

FOURTH ANNUAL



USA Volleyball[®]

GIRLS 18S JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHAPTER II: QUALIFICATION & ELIGIBILITY

**APRIL 26 – APRIL 28, 2019
DALLAS, TX**

LOCAL HOST COMMITTEE:

**DALLAS SPORTS COMMISSION
THE NORTH TEXAS VOLLEYBALL REGION**

**PRE-TOURNAMENT MANUAL PREPARED BY:
USA VOLLEYBALL EVENTS DEPARTMENT**

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QUALIFICATION PROCEDURES

BIDS AT REGIONS AND QUALIFIERS

There are five (5) major divisions of play at GJNCs – Open Divisions, National Divisions, USA Divisions, American Divisions, and the Patriot Divisions.

The goal of the GJNCs Open Divisions is to identify, through competition, the best Team in each GJNCs age group from among Teams (see chart below) that have earned Bids. The NQ Open Divisions are designed to select those Teams.

- To participate in an Open Division at the GJNCs, 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 GJNCs National, USA and American Divisions is to showcase Region Teams and provide the opportunity for more Teams to participate at the GJNCs.

- Teams have the following avenues to receive a Bid for a GJNCs Open, National, USA or American Division:
 - Earn a Bid at a NQ (Open, USA and American);
 - Awarded an At – Large Bid (Open and USA);
 - Earn a Bid through their Region’s Bid process (National and American) ; or
 - Earn a Bid from their Region through the Re-allocation process (National, USA, and American).

The goal of the GJNCs Patriot Divisions is to allow opportunity for Teams to participate at the GJNCs without following the qualification process.

- Teams must follow the established process to participate in this division

AGE CLASSIFICATION, DIVISIONS, & # OF TEAMS ACCEPTED IN EACH

Division	18 & Under
OPEN Division	48 teams
NATIONAL Division	48 teams
USA Division	48 teams
AMERICAN Division	64 teams
PATRIOT Division	64 teams

2019 JUNIOR NATIONAL QUALIFIER TOURNAMENTS

QUALIFIER	CITY, STATE	DATES	Open bids	USA Bids	American Bids
Northern Lights	Omaha, NE	January 11-13	3	3	1
Winter VB Championship	Chicago, IL	January 19-21	3	3	1
KC MLK 18s NQ	Kansas City, MO	January 19-21	3	3	1
Music City VB Championships	Nashville, TN	January 19-21	3	3	1
Lone Star Classic	Houston, TX	February 1-3	3	3	1
Ohio Valley	Columbus, OH	February 8-10	3	3	1
AVC-Dallas 18s	Dallas, TX	February 15-17	3	3	1
Beast of the Southeast	Atlanta, GA	February 22-24	3	3	1
Boston VB Festival	Boston, MA	February 22-24	3	3	1
Golden State	San Mateo, CA	March 1-3	3	3	1
Southern California	Anaheim, CA	March 15-17	3	3	1
Colorado Crossroads	Denver, CO	March 15-17	3	3	1
Sunshine Volleyball Classic	Orlando, FL	March 15-17	3	3	1
Mideast	Indianapolis, IN	March 22-24	3	3	1
Northeast	Philadelphia, PA	March 24-26	3	3	1
Pacific Northwest	Spokane, WA	March 24-26	3	3	1

18s GJNC BIDS AWARDED BY A NATIONAL QUALIFIER

USAV allows each NQ to award a certain number of Bids to the top finishing Teams in Open, National, 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 NQs deadline date or the date the division's Seeding is finalized; whichever number is larger (see the chart below).

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		

The total number of Bids distributed among the NQs to award in a GJNCs division is determined by the number of Teams permitted to play in the division at the GJNCs. Some Open Bids may be reserved for the At-Large Bid selection, National and a number of American Bids are awarded through the Region Bid process.

Bids awarded at NQs must be accepted in writing at, or prior to, the time of the Bid award (see [Rules for Priority of Bid Use](#) and [GJNC 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 GJNCs by the deadline dates provided by the USAV Events Department. If a Team has not met all the entry requirements by the deadline date, that Team may lose its Bid and may be subject to additional Sanctions (see [Penalties for Not Using a Bid](#)).

NEW ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR TEAMS WHO EARN A BID AT A NATIONAL QUALIFIER

Teams that earn and accept a bid at a National Qualifier will be sent an email by the Wednesday following their qualification from the USAV Events Department. This email will detail the requirements for entry into the 2019 Girls 18s Junior National Volleyball Championships. These teams will be required to complete their tournament entry in the USAV registration system, Advanced Event Systems (AES), and must send a check directly to USA Volleyball within 10 business days following qualification. The date for arrival in the USAV office will be specified in the email. Teams who earn a bid at a National Qualifier will no longer send their entry form and check to their region office.

