



**USA** *Volleyball*.

**BOYS BID TOURNAMENT MANUAL**

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**2009/2010 Season**

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# 2010 EDITS, ADDITIONS & CHANGES

- Throughout Manual - Change USA Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships (JOVC) to USA Volleyball Junior National Championships (JNC)
- Throughout Manual - Change USA Junior Olympic Boys' Volleyball Championships (BJOVC) to USA Volleyball Boys' Junior National Championships (BJNC)
- Added, page 8: "*For those Bid Tournaments not using the National Ranking System* – Requirement for submitting complete and accurate results via the online system used by the Bid Tournament (currently either AES or STP). Failure to do so could affect their entry into the event, as well as their seeding within the event. In the absence of such results, a letter of explanation addressing the reason(s) why such results are not available."
- Added, page 8: "*For those Bid Tournaments not using the National Ranking System* – Provision to include a statement signed by a team's head coach or club director that all reported competition results are complete, accurate and up-to-date."
- Added, page 13: "For a 2 day event 6 matches or the equivalent number of games *are recommended*, and a 3 day event will guarantee 7 matches or the equivalent number of games."
- Correction, page 16: Change from first to second, "Game 2: the winner of Game 1 will play the #1 seed and the loser of Game 1 will officiate. The winner of Game 2 will be *second* in the pool and the loser will be third."
- Added, page 22: Policy on Foreign Player Foreign Team Participation
- Added, page 23: Non-USA Team Registration
- Added, page 26: Statement regarding third place awards, "If the third place match is played due to bid identification."
- Added, page 24: **USA VOLLEYBALL REQUIREMENTS FOR NGB SANCTIONED EVENTS**  
The Girls Qualifier Events and the Boys Bid Events are nationally sanctioned by USA Volleyball, the National Governing Body ("NGB") of the sport of volleyball. All events sanctioned by the NGB must meet the following current requirements for sanction as determined by USA Volleyball:
  - a. All participants must be registered in the appropriate membership category with the corporation through a Regional Volleyball Association or the National Office and must have a verifiable record in the national database;
  - b. All registered adults participating with a junior team/program must have a current cleared background screening per USAV policy;
  - c. All coaches on the roster of a junior team must hold a minimum of IMPACT certification;
  - d. All adult officials participating in a junior event must have a current cleared background screening per USAV policy;
  - e. Adhere to all of the other rules and regulations as contained in the Domestic Competition Regulations, the current USA Volleyball Official Guidebook including but not limited to the sections titled "Special Information Concerning the USAV Championship Events" and "Definitions and Guidelines for RVA-Sanctioned Regional and Interregional Competition", "Minimum Standards for Junior Second Referees", "Minimum Standards for Junior Scorekeepers" and other standards printed in the Qualifier and National Event Pre-Tournament Manuals.All activities associated with an event sanctioned by the NGB must be disclosed to and approved by the NGB and shall fall under the same sanction requirements and licensing or other contractual requirements as applicable. These activities include but are not limited to clinics (for players, coaches and officials), non-national qualifier competitions, and exhibitions. All activity in the same general area or playing venue during the same time frame as the NGB sanctioned event shall be considered associated with the event and must be approved and sanctioned.  
  
Any exceptions to these requirements must be approved in writing by USA Volleyball and its risk manager at least 30 days prior to the start of an event.

# INTRODUCTION

## Goal

The goal of USA Volleyball and the Junior Assembly of USA Volleyball (JA) is to determine, through competition, the strongest teams in the country while continuing to support the growth and development of the boys program as a whole. A Bid Tournament structure has been implemented to aid in determining the strong teams – those who will be offered bids into the Open Division of the USA Volleyball Boys' Junior National Championships (BJNC), formerly known as the USA Junior Olympic Boys' Volleyball Championships (BJNC).

## Purpose

The USA Volleyball (USAV) Boys' Bid Manual (Manual) is intended to be a resource for those organizations currently hosting one of the USA Volleyball Boys' Junior Bid Tournaments (Bid Tournaments) and for those organizations whose teams attend the Bid Tournaments.

The Bid Tournaments are licensed by USAV and must operate under parameters set by USAV. Those parts of the Bid Tournaments that impact play and, thus, entry into the USA Volleyball Boys' Junior National Championships (BJNC) must adhere to standards established in this Manual. The primary purpose of this Manual is to publish the standards established by USA Volleyball through recommendations from the Junior Assembly (JA), USAV Events Department (USAVED) and Licensed Bid Tournament Directors (BTD).

The secondary purpose of the Manual is to explain the process of “qualifying” to play at the BJNC.

**Note:** This Manual only applies to the junior boys' divisions of USA Volleyball (USAV).

## Changing the Manual

The Manual is a corporate document. Only USA Volleyball may authorize necessary changes, deletions and additions in the qualifying process, including this Manual. Changes become effective only after considering input from the Bid Tournament directors in concert with the USAV Events Department (USAVED). Issues that result in a dispute between staff and any of the conferring entities will be referred to the USAV Senior Staff (CEO or Designee).

Updates will be done on an annual basis. The USAVED will distribute an electronic copy of the updated version of the Manual to each Bid Tournament in October of each year. The USAVED will also post the updated Manual on the USAV website in October of each year.

# STRUCTURE OF THE QUALIFYING PROCESS

The USAVED, in consultation and coordination with the appropriate Department Commission(s) will develop, standardize, implement, evaluate and oversee the qualification process for the BJNC. Within the USAVED, the Department Commissions will assist in monitoring the qualifying process each season through so that it can recommend changes and improvements in the process.

