be excluded from further participation in that NQ.

- The forfeit is intentional unless the team shows good cause for the forfeit.
  - The Event Arbitrator will determine if good cause exists.
  - The Event or Arbitrator will report any team that intentionally forfeits a match to the Events Department.
- Forfeiting teams may be subject to a fine paid to the event in the amount not to exceed that as posted by the event in its pre-tournament information.

- For all NQs, if a team intentionally forfeits a match in the Gold Level during the third round of pool play or bracket play in an Open division or during Gold playoff bracket matches in a National, USA, or American division, the team's penalty will be:
- The forfeiting team is ineligible for participation that that years GJNC and SGJNC ALL Adult Members listed on the verified event roster and the Club Director will be suspended from participating in all NQs, Regional Qualification Events and the GJNC for the remainder of that season and the following season.
- Should both teams of a scheduled match choose to forfeit a match. Teams will be tied for the lower of the positions involved in the match and are subject to the penalties (financial or otherwise) established and published by the event in the Pre-Tournament information.

### ***Last Day Forfeits***

Teams that enter a NQ are committing to participating in the full event. Teams have control over their travel plans and those plans should be made so that a team will not have to forfeit any matches.

A team that forfeits a match for any reason other than illness, injury or emergency is denying another team a match. Additionally, in a single elimination format, it is poor sportsmanship to deny a team the right to move on by beating them and then forfeiting out of the event. Furthermore, it is even more unacceptable to forfeit and then, as loser of the match, not to remain and officiate the next match.

Teams that have no flexibility in their travel plans and know they will need to leave before their division completes play will report to the tournament director no later than the end of play on the day prior to the final day of tournament.

The Event Arbitrator with the input of the tournament director will decide what forfeitures are needed. Teams forfeiting should recognize that additional penalties may apply.

- Teams that refuse to play a match to determine 3rd and 4th place in the tournament will both finish 4<sup>th</sup>, and there will be no 3<sup>rd</sup> place awarded in the tournament.
- Teams that forfeit a last day match are still responsible to officiate the next match scheduled on their court. Teams playing the next scheduled match may not be required to begin play early.

## **TEAM UNIFORMS**

Team players are required to wear uniforms that are in full compliance with the USAV regulations. If two or more sets of uniforms are used, players are required to wear the identical number for each set of shirts.

- The numbers "0" and "00" are not permitted.
- The numbers must be centered.
- Front numbers must be a minimum of 4" and back numbers a minimum of 6"
- All Libero shirts are required to be numbered and must be clearly contrasting with the non-libero uniform shirts.

Team members need to be in proper uniform when warming up. If an individual competes in a position other than Libero as well, his/her number must be the same as their regular uniform.

## TEAM OFFICIATING DUTIES

The NQ must publish an officiating assignment schedule for the teams; the teams must fulfill all their scheduled officiating assignments.

Teams are responsible for providing an officiating/work crew for matches in which they are not scheduled to play. Those work assignments can be found in the official play schedule. For planning purposes, be prepared to provide the following officials:

- Second Referee
  - NEW!!! Must be a rostered adult for **ALL** age division matches
- Certified Scorer (PENALTIES NOTED BELOW)
- Scoreboard Operator
- Libero Tracker
- 2 Line Judges

Non-rostered personnel may be allowed to work on the officiating team, with the exception of the R2 position, provided they can provide documentation that they are registered with a region of USAV to include a current membership, cleared background screening, and taken SafeSport, as well as have the appropriate certifications. Appropriate paperwork would need to be provided for Foreign Team personnel.

- A team's failure to have a complete officiating crew—including a rostered adult for that team—available and on time for an officiating assignment could result in the team having to forfeit the first game of its next match.
- For every minute an officiating team is late to fulfill its assignment, one point will be awarded to that team's next opponent in the first game of the next match for up to 25 points. No more than 25 points will be awarded to the team's next opponent, even if the team designated to officiate misses the entire match. The time that determines how many penalty points are assessed begins at the start of the receiving team's warm-up.
- A team will forfeit its entire next match for failing, a second time, to have an officiating crew available on time for an officiating assignment.