OPEN 18s GJNC TOURNAMENT BID ALLOCATIONS

Teams interested in qualifying for the “Open” Tournament need to participate in one of the qualifiers listed above and play in the Open Division of that Qualifier. Qualifier tournaments award up to 3 bids to each of the USA Girls 18s Junior National Volleyball Open Tournaments.

In the NQ Open Divisions, Bids go to the Teams that finish the competition in a Bid award position.

If one (1) 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.

A Team may decline an Open Bid in the 18 Open Division.

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.

AT LARGE SELECTION FOR OPEN TOURNAMENT TEAMS

The USAV Events Department, with the assistance of its Seeding Committee, awards some GJNC Open Bids as At-Large Bids. Teams will automatically be considered for an At-Large Bid provided that the Team:

- Has played in at least one NQ in the same GJNC Open Division age group for which the Team is applying; and,
- Is registered for GJNCs in the GJNCs Event registration system; and,
- Complies with both their Region’s and USAV’s GJNCs deadline dates and application processes; and,
- Submits accurate and up-to-date electronic results in the GJNCs Event registration system no later than the end of business on the Tuesday after the finish of the last NQ.

The USAV Events Department will announce the Teams being awarded the GJNCs Open At-Large Bids no later than the second Friday after the last NQ. The Events Department will notify Teams awarded an At-Large Bid by email, sent to the Coach and Club Director at the email addresses provided in the GJNCs Event registration system.

NATIONAL 18s GJNC TOURNAMENT BID ALLOCATIONS (GIRLS)

Each Region will receive at least one (1) National Bid to award at their discretion for the 13's – 18's. As there are a total of 48 Bids to be allocated to 40 Regions, the eight (8) largest Regions based on Girls Junior registrations from the previous season will be awarded a 2nd Bid to the National Divisions at the GJNCs.

USA 18s GJNC TOURNAMENT BID ALLOCATION (GIRLS)

Teams interested in qualifying for the "USA" Tournaments need to participate in one of the qualifiers listed above and play in the USA Division of that Qualifier. Qualifier tournaments will award 2-3 bids to each of the USA Girls 18s Junior National Volleyball USA Tournaments based on the number of teams registered in the division in the Qualifier.

At a NQ, the USA Division has up to three (3) Bids in the 14 's-18 's age groups & up to two (2) Bids in the 13's age group. 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 eighth place in a Tournament. The [Rules for Priority of Use of a Bid](#) (see section below) determine which Team receives the USA Division Bids.

AMERICAN 18s GJNC TOURNAMENT BID ALLOCATIONS (GIRLS)

Each Qualifier can potentially award an American Division bid. The bids awarded at the Qualifiers have the potential to "trickle down."

At a NQ, the American Division has one (1) 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 eighth place in the Tournament (see [GJNC Bids Awarded Through a Region](#)). The Rules for Priority of Use of a Bid (see section below) determine which Team receives the American Division Bids.

Regions may receive up to three (3) American Bids to award at their discretion for the 12's – 18's. There are a total of 64 Bids to be allocated to GJNCs, 12 Bids for 12's-17's and 16 Bids for 18's will be awarded at NQs. The remaining American Bids will be allocated to the Regions. Bids allocated to Regions are determined through a junior girls membership benchmark that is defined in the Bid allocation chart posted on the USAV website.

The number of Bids received by a Region may change from year to year.

REGIONAL BID CONSIDERATION CRITERIA

Regions, which have a minimum registration of 200 female junior athletes, are guaranteed a bid(s) at the USA Volleyball Girls 18s Junior National Championships. Bids will be based upon 2018 junior girls registration, as of July 31, 2018.

Regions will receive consideration on a pro-rated distribution of the remaining bids based upon their percentage of the total registration. Please understand that there are a limited number of bids available.

USAV Regional Volleyball Associations (Regions) cannot guarantee regional bids. All entries must be received for qualified teams by the USAV Event Department at the National Office prior to the deadline for a team to be accepted. DO NOT WAIT for your regional qualifying event or the last National Qualifier to think about entering. Team registration(s) WILL NOT be accepted after your Regions' established deadline.

This will enable regions in line to receive an additional bid(s), from any that may be returned, and to receive quick confirmation for their properly entered team(s). In previous years, regions have returned / declined berths. When this occurs, the region closest to meeting the next membership benchmark will receive the additional bid.