The USAV Events Department, will:

- Have final approval of all formats used at Bid Tournaments with input from the Boy's Competition Commission (BCC).
- Be responsible for determination of teams that may be accepted into an Open division when applicants exceed space available, finishing selection not more than 7 days after the event deadline date.
- Approve the Bid Tournament schedule grid.
- Have final approval of the seeding of "bid offering" division age groups at Boy's Bid Tournaments based on the initial seeding of the BCC.
- Have final approval of the seeding of all divisions of the Boy's JNC, based on the initial seeding of the Boy's Competition Commission.
- Have final approval of at-large bids selected for the Boy's JNC, based on the recommendation of the BCC.
- Approve all seeding changes made prior to the start of the first day of the Event.
- Recommend qualifying process improvements to the Junior Assembly, Region Assembly and the BTJ.
- Publish the Boy's JNC Open division flowcharts through the USAV website three days prior to the event.

## Bid Tournaments – Stepping Stones to the BJNC

The primary purpose of the Bid Tournaments is to determine, through Tournament competition, which teams in various age groups will qualify to play in the Open Division at the BJNC. Tournament play at the Bid Tournaments is divided into Open divisions and Club divisions.

**Note:** This Manual applies only to the qualifying process for the junior boys' Open Divisions of USAV. Although not all Open Division teams that participate in the BJNC are chosen through the Bid Tournaments, the Bid Tournaments are the first rounds of the BJNC. As such, they are governed by USAV, with sanctioning by USAV rather than by the regions where they occur.

The secondary purposes of the Bid Tournaments are to:

- Promote inter-regional play.
- Provide a high level of competition for teams.
- 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.

Currently, there are ten (10) Bid Tournaments: East Coast Championships, Florida Fest, Gateway Boys' Festival, Great Lakes Festival, Nittany Ninvitational, Northeastern Boys' Bid Tournament (formerly Nittany II), No Dinx Boys' Far Western, Rochester Can Am, SCVA Junior Boys' Invitational, and Wisconsin Boys' Festival.

## *Open Divisions*

The goal of the Open divisions at the BJNC is to identify the best team in the country through rigorous competition in a particular age classification from among the top 36 teams. The Open divisions of the Bid Tournaments are designed to identify and select those top 36 teams.

To compete in an Open division of the Boy's JNC, all teams, including foreign federation teams must either win a bid at a Bid Tournament or be awarded a bid through the Open at-large bid process. Participation in a Boy's Bid Tournament is not a requirement. (At-Large consideration requirements can be found on Page 6.) For a team to be eligible for a bid, that team must have completed all entry requirements for the Boy's JNC. If a team has not met the Boy's JNC entry requirements by the deadline date and has previously accepted the bid, that team is no longer eligible for entry and may be subject to additional sanctions.

## ***Age Divisions***

At the present time, there is a BJNC Tournament held in each of the following age divisions:

<b>18 &amp; Under</b>	<b>17 &amp; Under</b>	<b>16 &amp; Under</b>	<b>15 &amp; Under</b>	<b>14 &amp; Under</b>	<b>13 &amp; Under</b>	<b>12 &amp; Under</b>
Open	Open	Open	Open	Open		
Club	Club	Club	Club	Club	Club	Club

The USAV Events Department may add other age divisions to the BJNC from time to time. The dates determining player eligibility for each age group can be found on the USAV website: <http://www.usavolleyball.org/pages/5535>.

**Note:** Not all Bid Tournaments host all age divisions. Some Bid Tournaments host competition in age divisions that do not currently have a Junior National Championship (for example, 10 & Under).

# BJNC BID PROCESS

## Bid Tournaments and Bids

Each of the following Bid Tournaments will be allocated a specific number of bids to award based on the number of teams entered in each age division. In order to award open bids, the Bid Tournament must offer single age group divisions in all divisions that are offered at the Boy's JNC. In addition, open bids will only be awarded at bid events in age divisions that are held over a minimum of two days. The following grid explains the total number of bids allocated for each event based on total number of teams attending in a field:

Bid Tournament	Max # of Bids	Bid Tournament	Max # of Bids
East Coast Championships	3	Northeastern Boys' Bid Tournament (formerly Nittany II) (140, 150, 160)	3
Florida Fest	3	No Dinx Boys' Far Western	3
Gateway Boys' Festival	3	Rochester Can Am	3
Great Lakes Festival	3	SCVA Junior Boys' Invitational	10
Nittany Ninvitational (170 & 180)	3	Wisconsin Boys' Festival	3

The number of teams entered in an age division at the entry deadline or the number of teams in an age division at the start of the event, whichever is greater, will be the number used to determine how many bids a Boys' Bid Tournament will receive up to the maximum allocated to that event, according to the following table:

Max # of Bids Awarded	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
# of Teams in Field	>7	>11	>15	>19	>21	>25	>27	>31	>35	>41

It is recommended that for an age division at a Bid Tournament to split into Open and Club Divisions, that the following criteria be considered:

1. A minimum total number of teams
2. A minimum number of teams entered in the Club Division
3. A minimum number of teams entered in the Open Division

The following table shall serve as a recommendation for these criteria for a boys' bid tournament:

Max # of Bids in the Event	2	3	4	10
Minimum total # of entries	24	32	36	48
Minimum # of Club entries	8	12	12	12
Minimum # of Open entries	8	12	16	32

The above is subject to annual review and modification by the USA Volleyball Events Department.