*\*Penalties for missing officiating assignments in a three-way tie breaker differ from these Team Officiating Duties penalties (see [Procedures for Breaking Ties](#)).*

## REGIONALLY AGE WAIVERED PLAYERS

Teams competing in a NQ bid award division **MAY NOT** use any players who have an age waiver from their region unless those players are otherwise age-eligible to play in the division. NQs may allow teams using players who have a waiver from their region for age requirements in any division that does **NOT** have a bid for the SGJNC.

With region approval only, teams with waived players may be eligible to participate in the non-qualifying Patriot Division of the SGJNC. USAV will fully support the region's decision on whether or not to allow waived players in this division.

## TEAM ROSTERS

A team may have a maximum of 15 players and five additional personnel on their roster, one of which must be listed as the Head Coach. The other four roster positions may be any combination of the following:

1. Assistant Coach

2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Coach
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Assistant Coach
4. Chaperone
5. Team Representative
6. Team Manager

All rostered players must be FULL MEMBERS of an RVA of USA Volleyball.

All rostered personnel (non-players) must be FULL MEMBERS of an RVA of USA Volleyball, be SafeSport certified, and have a current, cleared background screening if applicable. Junior level members under the age of 18 do not need to be background screened. Junior members 18 years old and above, serving in non-player capacity on a junior team, must have submitted, and cleared a background screening within 30 days of their 18th Birthday."

In order to be listed as a coach, serve in a coaching capacity, and/or sit on the team's bench, one must possess a minimum coaching certification level of IMPACT (Entry Level). An IMPACT certified person, listed on the roster, must be present and on the bench at all times. It is strongly recommended that teams have more than one IMPACT certified person on their roster and present with the team at all times. In the event an IMPACT certified person is not present (late, sick, ejected or disqualified), the team must have another IMPACT certified person on their roster and on the team bench for play to begin or continue without forfeit. No additional time will be allowed to comply with the IMPACT certified person requirement to continue play except for unused time outs and/or time allowed between sets.

The Head Coach listed on the Official Roster must have no other head coach designation with any other team concurrently within the same event, with the exception being a single NQ taking place over two weekends.

IMPACT certification rating may be met by successfully completing one of the following programs:

- USA Coaching Accreditation Program (CAP), Levels I, II or III
- RVA IMPACT course (region or National Office verification required)
- Canadian Volleyball Associations Levels 1-4
- FIVB International Courses Levels 1-3
- ACEP "Principles of Coaching" course with proof of purchase of the USAV IMPACT Manual

In the event the team elects not to designate a Team Representative, the Head Coach will fill that role.

The Team Manager position is primarily reserved for, but not restricted to, junior level members (members who are registered in a junior level membership category or are under the age of 18) participating with a junior team in a non-player capacity. These members cannot be placed in any team staff position other than "Team Manager". Junior level staff members must be at least 10 years of age. USA Volleyball, the event arbitrators, and the NQ designee reserve the right to conduct random ID checks on any staff person listed on the roster at any time.

Individual Participation Eligibility Requirements (membership, background screening, IMPACT, minimum age, etc.) are subject to verification by USAV, including use of random ID checks by the Event Arbitrator and/or the NQ designee.

For all events, each player is required to wear the same jersey number as listed on the Official Roster throughout the entire event, with limited exceptions as required by emergency or blood rule applications. Roster changes, including the addition of a player are not allowed to an Official Roster once that team has begun match play in that event.

## GENDER COMPETITION POLICY

The vast majority of athletes are expected to compete as the gender noted on their birth certificate. The goal of the USAV policy is to permit athletes to compete in the gender in which they identify, while minimizing and competitive

advantage which may accrue. Athletes who wish to compete as a member of the gender opposite that recorded on their birth certificate must duly notify USAV of their intent, and provide appropriate medical documentation of their status to the USAV Gender Committee (GC) at least six weeks prior to the competition in which they wish to participate.

To receive the complete USAV Gender Competition Policy, a gender ruling or ask any questions, please contact the USAV Gender Committee at [ChairGenderCom@usav.org](mailto:ChairGenderCom@usav.org).