PATRIOT 18s GJNC TOURNAMENT NON-QUALIFYING DIVISION (GIRLS)

A non-qualifying Division of the 18s GJNC where teams may gain access to the tournament by simply entering the Event through the established process (please refer to the Patriot Division Information link on the USA Volleyball website for

entry procedures.) Teams interested in playing in the “Patriot” Tournament need to register in Advanced Event Systems (AES). The first 48 teams that register in AES will be notified that they are accepted by USAV and given further instructions to complete their requirements to play in this tournament. Order of acceptance will be initially based on date and time of entry until the tournament is full. A waiting list will be made for teams who did not make the initial acceptance and teams will be notified in order as slots become open.

REALLOCATION BIDS

When a Bid is returned, the USAV Events Department distributes Reallocation Bids to the Regions in an order determined by the number of junior girls members (National Division) and the proximity of that number to certain benchmark membership numbers (American Division). When a Team earns a higher ranking Bid the vacated Bid will stay with the Region. (see Rules for Priority of Bid Use)

REQUIREMENT TO USE BIDS

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 (1) Bid, the following rules apply as to which Bid the Team must use, and what happens to the other Bid(s).

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 Bid 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 is unable to allocate this USA Bid, the USA Bid will go into the At-Large Bid 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 is unable to allocate this Bid, the Bid will be reallocated to the next Region in line.

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 is unable to allocate this USA Bid, it reverts to the At-Large Bid process.

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 is unable to allocate this Bid, the Bid will be reallocated to the next Region in line.

When a USA Bid is the second Bid a Team earns and accepts:

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.

If a Team accepts a reallocated USA Bid through a Region Bid process and then earns a USA Bid at a NQ, the NQ USA Bid will supersede the Region reallocated USA Bid. The vacated USA Bid will revert to the Region of origin for reallocation. If the Region is unable to allocate this USA Bid, it reverts to the At-Large Bid process.

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 American Bid. If the Region is unable to allocate this Bid, the Bid will be reallocated to the next Region in line.

When an American Bid is the second Bid a Team earns and accepts:

If a Team earns and accepts an American Bid through a Region Bid Process 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 and 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 eighth place in the Tournament. The trickle-down process must be applied at the conclusion of the division's competition.

USAV reserves the right to fill Bids as necessary to ensure a quality Event with maximum participation.

PENALTIES:

PENALTIES FOR NOT USING BIDS

It is disruptive to the quality of the Event when Bids are returned after being accepted. There are financial consequences, administrative challenges, and logistical delays for Teams, Region administrators and USAV personnel. Inevitably this takes opportunities away from other Teams participating in the qualification process.

A Team that does not use a GJNCs Open Bid (13's-17's) which it has earned, or a GJNCs National, USA or American Bid which it has earned and accepted, and Teams that do not use an 18 Open Bid which has earned and accepted may be subject to the following penalties:

Financial Penalties

From date of qualification up to the dates listed below prior to start of GJNCs - payment of entry fee.

Event	Date
18sGJNC	February 26, 2019
GJNC	April 27, 2019

2 months prior to the start of GJNCs– payment of entry fee and \$1,000 fine

If the payment is not received for the GJNCs Event Entry Fee and/or fines, the club director(s), coaches affiliated with official qualification roster will be prohibited from participating in NQs and GJNCs until the fee is paid in full. Further legal actions may be taken to ensure payment is received.

Suspension of Participation:

Club Director suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.

Head Coach listed on the official qualification roster suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.

All members listed on the official qualification roster suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.

Specific age group from club suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.

Club or specific suspended from participation in all NQ and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.

All suspensions will be published and updated on the USAV website.

Additional Penalties:

- USAV reserves the right to impose additional penalties as deemed necessary.
- Regions reserve the right to impose additional penalties to Teams within their Region.

PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL USE OF BID

If a Team is deemed ineligible or has ineligible participants (age falsification, frozen player, foreign participation, ethics/eligibility, SafeSport violations etc.) the following penalties may be applied:

Financial Penalties:

- Loss of entry fee and a \$2,500 fine.
- If the payment is not received for the GJNCs Event entry fee and/or fines, the club director(s), coaches affiliated with official qualification roster will be prohibited from participating in NQs and GJNCs until the fee is paid in full. Further legal actions may be taken to ensure payment is received.

Suspension of Play:

- Club Director suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- Head Coach listed on the official qualification roster suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- All members listed on the official qualification roster suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- Specific age group from club suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- Club or specific suspended from participation in all NQ and/or Regional Qualification Events and GJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- Suspended membership or probation.
- All suspensions will be published and updated on the USAV website.

Additional Penalties:

- Revocation of past awards, winnings and titles.
- USAV reserves the right to impose additional penalties as deemed necessary (see [USA Volleyball Age and Identity Falsification Policy](#))

Regions reserve the right to impose additional penalties to Teams within their Region.