## Open Division Bids

- In the Bid Tournaments, Open bids will be offered to the teams that finish the competition in a bid award position. See Table below for the furthest a bid may trickle down based on number of Open teams entered in the division (NOTE: Combining Open and Club Divisions does not apply to this table):

<b>Max Bids Awarded</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
# Teams > 5-7	2nd									
# Teams > 7-10		3rd								
# Teams > 10-12		4th	3rd							
# Teams > 12-15		5th	4th	5th	6th					
# Teams > 15-20		6th	6th	6th		8th				
# Teams > 20-24		8th	8th	8th			10th			
# Teams > 24-28		10th	10th	10th				12th		
# Teams > 28-31		12th	12th	12th					14th	
# Teams > 31-41		14th	14th	14th						16th
# Teams > 41		16th	16th	16th						18th

- Bids must be accepted or denied at the time the bid is awarded by the tournament director. Bids not awarded at the Bid Tournament will revert to the Open At-large pool.
- If a team finishes in a bid award position and declines the bid, that team will not be eligible for at large consideration.
- To compete in an Open division at the Boy's JNC a team must earn a bid at a Bid Tournament or be awarded a bid through the at-large process. To be considered for an at-large bid to the Boy's JNC, a team must enter the event through the approved USAV online registration system as an open team, and submit complete and accurate results. In the absence of such results, a letter of explanation addressing the reason(s) why such results are not available, and reason(s) why the team should be considered for an at-large bid. The letter is to be submitted to the USAV Events Department by the entry deadline. The teams awarded the at-large bids will be selected by the BCC with final approval of the USAVED using the following criteria:
  1. Selecting the Open At-Large consideration statement listed on the USAV Official Entry Form.
  2. Strength
  3. Record against Qualified teams
  4. Record against At Large applicants
  5. Past year's BJNC finish of the rostered players
  6. Date of entry
  7. Number of teams per club
- At-Large Bids to Open Divisions of the BJNC must be announced no later than 5 days after the Boys JNC entry deadline date.

## BJNC Seeding Criteria

1. Final finish at multi-day events (most recent events taking priority over previous events)
2. Head to head results
3. Record against the field
4. Prior BJNC finishes

5. Regional rankings
6. Overall record

## Sanctions for Not Using Bids

Teams that earn bids must use their bids or be subject to sanctions according to these policies:

- If a team that earns and accepts an Open bid or an at-large Open bid but does not participate in the BJNC in the division in which it was awarded the bid, that team, its coaches, its club director and all its club's teams will be suspended from participating in Boys' JNC for the following season.

# PREPARING FOR BID TOURNAMENTS

## Bid Tournament Entry Information Requirements

Bid Tournament entry materials provided to interested parties must include:

- Bid Tournament policies.
- Tournament information.
- Selection criteria if there are more applicants than the Bid Tournament can accommodate.

*Note: Emailed attachments or downloadable excel files from the bid tournament web sites for all pre-tournament and post-tournament requirements are acceptable.*

### ***Bid Tournament Policies***

- Include the following graphically emphasized statement at the beginning of all Ethics and Eligibility statements:

“This event is part of the USA Volleyball Junior National Championships. Participants, individual or team, may 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 in Article XI. Bylaws can be found in the current issue of the *USAV Official 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>.”

- BJNC qualification procedures and bid numbers.
- Penalties for rejecting a bid.
- ALL coaches listed on the Event Roster (Head and/or Assistant(s)) will possess a minimum coaching certification level of IMPACT (Entry Level). An IMPACT certified coach (head coach, assistant or other adult) listed on the Event Roster must be present and on the bench at all times.
- Statement that no roster additions (players or coaches) may be made at a Bid Tournament once a team has commenced match play in that event.
- Bid Tournaments are considered one event, even if held on multiple weekends and in multiple locations.

### ***Tournament Information***

- Deadlines for submitting Tournament entry, seeding and other information. The USAVED recommends that the entry deadline date for Bid Tournaments be no earlier than December 15<sup>th</sup> of the current year and four (4) weeks prior to the tournament date.
- For those Bid Tournaments not using the National Ranking System – Requirement for submitting complete and accurate results via the online system used by the Bid Tournament (currently either AES or STP). Failure to do so could affect their entry into the event, as well as their seeding within the event. In the absence of such results, a letter of explanation addressing the reason(s) why such results are not available.
- For those Bid Tournaments not using the National Ranking System – Provision to include a statement signed by a team’s head coach or club director that all reported competition results are complete, accurate and up-to-date.
- The number of teams that will be accepted for all age divisions in the current season’s Bid Tournament event,

including totals for both last year's accepted teams by age division and the number of teams denied entry at last year's event by age division.

- Team registration information.
- General Tournament format description.
- Coaches' meeting information, including procedures for teams arriving late.
- List of awards given.

## ***Open Division Selection Criteria***

Selection criteria statement:

"In the event the number of entry applications in a division exceeds the space available, teams will be admitted into the Tournament based on certain criteria.

For a team applying to an Open division, the selection criteria are:

1. Strength;
2. Previous year's Boys' JNC finish of the rostered players;
3. Date of entry; and
4. Number of teams per club.

When submitting entry information for a Bid Tournament, all competition results must be reported, regardless of the age division in which a team competes. In the absence of competition results, an application must be accompanied by a letter of explanation that addresses the reason(s) why results are not available. Teams that neglect to submit criteria used for selection may be eliminated.