## ON-SITE CHECK IN AND ROSTER VERIFICATION

Each Event will publish information about the process and requirements for on-site registration and team check in.

A team representative listed on the roster is required to have a copy of, or access to each player's medical release form at all times. These forms may or may not be required at team check in depending on each Events policies

For the SGJNC, a team representative or coach will need to sign that the club has and abides by a Travel Policy. If the club does not have a travel policy in place, please refer to USA Volleyball's SafeSport Model Policy.

Prior to beginning play, a Team Representative (Coach, Club Director or other designated adult) listed on the roster must confirm a team's presence at the tournament by signing an Official Tournament Roster (Official Roster). Some NQs may allow another designated adult to check in the team. No additions or changes to a team's roster are allowed once a team has begun competition.

The person who signs the Official Roster, whether the Coach, Club Director or other designated adult (Signing Agent), assumes all responsibility for verifying that:

- All of the information contained on the Official Roster is both complete and correct, including that:
  - ALL coaches listed on the Official Roster (Head and Assistant coaches) are background screened & Safesport certified and have IMPACT coaching certification, at a minimum.
  - All reported team competition results are complete and accurate.
  - All members of the Official Rosters are FULL MEMBERS of an RVA of USA Volleyball OR have fully completed the necessary process established for Foreign Teams (page 27).

The signing agent confirms all rostered player medical release forms are present and available in the event of an emergency.

No player may be added to an Official Roster at a NQ once that team has begun match play in that event.

If a team wins an Open bid or accepts a National, USA or American bid at a NQ, the players on the Official Roster, as signed by the Signing Agent prior to the start of tournament play, are frozen to that team.

- The NQ will send a copy of the Official Roster to the Events Department at the finish of the NQ.
  - The players on this roster will be frozen with regard to the SGJNC.
  - The Events Department will post the team's roster on the USAV website.

(See *Frozen Player* rules below for additional information about region bids and At-Large bids in regards to Official Rosters.)

### ***The "Frozen Player" Rule***

Earning and accepting an Open bid, submitting an Open At-Large bid application or accepting any National, USA, or American bid defines the team as "qualified" for the SGJNC. As of this time, the players on the qualified team's Official Roster are frozen to that team. The players on the team's Official Roster are subject to the following restrictions:

- A Frozen Player cannot be on the roster of, or play for, another team in a Regional Qualifier or NQ event, the roster of a team applying for an Open At-Large bid, or another team playing at the SGJNC and GJNC.
- Once a female junior player has participated in a SGJNC qualifying event (Regional or NQ), she may not be on the Official Roster of, or participate in, another SGJNC qualifying or championship event with a different club.
- A club may add player(s) to the Official Roster of one of its teams qualified for the SGJNC, provided the additional player(s) are members of the club and are not on the Official Roster of another of the club's teams.
- No player may switch from one qualified team to another qualified team, even within the same club. NOTE: Players can switch between a team that has qualified for the SGJNC and another team that has qualified for the GJNC as long as both teams are within the same club.

Violations of the Frozen Player rules will result in sanctions being imposed on the already qualified team, its club, the team's coach, the player and/or the club's director.

The Events Department will determine sanctions for violations of the Frozen Player rules.

# POLICY ON FOREIGN INDIVIDUAL AND FOREIGN TEAM PARTICIPATION

**Only U.S. Territories (American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands) and their associated Federations are eligible to participate in qualification divisions of the NQs and the SGJNC.** Beginning in 2014, foreign teams may be eligible to participate in the Patriot Divisions of the SGJNC if they fulfill the requirements outlined below. Foreign teams will be accepted into the Patriot Division beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>, or sooner, depending on space available.

<b>Definitions</b>	
“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 and resides 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:**

**Concurrent registration with more than one National Volleyball Federation is prohibited.**

- 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.
- 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.

## FOREIGN PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

Subject to the above Table of Definitions and Policy, 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.

A **Non-Resident Foreign Participant** shall not be eligible to participate (see the *Foreign Guest Coach Policy* for exceptions).