APPEALS

When a penalty(ies) is imposed on a club/Team/individual by USAV, they may file for an appeal. Appeals may be filed with the USAV Ethics and Eligibility Committee by sending all relevant documentation to the USAV Staff Attorney by deadlines outlined in the initial Sanction letter. All appeals shall be accompanied by a non-refundable \$100 fee made payable to USA Volleyball.

FROZEN PLAYER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Once a female junior player has participated in a GJNCs qualifying Event (Regional or NQ), she may not be on the Official Roster of, or participate in, another GJNCs qualifying or championship Event with a different club. Example: a player plays on a club in a national qualifier in an attempt to qualify. The player's Team does not qualify. That player may not transfer to another club to attempt to qualify.

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 GJNCs. Once a Team is deemed qualified, 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 GJNCs.
- A club may add player(s) to the Official Roster of one of its Teams qualified for the GJNCs, provided the additional player(s) are members of the club and are not on the Official Roster of another of the club's Teams at the GJNCs.
- No player may switch from one qualified Team to another qualified Team, even within the same club. NOTE: A player under the age of 17 can switch between a Team that has qualified for the 18sGJNC and another Team that has qualified for the GJNC as long as both Teams are within the same club. A player may not help multiple Teams qualify for GJNCs.
 - a. EXAMPLE 1: A player in the 17's age division plays on an 18's Team at a national qualifier and that Team Qualifies for the 18sGJNC 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.
 - b. EXAMPLE 2: A club has a Team that has qualified for the 18 USA Division of the 18sGJNC, they may add a player from their club who plays on a younger Team to play in the 18sGJNC even if the younger Team has qualified for the GJNC.

Violations of the Frozen Player Rule may 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 USAV Events Department will determine Sanctions for violations of the Frozen Player Rule. (See [Penalties for Illegal use of Bid](#))

AGE EXCEPTION FOR 2019

- An age EXCEPTION will be granted to a high school junior whose date of birth is prior to September 1 of 2001 to participate in the GJNC. This exception only applies to the GJNC event. It does not extend to National Qualifier even. Team Eligibility

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

USAV AND FIVB MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

ALL PERSONS WHOSE NAMES APPEAR ON THE OFFICIAL ROSTER, INCLUDING PLAYERS, COACHES, TEAM REPRESENTATIVES, CHAPERONES, TRAINERS, MANAGERS, ET AL. MUST BE REGISTERED WITH USAV THROUGH A USAV REGION OR THEIR FIVB FEDERATION. THIS WILL ENSURE THAT ALL REGISTERED USAV PLAYERS, COACHES, TEAM REPRESENTATIVES, CHAPERONES, MANAGERS, TRAINERS, ET AL. POSSESS LIABILITY COVERAGE AND SPORTS ACCIDENT INSURANCE (THIS IS AN EXCESS COVERAGE PLAN) AT THIS EVENT. IF A MEDICAL EMERGENCY ARISES, ATHLETES AND COACHES MUST HAVE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION TO SHOW PROOF OF MEDICAL INSURANCE, PRIMARY AND/OR EXCESS COVERAGE. FOREIGN TEAMS ARE REQUIRED TO PURCHASE USAV'S SPORT ACCIDENT INSURANCE AT \$100 PER TEAM (NOTE: CANADIAN TEAMS ARE EXEMPT FROM THIS PURCHASE WITH PROOF OF COVERAGE VALID IN THE U.S.).

TEAM ELIGIBILITY

- Must register and pay the annual registration fee to your USAV Region or Member Organization (as required).
- Team/Club representatives or coach must sign each roster for team registration onsite.
- Can play in only one USAV Tournament at the USA Volleyball Boys' Junior National Championships.
- May change its name during the season ONLY with approval of the Regional Commissioner.
- The roster may contain up to fifteen (15) players and no more than five (5) staff members, including the required Head Coach position.
- The designated head coach shall have no head coach assignment with any other team concurrently.
- All persons whose names appear on the Official Roster, including but not limited to team/club representative, coaches, chaperones, managers and players, must be registered with USAV through their USAV Region.
- All persons whose names appear on the Official Roster, and are 18 and older, including but not limited to team/club representative, coaches, chaperones, and managers, must consent to and pass a background screening and be Safe Sport trained and IMPACT certified.
- **Chaperones are no longer required to be listed on the official roster for the 18 GJNC.** In place of this requirement, clubs/teams must have a travel policy in place for the season. At check-in, the team representative or coach checking the roster will sign a statement attesting to having a travel policy in place. If the club or team does not have a travel policy, the USAV default travel policy will be used. (See the [Team Travel Policy](#) section of this chapter for more information and the default policy.)