*Strength will be determined by competition results information. A listing of all match results, opponents, and scores will be used to determine the strongest teams.*

*When submitting entry information for a Bid Tournament, complete and accurate competition results must be reported on STP and/or AES, regardless of the age division in which a team competes."*

## **Facility Requirements**

Currently, a Bid Tournament must have, at a minimum, enough courts for:

- 24 teams in each of the age divisions;
- If possible, courts 85 feet in length should be provided for the 16 & Under, 17 & Under, and 18 & Under divisions.
- Competition conducted in four-team pools, with no more than two (2) pools or thirteen (13) matches scheduled on one court in one day.

All facilities must conform to the safety guidelines in the current USAV Official Rule Book.

## **Equipment Requirements**

All courts must meet minimum court quality standards as stated in the current USAV Official Rule Book. Officials will enforce USAV national rules and ground rules.

Court size must be consistent with the current year's Rule Book regarding playing area.

# Online Reporting and Registration Requirements

- All online registration systems used by the Bid Tournaments will have the same fields and field sequence to provide seamless import and export of data.
- All reported results for the BJNC and Bid Tournaments will be made accessible to all coaches, club directors or club representatives for all competitions.
- All competition results' services and platforms employed by the Bid Tournaments must provide current read-only access to all results.

## Acceptance of Team Entries

The USAVED, with input from the BCC and BTD, will determine the maximum number of teams a Bid Tournament may host in each Open Division. Currently, a Bid Tournament may host a maximum of 72 teams in each Open division.

A team may register in an older age division at a BJNC event provided acceptance of such a team does not prevent an "in-age-division" team from being accepted.

A team may compete in only one age division at a given boy's bid tournament.

Tournament Directors of bid events will submit team lists with preliminary seeding, with USAV team ID numbers (and proposed formats) 2 weeks prior to the event start date. The BCC will seed all "bid offering" age groups with final approval from the USAVED and then return the seeded divisions within 7 days. If a tournament director of a bid event is on the BCC, they will reclude themselves from seeding their event aside from supplying information to the committee.

An Open Division team's entry is not considered complete without comprehensive, accurate and current competition results or, in the absence of such results, accompanied by a letter of explanation that addresses the reason(s) why such results are not available. Failure to do so could affect their entry into the event, as well as their seeding within the event.

The date a Bid Tournament receives an entry application does not automatically determine the team's acceptance into the Tournament. Bid Tournaments will accept applications from all teams until the published deadline date. All entries received prior to the deadline date will be considered for entry. If applications in an age division exceed the space available for the division, the BCC will determine which teams are denied entry according to the criteria for Open Divisions.

## ***Open Division Acceptance Criteria***

- Strength
- Previous year's Boys' JNC finish of the rostered players
- Date of entry
- Number of teams per club

## Refund and Withdrawal Policy

Each Bid Tournament will set its own refund policy and clearly state the policy in its entry information. These policies apply to all Bid Tournaments:

- A team that applies by the deadline date and is denied entry—either because there are too many teams for a division, or because there are too few teams for a division and the division is being eliminated—will receive a full refund of its entry fee.

- If the division a team applies to is combined with applicants in one or more other divisions to make a division different from the one the team applied for, that team will have the option to play in the new division or withdraw from the Bid Tournament with a full refund of its entry fee.
- The Bid Tournament will notify any teams affected by an elimination or combination of divisions within 24 hours of the entry deadline.

## **Tournament Publications**

Most Bid Tournaments publish a Tournament Program listing team rosters and a Tournament Schedule that shows playing time, teams competing, referee assignments and court location for each match for the entire Bid Tournament. One copy of each of these documents will be free to each participating team. Additional copies may be produced for sale to interested parties (usually parents) at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

If the Tournament Schedule is published and accessible through a web site, then any changes that occur to the schedule within 72 hours of the event must be provided in hard copy form and given at check-in, the coaches meeting and/or at the time of the changes being made.

In addition, most Bid Tournaments publish a Recruiting Guide for sale to college coaches that includes names and addresses of players.

## ***Minimum Content***

The following information is recommended to be included in the Tournament Program and/or the Tournament Schedule, and in the Recruiting Guide:

- Information on Tournament procedures:
  - Format description.
  - Provide paper copy of schedules if changes occur.
  - Round-to-round advancement (flow chart).
  - Statement of warm-up procedures.
  - Statement of tie-breaking procedures.
  - Statement of protest procedures.
  - Statement of missed officiating assignment sanctions.
- Definition of a qualified team's "frozen players."
- Statement of sanctions for violating the frozen player rule.

## ***Additional Content***

In addition, the following information is of interest to most Tournament participants and attendees:

- Statement of BJNC qualification procedures and bid numbers for various divisions at Bid Tournaments.
- Statement of penalties for not using a bid.
- Statement of entry selection criteria for Bid Tournaments.

## ***BJNC Entry Deadlines***

**Open** – All entry forms and checks must be sent directly to USAV and received by Friday, March 12, 2010. Participants of the East Coast Championships who earn a bid must have their entry form and check into USAV by Thursday, June 3, 2010. Failure to comply with the above dates could result in the loss of the Open bid.

**Open At-Large** – *All* entries must be received by USAV by Friday, May 14, 2010. Entries must be sent to each team's respective Region prior to the deadline so that the Region has ample time to send it to USAV by May 14, 2010. Failure to comply with the above date will result in the loss of consideration for an Open At-Large bid.

**Club** – *All* entries must be received by USAV by June 9, 2010. Entries must be sent to each team's respective Region prior to the deadline so that the Region has ample time to send it to USAV by June 9, 2010.