## FOREIGN TEAM ELIGIBILITY

**Foreign Team** Participation (this only includes U.S. Territories for qualification divisions of the NQs and SGJNC) for National **Junior** Competitions (e.g. USA Volleyball Girls' Junior National Championships, National Qualifiers and all Qualifying Events):

- 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.
- 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.
- 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:
  - Photo identification (Driver's license, passport or comparable government issued document); and
  - 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:
  - Copy of birth certificate or Government Issue Identification with birth date; and
  - USA Volleyball's "Consent for Medical Treatment & Release" form, signed by the player's parent or legal guardian.

## FOREIGN TEAM REGISTRATION

This applies to **ALL NON-USA** Volleyball members or Member Organizations (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, Canada, Mexico, etc.):

### ***Required Individual Forms***

- **Players and Staff:** Foreign Participant Registration Form, which includes the Code of Conduct on page 2
- **Players and Staff:** Copy of photo ID (i.e. Passport)
- **Players Only:** Medical Release and Liability Form (without notary unless the event is held in Florida)
- **Players Only:** Copy of Birth Certificate (note, a passport will also fill this requirement)

## ***Required Team Forms/Fees***

- Entry Form
- Foreign Summary Team Participation Form
- \$100 US Dollars for Insurance
- A letter of good standing from their volleyball federation

***NOTE: If any foreign teams attend your tournament, please collect all of the required paperwork and insurance checks. You will then forward the paperwork and insurance checks to the USAV Office, Attention: USAV Events Department Foreign teams are required to complete the paperwork and pay the insurance fee only once during the current season.***

# TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS

## OFFICIALS

All pool play and playoff bracket matches must have a USAV-certified official as the first referee.

All Gold Pool (3<sup>rd</sup> pool) matches in Open divisions, Gold brackets in Open divisions, and semifinal and final matches of Gold Level National, USA and American divisions, must have USAV-certified first and second referees.

NOTE: It is recommended that there be first and second referees for Gold Level quarterfinals in National, USA, or American divisions.

## AWARDS

It is the obligation of the head coach to be aware of his/her individual State High School Association rules regarding the acceptance of awards. If necessary, present the properly signed papers as required by your State High School Activities Association.

All Events will, at a minimum provide the following awards:

- A team plaque or trophy to each first, second, and third place teams in the Gold level of each Open, National, USA, American and Patriot (SGJNC only) division that is hosted by the Event.
- Individual awards of minimal value (non-merchandise such as a plaque, trophy or medal) to each player on each first, second, and third place teams in the Gold level of each Open, National (SGJNC only), USA, American and Patriot (SGJNC only) division that is hosted by the Event.
- NQs will not select or give awards for All-Tournament teams.
- For the SGJNC, All-Tournament and Most Valuable Player (MVP) awards will be given in the following age divisions: Open, National, USA, and American divisions.

## TEAM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR NQS

The date a NQ receives an entry application does not automatically determine the team's acceptance into the tournament. All entry requirements must be met.

Each individual NQ may have additional entry requirements. These requirements shall be clearly specified in the respective NQs entry procedure documents and information.

## TEAM ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

NQs will accept teams who have met all entry requirements until available space is filled, or the deadline date, whichever comes first, based on the following criteria:

- Postmark or electronic date of complete entry requirements, as specified by each event.
- Strength.
- If the NQ limits the number of accepted teams per club, per division, that limit can be no less than two teams per club, per division, but may be higher (maximum number of accepted teams per club, per division to be set by each NQ and clearly stated in the NQ's pre-tournament information).

- Entries from the host state where the NQ is conducted.

A NQ may prioritize the criteria points above as it best meets the needs of that NQ, however, the method by which a NQ will turn teams away should the Event, or a Division of the Event, be oversubscribed must be clearly stated in that NQ's pre-tournament information.

After the deadline date teams may be accepted at the discretion of the tournament director.

If a division is filled to capacity by the time a team completes the entry process, the NQ may offer teams denied entry into an Open division the opportunity to move into a USA or American division, if space is available. A NQ may also offer teams denied entry in a USA or American division the opportunity to move into an Open division if space is available.