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Shall be registered with the USAV RVA in the geographical area in which they reside or in which their club/team is registered; or a citizen of one of the US territories in good standing with their respective FIVB Federation; or a citizen of their respective foreign country in good standing with their respective FIVB Federation.

- Can play with only one USAV junior team at the Girls 18s Junior National Championship.
- A player may participate only on the team in which they were named to the roster once a roster has been submitted to the USA Volleyball Girls 18s Junior National Championships (see Frozen Player Rule).
- All players who are registered in a USA Volleyball Junior National Championship are subject to the rules, regulations and policies of the Member Organization they represent.
- All players must be in good standing with their respective Member Organization.

AGE DEFINITIONS

Once a player participates (including but not limited to practicing, training, attending workouts and/or competing) in a club or varsity program for any university, college, community college, or junior college, he/she is ineligible to take part in any regional and national programming, which includes but is not limited to national JNC qualifying and championship events.

18 and Under Division:

Players who were born on or after September 1, 2000

or

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

17 and Under Division:

Players who were born on or after September 1, 2001

16 and Under Division:

Players who were born on or after September 1, 2002

15 and Under Division:

Players who were born on or after September 1, 2003

14 and Under Division:

Players who were born on or after September 1, 2004

13 and Under Division:

Players who were born on or after September 1, 2005

12 and Under Division:

Players who were born on or after September 1, 2006

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 2016 Annual Meetings and research justified the continuation of the cut-off date of September 1.

REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS WILL CERTIFY THE AGES OF PLAYERS REPRESENTING THAT REGION IN THE USA VOLLEYBALL GIRLS 18s JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS. THE AGE GROUP DEFINITIONS ABOVE ARE BINDING FOR THE ENTIRE SEASON IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THESE CHAMPIONSHIPS AND THERE SHALL BE NO APPEAL. CERTIFICATION OF AGE AND SCHOLASTIC STATUS MAY BE REQUESTED AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION AT THE SITE OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS. THE SCHOLASTIC GRADE, FOR PURPOSES OF THESE DEFINITIONS, SHALL BE THAT WHICH IS SIMULTANEOUS WITH THE CURRENT PLAYING SEASON.

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:

- Be immediately suspended from USA Volleyball registration, RVA membership and barred from further participation in the event;
- Be barred from participation in any USAV Corporate events in any capacity for a minimum of two (2) years; and
- 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:

- Be immediately suspended from USA Volleyball membership and barred from further participation in the event;
- Be barred from participation in any USAV Corporate events in any capacity for a minimum of two (2) years; and
- 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.

GENDER COMPETITION POLICY

The vast majority of athletes are expected to compete as a member of the gender noted on their birth certificate. The goal of the USAV policy is to permit athletes to compete in the gender with which they identify, while minimizing any 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. Sufficient documentation must be provided to permit the GC to determine that the applicant has taken the necessary steps to transition to their adopted gender. At a minimum, this should include medical records documenting the athlete's intended sexual reassignment (including physicians' and psychotherapists' statements, record of hormonal therapy, and the response to such therapy). The GC reserves the right to consult and share relevant information with medical experts, as deemed necessary.

Hormone therapy is a critical component of sex reassignment, but treatment with sex hormones may potentially provide transsexual athletes with an unfair competitive advantage. For this reason, the USAV GC requires that transsexual athletes provide documentation of appropriately managed therapy at the time of initial application to compete. If the athlete is approved to compete as a member of their adopted gender, periodic submission of test results documenting hormonal levels in response to ongoing treatment may be required by the GC. The GC will therefore be responsible for tracking transgender athletes once registered, in addition to serving as the point of contact for all inquiries regarding these participants. The expense of any required testing will be the responsibility of the athlete.

Current transsexual testing requirements are as follows:

- **Female to Male, all age groups (prepubertal, pubertal, and adult):** All athletes must submit appropriate documentation upon request. Testosterone levels must not exceed the upper limit of the normal male reference range for their age group.
- **Male to Female:**
 - All athletes must submit appropriate documentation upon request.
 - Testosterone levels must not exceed the upper limit of the normal female reference range for their age group.
- **Age 12 and Under (Prepubertal or Youth):** No restriction if seeking to play on a female team.
- **Age 13-18 (registered as a Junior, including a 19-year-old still in high school) (Pubertal or Adolescent):** Testosterone levels must be within normal female reference range (for the age range) for a minimum of 6 months preceding the application to participate.
- **Age 18 and Over (registered as an Adult):** Testosterone levels must fall within normal adult female reference range for a minimum of 1 year prior to the application to participate.