## ***Seeding Criteria***

1. Final Finish at Multi-Day Events (most recent events taking priority over previous events)
2. Head to head results
3. Record against the field
4. Prior BJNC finishes
5. Regional rankings
6. Overall record

## **On-Site Registration and Roster Verification**

Prior to beginning play, a coach, team representative or club director must confirm a team's presence at the Tournament by signing the roster. The signing agent is verifying that all the information contained on the roster is both complete and correct. Including all coaches listed on the roster (Head and Assistant(s)) possess a minimum coaching certification level of IMPACT (Entry Level). No roster additions (players or coaches) may be added at a Bid Tournament once a team has commenced match play in that event.

The signing agent assumes all responsibility for the organization (club) and for any consequence if the roster information is false or incorrect. At the time of check-in, the head coach, club director or team representative will be required to sign a statement that all reported team competition results are complete and accurate.

The players for any team earning a bid will be frozen as submitted at registration (Frozen Player Rule). The Bid Tournament will send a copy of this roster to the Events Department following the conclusion of the Bid Tournament as the team's official roster for the BJNC. The team's roster will be posted on the USAV website in concert with the Bid Tournament rankings for each age group.

For any BJNC event, each player is required to wear the same jersey number throughout the entire event, with limited exceptions as required by emergency or blood rule applications.

All rostered event participants (players and staff) must be verified by the Bid Tournament as being currently registered with USAV.

All adults participating in the Event must be verified by the Bid Tournament as having passed the USAV-approved background screen.

# CONDUCTING BID TOURNAMENTS

All Bid Tournaments must adhere to the same competitive format standards when conducting their events. The information in this section of the Bid Tournament Manual applies to *all* Bid Tournaments.

## Match Formats

All matches will be the best 2-out-of-3 games. The first two games will be played to 25 points using rally scoring, with one team winning by two points and no point cap. If a third game is necessary, the third game will be played to 15 points using rally scoring, with one team winning by two points and no point cap. USAV rules apply.

## 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.

The USAVED with input from the BCC will determine the Tournament formats and flow charts for Bid Tournaments according to the number of teams in a division. The ideal format is to create pools of four teams, but, depending on the number of teams in a division, may create pools of three or five.

A final pool finish will be determined first by match results and then followed by game percentage. A “round” is one complete pool for a division.

For a 2 day event 6 matches or the equivalent number of games are recommended, and a 3 day event will guarantee 7 matches or the equivalent number of games.

## Open Division Formats

- If additional playoff matches are necessary to award a trickle down bid(s), teams will hold their original playoff bracket seed going into the new playoff bracket.
- Format of the additional matches to be played will have been approved by the USAVED prior to the start of the Bid Tournament and will be noted in the Tournament information provided to coaches.

## Pool Play Sequence

All pool play will follow the sequence listed below unless otherwise approved by the USAVED:

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

In a 3-team pool, where 3 sets to 25 are played and the final finish in the pool is determined by game percentage, there will be a coin flip between games two and three to determine side, serve, and receive and teams switch sides at 13.

## Playing Schedules

- All matches will be scheduled one (1) hour apart. Some pools may 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 may not begin before 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 there is sufficient time for the warm-up protocol.
- The last match of a pool may begin more than 15 minutes ahead of schedule provided the two teams competing, the officials and the Tournament staff all agree to it and there is sufficient time for the warm-up protocol.
- Bid Tournament Directors can allow matches to proceed ahead of the published schedule after the second round in pool play. All teams involved must be present and agree.

## Court Use

- A Bid Tournament may schedule no more than 13 matches on a court in one day, unless otherwise approved by the USAVED. Tie-breaking games will not count as scheduled matches.
- Matches may not be scheduled to begin 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.
- 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 one (1) match on the third day.

## Warm-up Protocol

The warm-up schedule (2-4-4) for all matches will consist of:

- Two (2) minutes of shared court time for ball handling;
- 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.
- Officials should inform spectators to leave the end lines during warm-ups to reduce injuries to spectators.

## Additional Tournament Procedures

- Match scores and pool results should be posted in a central, public place as quickly as possible. Spectators and participants usually appreciate postings in additional sites.
- Playing schedules should be posted in a central, public place.
- Corrections to any of the printed materials should be posted in a central, public place.
- Bid Tournament staff should be available to answer questions from attendees and participants.

# TIE-BREAKING PROCEDURES

At the conclusion of a pool, teams in the pool will be ranked according to their match records. If a tie in match records exists among two or more teams, tie(s) will be broken using the USA JNC National Tie Break Formats for competition in which there is an opportunity to win a bid. The following policies apply to all tie-breaking situations:

- **Divisions playing 3-out-of-5 games.** If there are more teams tied by match record for advancing positions into the Gold Level than there are available positions, advancement will be decided by the win/loss ratio for the total number of games played in the pool. If a tie still exists, the remaining tie-breaking procedures will be followed.
- All tie-breaking games will be played to 25 points, with one team winning by two points and no point cap.
- In a tie breaker situation of three teams or more, if more than one team leaves the site, the remaining teams will play for position. The teams that left will be placed lower than the team(s) that remained. The position of all teams that left the site will be decided following the tie breaker procedure for non-gold division divisions (game percentage, point w/l, and coin flip.)

## Two-way Ties (two teams tied in match record)

The first place team will be the team that won the pool play match between the two tied teams (head-to-head).

This procedure will be used for *all* two-way ties, even when there is an opportunity to win a bid. The rationale is that the tied teams have already determined the better team through head-to-head competition.

## Three-way Ties (three teams tied in match record)

There are several situations in which three-ways ties can occur. The resolution for each tie-breaking situation depends on:

- The number of teams that will advance from the pool.
- Which pool placement finish is at stake for the tied teams.