Under no circumstance is a team that is denied entry into any division guaranteed a berth in any other division.

## TRAINERS

Each NQ and the SGJNC will provide athletic trainers during all hours of competition and for at least 45 minutes prior to the beginning of competition each day.

## PROTEST COMMITTEE

Each Event must have an on-site Protest Committee consisting of one to three members, one of which will be the Head Official or Head Scorer depending on the nature of the protest. Other members may consist of the Tournament Director or his/her designee, and another qualified person to rule on protests lodged by teams regarding officiating.

- No Protest Committee member can coach a team in the tournament.
- All rulings of this committee are final and not subject to appeal.
- All protests will be settled at the time they are lodged.
  - No match will be allowed to proceed until the protest is settled.
- Protests can be related ONLY to the rules of play. Judgement calls are NOT subject to protest
  - Misinterpretation of a playing rule,
  - Failure of the first referee to apply the correct rule to a given situation
  - Failure to charge the correct penalty-sanction for a given fault.

## ETHICS AND ELIGIBILITY

The NQ's are part of the USA Volleyball Junior National Championships. Championship Events offer participants the ability to access normal Due Process channels should their eligibility to participate be in question. Procedures, including appeal options, are outlined in the Bylaws of USA Volleyball. Bylaws can be found in the current issue of the USAV Official Guidebook (Guidebook). The Guidebook is available through Regional Commissioners, from the USA Volleyball National Office, at the Event Championship Desk, and on the USAV website at <http://www.usavolleyball.org>.

## ***Event Arbitrators***

Event Arbitrators are appointed by USAV for each NQ of the Championship Events. They are the first level for hearing and resolving ethics and eligibility issues at a specific USA Volleyball event. Teams or individuals accused of committing violations of ethics or eligibility rules and regulations at a NQ or SGJNC must meet with the Event Arbitrator(s) for resolution of the accusation.

The authority for the Event Arbitrator begins with the arrival of a team and individual participants in the event's city or 48 hours prior to the first day of competition, whichever is earlier, and shall continue through the duration of the event, through 30 minutes after the conclusion of the final match of the Event.

Decisions of the Event Arbitrator shall be conveyed immediately to the affected parties and may be appealed to the Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee appointed for each event of USA Volleyball.

## ***Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee***

Each NQ Championship Event must have an Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee. Each committee has three members, one of whom shall meet the USA Volleyball definition as a domestic athlete. "Domestic athlete" refers to a volleyball player who meets the current eligibility standards for participation in the Corporation's domestic volleyball events.

Each committee acts on appeals of decisions the Arbitrator makes during the NQ Event.

If the committee finds that a violation requires further review or more serious discipline, it may file a recommendation with the Member Organization that the team represents, with the USAV Corporation Ethics and Eligibility Committee, or with both organizations for extended disciplinary measures.

## ***USA Volleyball Age and Identity Falsification Policy***

***(BOD Approved 01/2004)***

Any player in question must provide proof of identity and age eligibility if requested by an Event staff member or a USAV Arbitrator.

For all USAV corporation events, any person who alters a document that certifies the age or identity of a participant, or falsifies any statement that lists the age or identity of a participant, will be penalized as follows:

- Any Team Representative, Coach, Program Director or responsible adult found to be party to such action shall be:
  - Immediately suspended from registration with USAV and barred from further participation in the event; and
  - Barred from participation in any USAV events, in any capacity, for a minimum of two (2) years; and
  - Placed on 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 he or she is actually eligible for, or an adult player who knowingly plays in a higher age classification than he or she is actually eligible for, or any player who knowingly misrepresents his or her identity shall be:
  - Immediately suspended from registration with USAV and barred from further participation in the event; and
  - Barred from participation in any USAV events, in any capacity, for a minimum of two (2) years; and
  - Placed on a minimum probation of one additional year, to run consecutively with the suspension.

When age or identity falsification is 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 shall file a report of any age or identity violation, along with a recommendation for penalty, with the Corporation Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee and with the registering Member Organization.