To receive a gender ruling or ask any questions, please contact the USAV Gender Committee at ChairGenderCom@usav.org.

COACHES ELIGIBILITY

ALL Coaches listed on the roster (Head and Assistant(s)) will possess a minimum coaching certification level of IMPACT (entry level) or equivalent. An IMPACT certified coach (head coach or assistant) listed on the Event Roster must be present and on the bench at all times. **No team will be eligible to participate at the Junior National Championships without meeting the coaching certification requirements.** It is strongly recommended that teams have additional IMPACT certified adults verified on their roster and present at all times. In the event the certified coach is not present (late, sick, is ejected or disqualified), the team must have another IMPACT certified adult verified on their roster and on the bench for play to begin or continue without forfeit. No additional time will be allowed to comply with the certified personnel requirement to continue play except for unused time-outs and/or time allowed between games.

All coaches listed on the roster must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Register in an adult membership category with a USAV Region
2. Must consent to and clear a background screening
3. Must be current in SafeSport training requirements (see SafeSport Training Requirement section of this chapter)
4. Be a minimum of 18 years of age
5. Possess a minimum coaching certification level of IMPACT or equivalent
6. Head Coaches only: Have no head coach assignment with any other team concurrently

IMPACT CERTIFICATION

IMPORTANT IMPACT CERTIFICATION NOTICE!!

Coaches and other adults may attend an IMPACT course through a USA Volleyball RVA or a USA Volleyball Webinar. Once IMPACT certification has been obtained, re-certification is not required unless the Member Organization requires re-certification. Please verify IMPACT certification with your Regional Commissioner or Member Organization's designee prior to submitting your entry for the event. This will eliminate any potential problems prior to registering for the event and checking-in.

There will NOT be IMPACT courses available during the Championships. Please make the necessary arrangements prior to the Championships to become IMPACT certified. Only IMPACT certified adults will be allowed to be listed as a Head Coach and/or Assistant Coach(es) on the roster.

For more information on IMPACT certification, please contact your local RVA. As an alternative, USA Volleyball will be offering Webinars and IMPACT On-Demand throughout the year. For more information, visit the USAV Cap website (<http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Volleyball/Education.aspx>) or email for more information at cap@usav.org.

FOREIGN TEAMS – IMPACT EQUIVALENT

IMPACT Certification rating may be met by supplying proof of the following:

1. USA Coaching Accreditation Program (CAP), Levels I, II or III
2. RVA IMPACT course (region or National Office verification required)
3. Canadian Volleyball Associations Levels 1-4
4. FIVB International Courses Levels 1-3
5. Curso de Entrenadores Nivel 1 (Coaches Training Level 1)

USA CAP LEVEL I, II AND III COURSES

USA Coaching Accreditation Program courses are available throughout the country before the USA Volleyball Boys' Junior National Championships. For more information on course offerings and schedules, visit our website, www.usavolleyball.org.

SAFESPORT TRAINING REQUIREMENT

Participation in nationally sanctioned events will require that SafeSport training be completed by all registered adults (note, foreign teams are exempt but we strongly recommend you take the course). Individual regions may set earlier deadlines for their respective regional events.

SAFESPORT TRAINING REQUIREMENT:

SafeSport certification is required for those having frequent contact or authority over athletes. Regions may set earlier deadlines for their respective regional events.

To register for SafeSport training:

1. Go to <https://webpoint.usavolleyball.org/>.
2. If you are a new user, click on the "request a login" tab otherwise log in to your USAV account.

3. In the navigation menu, click on USAV Clinics and select either USAV Coaching Clinics.
4. Select SafeSport On-Demand: Two-Season Certification.
5. Complete registration.
6. To access coursework, click on the “Log into USAV Academy” button.

Should you need to return to your coursework at a later time, log in to your USAV account and click on the “Log into USAV Academy” button.

For technical issues, while completing the course, please visit: <http://help.usavolleyballacademy.org/>.

AGE REQUIREMENTS OF STAFF ON ROSTER – TEAM MANAGER STAFF POSITION

All staff, with the exception of the Chaperone position, must be a minimum of 18 years old and registered with USAV in an adult level membership category to be placed in any of the allowed roster positions. The Chaperone must be a minimum of 25 years old. No junior level members (members who are registered in a junior level membership category or are under the age of 18) are allowed in a coaching, chaperone or team representative position. If you have a junior level member participating in a non-player capacity, you may place them in the team manager position on the roster.

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 and the event arbitrators reserve the right to conduct random ID checks on any staff person listed on the roster at any time.