### Scenario One

No. Teams Advancing	Pool Finish	Applications
1	First place	4-team pools: All teams have 2-1 match records 3-team pools: All teams have 1-1 match records

- All three teams will participate in tie-breaking games. The *seeds* for the tie-breaking playoffs will be determined in this order:
  1. Win/loss ratio of the total number of games played in the pool: Games won divided by total games played.
  2. Point percentage: Each team's total points scored divided by the total points scored by the team's opponents in that pool.
  3. Coin toss.
- Game 1: the #2 seed will play the #3 seed and the #1 seed will officiate. The loser of Game 1 will be third place in the pool and will officiate the next tie-breaking game.
- Game 2: the winner of Game 1 will play the #1 seed and the loser of Game 1 will officiate. The winner of

Game 2 will be first in the pool and the loser will be second.

If one of the teams in a three-way tied pool leaves the site before the determination that a tie-break is necessary, that team will automatically become the third place team and the other two teams will play one tie-breaking game.

## Scenario Two

No. Teams Advancing	Pool Finish	Applications
2	First place	4-team pools: All teams have 2-1 match records 3-team pools: All teams have 1-1 match records

- The *seeds* for the tie-breaking playoffs will be determined in this order:
  - Win/loss ratio of the total number of games played in the pool: Games won divided by total games played.
  - Point percentage: Each team's total points scored divided by the total points scored by the team's opponents in that pool.
  - Coin toss.
- The #1 seed does not have a playoff game. The #1 seed finishes first in the pool.
- The #2 seed will play the #3 seed and the #1 seed will officiate. The winner will be second place in the pool and the loser of this game will be third place in the pool.

If one of the teams in a three-way tied pool leaves the site that team will be ranked third in the pool. The remaining two teams will finish first and second in the pool based on the tie-break seeding process. No other penalty will be applied and no tie-breaking game is played.

## Scenario Three

No. Teams Advancing	Pool Finish	Applications
2	Second place	4-team pools: All teams have 1-2 match records

- All three teams will participate in tie-breaking games. The *seeds* for the tie-breaking playoffs will be determined in this order:
  - Win/loss ratio of the total number of games played in the pool: Games won divided by total games played.
  - Point percentage: Each team's total points scored divided by the total points scored by the team's opponents in that pool.
  - Coin toss.
- Game 1: the #2 seed will play the #3 seed and the #1 seed will officiate. The loser of Game 1 will be fourth place in the pool and will officiate the next tie-breaking game.
- Game 2: the winner of Game 1 will play the #1 seed and the loser of Game 1 will officiate. The winner of Game 2 will be second in the pool and the loser will be third.

If one of the teams in a three-way tied pool leaves the site before the determination a tie-break is necessary, that team will automatically become the fourth place team and the other two teams will play one tie-breaking game.

## Scenario Four

No. Teams Advancing	Pool Finish	Applications
3	Second place	4-team pools: All teams have 1-2 match records

- The *seeds* for the tie-breaking playoffs will be determined in this order:
  - Win/loss ratio of the total number of games played in the pool: Games won divided by total games played.
  - Point percentage: Each team's total points scored divided by the total points scored by the team's opponents in that pool.
  - Coin toss.
- The #1 seed does not have a playoff game. The #1 seed finishes second in the pool.
- The #2 seed will play the #3 seed and the #1 seed will officiate. The winner will be third place in the pool and the loser of this game will be fourth place in the pool.

If one of the teams in a three-way tied pool leaves the site and does not fulfill the officiating assignment, that team will be ranked fourth in the pool. The remaining two teams will finish second and third in the pool based on the tie-break seeding process. No other penalty will be applied and no tie-breaking game is played.

## Procedure for Open Division Pools

Where finish rank of the pool results in the awarding of one or more bids.

# of Bids	Pool Finish	Applications
1 - 2	First place	4-team pools: All teams have 2-1 match records 3-team pools: All teams have 1-1 match records

- All three teams will participate in tie breaking games.
- The seeds for the tie breaking playoffs will be determined by sequential application of:
  - Won-Loss ratio for the total number of games played in the pool (wins/ total games)
  - Point Percentage (a team's total points scored divided by the total points scored by the opponents in that pool)
  - Coin Toss
- The #2 seed will play the #3 seed; the #1 seed will ref. The loser of this game will be 3rd place in the pool and will ref the next tie breaking game.
- The winner of the first game will play the #1 seed. Loser of first round refs. The winner of this game will be 1st in the pool and the loser will be 2nd.
- If one of the 3 teams in a tied pool leaves the site before the determination a tiebreak is necessary, that team will automatically become the 3rd place team and the other two teams will play one tie-breaking game.

# of Bids	Pool Finish	Applications
1 - 2	Second place	4-team pools: All teams have 1-2 match records

- All three teams will participate in tie breaking games.
- The seeds for the tie breaking playoffs will be determined by sequential application of:

1. Won-Loss ratio for the total number of games played in the pool (wins/ total games)
  2. Point Percentage (a team's total points scored divided by the total points scored by the opponents in that pool)
  3. Coin Toss
- The #2 seed will play the #3 seed; the #1 seed will ref. The loser of this game will be 4th place in the pool and will ref the next tie breaking game.
  - The winner of the first game will play the #1 seed. Loser of first round refs. The winner of this game will be 2nd in the pool and the loser will be 3rd.
  - If one of the 3 teams in a tied pool leaves the site before the determination a tiebreak is necessary, that team will automatically become the 4th place team and the other two teams will play one tie-breaking game.

## ***Non-elimination Scenarios***

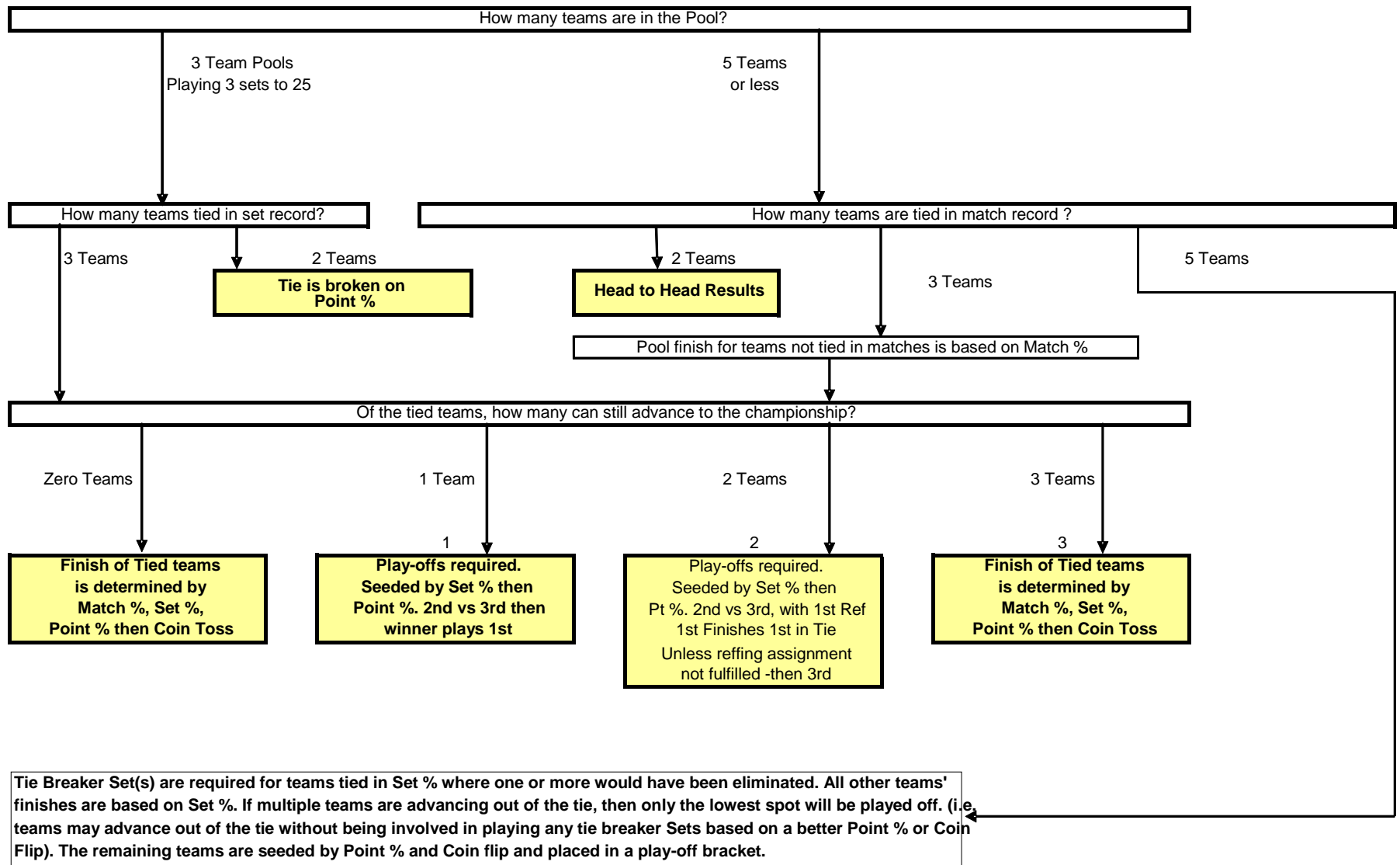
If no team is eliminated from an opportunity to win a bid, there will be *no* tie-breaking games. In three-way ties, ties will be broken, without repetition, in this order:

1. Pool match record.
2. Head-to-head results.
3. Game percentage: Games won divided by total games played.
4. Point percentage: Each team's total points scored divided by the total points scored by the team's opponents in that pool.
5. Coin toss.

## ***Pools of Six or More Teams***

Pools of six or more teams are designed specifically for the BJNC event and not for Bid Tournaments. Tie-breaking procedures for pools of six or more will be posted in the Pre-Tournament Information and in the Event Schedules.

# USAV Championship Tie Breaking Procedure



All tie-breaking sets (games) will be played to 25 points, with one team winning by two points and no point cap.

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# TEAM AND PLAYER POLICIES

## Team Forfeitures

A team that intentionally forfeits a match will be excluded from further participation in that Bid Tournament. If a team forfeits a match, the forfeit will be considered intentional unless the team shows good cause for the forfeit. The Bid Tournament Arbitrator will determine if good cause exists. The Bid Tournament will report any team that intentionally forfeits a match to the USAV Events Department.

If a team intentionally forfeits a match in the Gold Level during the third round of pool play in an Open division the team's sanction will be the same as the sanction for rejecting a bid:

*That team, its coaches, its club director and all its club's teams will be suspended from participating in all national qualifying events for the following season.*

## Team Officiating Duties

- 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.
- A rostered adult must be present at courtside while any members of the team are officiating.