All roster personnel (non-players) must have completed their regions registration process and cleared the 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 apply for and “clear” a background screening within 30 days of their 18th Birthday.

To add a junior level staff person to a roster, please contact the USAV Events Department (events@usav.org). To expedite the request, please make sure the junior staff person is in AES, fully verified via the USAV import. Note, you do NOT need to manually add the junior staff person to your list of staff members in AES. Either just run the import to import them or manually add them to the player list and then run the import.

TRAVEL POLICY

USA Volleyball Junior Clubs are now required to implement a team travel policy. The following is a model team travel policy and is provided to assist USA Volleyball member clubs with developing their own policies. If a Club chooses not to, or is unable to, create a written travel policy, the following model policy will become the default policy for that Club. Once a customized set of policies is developed and approved by the club, the default policy will no longer apply. Each member club has the responsibility for approval and implementation of its own set of travel policies, and to provide these policies to all players, parents, coaches and other adults who will be traveling with a team. It is strongly recommended that a signature by each adult acknowledging receipt of and agreeing to the travel policy be obtained by each Club.

Some travel involves only local travel to and from local practices and events while other travel involves overnight stays. Different policies should apply to these two types of travel. The form of policy below is a sample only but may be modified by the local program to meet its specific needs and travel.

MODEL POLICY FOR JUNIOR CLUB VOLLEYBALL PROGRAMS

Travel Policy for [insert the name of the club]

[Insert name of the club] has some teams that travel regularly to play in tournaments, has some teams where travel is limited to a few events per season, and some teams where there is no travel other than local travel to and from our own area. [Club] prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing, all as described in the USA Volleyball SafeSport Handbook. [Club] has established policies to guide our travel, minimize one-on-one interactions and reduce the risk of abuse or misconduct. Adherence to these travel guidelines will increase player safety and improve the player's experience while keeping travel a fun and enjoyable experience.

We distinguish between travel to training, practice and local tournaments ("local travel") and team travel involving an overnight stay ("team travel").

Local Travel

Local travel occurs when [Club] does not sponsor, coordinate or arrange for travel.

- Players and/or their parents/guardian are responsible for making all arrangements for local travel. The team and its coaches, managers or administrators should avoid responsibility for arranging or coordinating local travel. It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to ensure the person transporting the minor player maintains the proper safety and legal requirements, including but not limited to: a valid driver's license, automobile liability insurance, a vehicle in safe working order, and compliance with applicable state laws.
- The employees, coaches and/or volunteers of [Club] or one of its teams, who are not also acting as a parent, shall not drive alone with an unrelated minor player.

Team Travel

Team travel is overnight travel that occurs when [Club] or one of its teams or designees' sponsors, coordinates or arranges for travel so that the team can compete locally, regionally or nationally. Because of the greater distances, coaches, staff, volunteers and chaperones will often travel with the players.

- When possible, [Club] will provide reasonable advance notice before team travel. Travel notice will also include designated team hotels for overnight stays as well as a contact person within [Club] or the team. This individual will be the point of contact to confirm your intention to travel and to help with travel details.
- Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangements with a minor player (unless the coach is the parent, guardian or sibling of the player).
- The coach or his/her designee will establish a curfew by when all players must be in their hotel rooms or in a supervised location. Regular monitoring and curfew checks will be made of each room by at least two properly background screened adults. At no time will only one adult be present in a room with minor players, regardless of gender.
- Team personnel shall ask hotels to block adult pay per view channels for player- only rooms.
- Individual meetings between a coach and a player may not occur in hotel sleeping rooms and must be held in public settings or with additional adults present, with at least one of those adults being the same gender as the player.
- Parents/Guardians who wish to stay in the team hotel are permitted and encouraged to do so.
- The team will make every effort to accommodate reasonable parental requests when a child is away from home without a parent. If any special arrangements are necessary for your child, please contact the team personnel who can either make or assist with making those arrangements.
- No coach or chaperone shall at any time be under the influence of drugs or alcohol while performing their coaching and/or chaperoning duties.
- In all cases involving travel, parents have the right to transport their minor player.
- Prior to any travel, coaches will endeavor to make players and parents aware of all expectations and rules. Coaches will also support chaperones and/or participate in the monitoring of the players for adherence to curfew restrictions and other travel rules.

- If disciplinary action against a player is required while the player is traveling without his/her parents, then except where immediate action is necessary, parents will be notified before any action is taken, or immediately after.

Suggested Additional Policies

The following policies are additional guidelines for developing a travel policy based on the club's preferences and needs.

- Players are expected to remain with the team at all times during the trip. Players are not to leave the competition venue, the hotel, restaurant or any other place at which the team has gathered without the permission/knowledge of the coach or chaperone.
- When visiting public places such as shopping malls, movie theatres, etc., players will stay in groups of no less than three persons. Athletes 12 and under will be accompanied by a chaperone.
- Safety Policies
 - o Additional guidelines to be established as needed by the coaches;
 - o Supervised team room provided for relaxation and recreation;
 - o Respect the privacy of each other;
 - o Only use hotel rooms with interior entrances;
- Behavior Policies
 - o Be quiet and respect the rights of teammates and others in the hotel;
 - o Be prompt and on time;
 - o Develop cell phone usage guidelines;
 - o Develop computer usage guidelines including social media;
 - o Respect travel vehicles;
 - o Establish travel dress code;
 - o Use appropriate behavior in public facilities, including language;
 - o Establish two different curfews – in own rooms and lights out;
 - o Must stay in assigned hotel room; and
 - o Needs and well-being of the team come first.
- Financial
 - o No room service without permission
 - o Players are responsible for all incidental charges
 - o Players are responsible for any damages or thievery at hotel;
 - o Players must participate in contracted group meals; and
 - o Communicate travel reimbursement information and policies.
- General
 - o Establish fair trip eligibility requirements;
 - o Establish age guidelines for travel trips;
 - o Parent(s) responsible for getting player(s) to stated departure point; and
 - o Requirements for families to attend "Team Travel Tournaments."

Code of Conduct / Honor Code

USA Volleyball strongly suggests clubs to create a Code of Conduct or Honor Code as a companion document to team travel policies.

Recommended:

- a. Team members will display proper respect and sportsmanship toward coaches, officials, administrator, teammates, fellow competitors and the public at all times.
- b. Team members and staff will refrain from any illegal or inappropriate behavior that would detract from a positive image of the team or be detrimental to its performance objectives.
- c. The possession or use of alcohol or tobacco products by any athlete is prohibited.
- d. The possession, use or sale/distribution of any controlled or illegal substance or any form of weapon is strictly forbidden.
- e. Team members are reminded that when competing in tournaments, traveling on trips and attending other club-related functions, they are representing both themselves and [Club]. Athlete behavior must positively reflect the high standards of the club.

For Consideration:

- a. Failure to comply with the Honor Code as set forth in this document may result in disciplinary action. Such discipline may include, but may not be limited to:
 - i. Dismissal from the trip and immediate return home at the athlete's expense;
 - ii. Disqualification from future tournaments, either local or traveling;
 - iii. Financial penalties;
 - iv. Dismissal from team; and/or
 - v. Penalties set forth in the USA Volleyball Participant Code of Conduct, which may include a lifetime ban.
- b. Players are to refrain from inappropriate physical contact at team activities.
- c. Players are to refrain from the use of inappropriate language.

POLICY ON FOREIGN PLAYER 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 18s GJNC. Beginning in 2014, foreign teams may be eligible to participate in the Patriot Divisions of the 18s GJNC if they fulfill the requirements outlined below. Foreign teams will be accepted into the Patriot Division beginning March 1st, or sooner, depending on space available.

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 with 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 with 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.

For the USA Girls Junior National Volleyball Championships, the following Territories and their associated Federations are eligible to participate by qualifying through one of the ten National Qualifiers:

- Puerto Rico
- US Virgin Islands
- Guam
- American Samoa

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS - JUNIOR

- 1) Foreign Player Participation in National Junior Competitions (e.g. USA Volleyball Junior National Championships and all events that qualify teams for USA Junior National Volleyball Championship Events)
 - a) Subject to Paragraph I, a Resident Foreign Player (residing legally in the United States, e. g. exchange student) may participate if she/he is a duly registered member of a USA Volleyball Member Organization and follows all event participation policies and registration procedures.
 - b) A Non-Resident Foreign player shall not be eligible to participate.
- 2) Foreign Team Participation for National Junior Competitions (e.g. USA Volleyball Junior National Championships and all Qualifying Events)
 - a) 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. (This only applies to US Territories for the GJNC)
 - b) Foreign Teams must purchase foreign player 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.
 - c) 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:
 - i) Photo identification (Driver's license or comparable government issued document), and
 - ii) A signed copy of the USA Volleyball Code of Conduct and Waiver and Release of Liability (provided on page 2 of the Foreign Team Tournament Registration form).
- 3) Additionally, for junior-age competitions, each Foreign Player (of a Foreign Team) must also possess and have on file with the Event Director:
 - i) Copy of birth certificate or Government Issue Identification with birth date
 - ii) USA Volleyball's "Consent for Medical Treatment & Release" form, signed by the player's parent or legal guardian.