Penalties for missing officiating assignments do not apply to a team that misses a three-way tie-break when leaving a site before determination of a tie-break is necessary. If a team misses an officiating assignment for the match following a tie-break, or a team leaves after playing the first tie-breaking game but before officiating the second tie-break, they are not allowed to advance out of their pool. Losing the opportunity to advance by not being present for the tie-break is considered the penalty for the team.

## Waived Players

Teams **MAY NOT** use players who have a waiver from their region for age requirements in the 15 & Under through 18 & Under age divisions. Exception for Boys 14 & Under Division: Regionally waived boys teams in the 14 & under age group will be allowed to participate by following the USAV age/grade definition (see below).

Regionally-waived boys' teams in the 14 and under age groups will be allowed to participate at a Bid Tournament using the following age/grade definition: *Players who were born on or after **September 1st, 1995**, or students who are 15 years of age or younger (born on or after **September 1, 1994**) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the **eighth (8th) grade** during the current academic year.*

## Team Rosters

All coaches listed on the roster (Head and Assistants) will possess a minimum coaching certification level of IMPACT (Entry Level). An IMPACT certified coach, listed on the roster, must be present and on the bench at all times.

It is strongly recommended that teams have additional IMPACT certified adults verified on their roster and present at all times. In the event a Coach(es) is not present (late, sick, ejected or disqualified), the team must have another IMPACT certified adult verified 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 certified personnel requirement to continue play except for unused time outs and/or time allowed between sets.

A team may have a maximum of 15 players and five (5) 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. Chaperone One
4. Chaperone Two
5. Team Representative

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

All roster personnel (non-players) must have completed their regions registration process and cleared the background screening.

## ***Frozen Players***

At the time the team earns a bid in a Bid Tournament, or applies for a bid in an at-large process, the players on that team's roster are frozen to that team. A frozen player cannot play for another team in a qualifying event or the BJNC. Obtaining a bid defines the team as "qualified" for the BJNC.

**Note:** A bid is the only opportunity to play in the Open Division of the BJNC. In order to be eligible for the BJNC, a team must meet all posted entry deadlines.

Switching a player from the roster of a qualified team to the roster of a team attempting to qualify will result in sanctions being imposed on the already qualified team, its club, and/or the individual(s) involved.

Likewise, no player may switch from one qualified team to another qualified team, even within the same club.

## ***Frozen Player Terms and Conditions***

- There are no restrictions on additions to the roster (up until the limit of 15 players) of new players or players from non-qualified teams. All teams and players must maintain eligibility compliance within their region. All players added to a roster must be on the roster submitted for at-large bid consideration. The roster is then frozen as of submission for bid consideration.
- Violations of the Frozen Player Rule will result in sanctions being imposed on the already qualified team, its club, and/or the individual(s) involved, including the player, the coach and the club director.
- The JA Ethics & Eligibility Committee will determine sanctions for violations of the Frozen Player Rule. For a first or subsequent offense, the sanctions may be a warning, probation, suspension or expulsion.

# Policy on Foreign Player and Foreign Team Participation

Definitions	
Foreign Player	A player 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 player is affiliated.
Non-Resident Foreign Player	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 player is affiliated.
Resident Foreign Player	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.
Foreign Player Release	Written approval by a Foreign Player's National Volleyball Federation of origin for that player to affiliate or participate with USA Volleyball.

For the USA Volleyball Boys' Junior National Championships, the following Territories and their associated Federations are eligible to participate:

American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands

## ***Foreign Player Eligibility***

Subject to the above Table of Definitions, 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.

A **Non-Resident Foreign Player** shall not be eligible to participate.

## ***Foreign Team Eligibility***

- 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.
- Canadian teams must present a letter of good standing from Volleyball Canada with their entry form and fee to be accepted.
- 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.
  - A waiver to the Foreign Player insurance fee shall be granted to Canadians who provide written proof of 24-hour health coverage valid in the United States.
- 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 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 Team 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:
  - A copy of his/her birth certificate or government issued identification with birth date
  - USA Volleyball's Medical Release form (without notary unless a resident of Florida), signed by the player's parent or legal guardian.

## Non-USA 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***

1. Players and Staff: FT Registration Form, which includes the FT Code of Conduct on page 2
2. Players Only: Medical Release and Liability Form (without notary unless you are a resident of Florida)
3. Players Only: Copy of Birth Certificate

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

1. Entry Form
2. FT Summary Form
3. \$100 US Dollars for Insurance (Canadian teams exempt with proof of coverage)

***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: Barbara Eisenbeis. Foreign teams are required to complete the paperwork and pay the insurance fee only once during the season.***

# TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS

## Officials

- All pool play and playoff bracket matches will have a USAV-certified official as the first referee. It is highly recommended that these officials have National, Junior National or Regional certification.
- For all third pool matches in Open divisions, Gold brackets in Open divisions, and semifinal and final matches of Gold Level Club divisions, USAV-certified first and second referees will be provided.
- It is recommended that first and second referees be provided for Gold Level quarterfinals in Club divisions.
- Participating teams will provide second referees for all matches not requiring a certified official as second referee, as well as line judges, a scorer (scorekeeper), and an assistant scorer (visual scorer and libero tracker) according to a published referee assignment schedule. A rostered adult must be present at courtside while any members of the team are officiating.
  - Non-rostered personnel may be allowed to work on the officiating team; provided they can provide documentation that they are registered with a region of USAV and have any required certifications at BJNC events.
- The Bid Tournament will appoint a head official for the Tournament, who will be part of the Protest Committee. The head official will instruct all officials to enforce the Coaching Standards outlined in the USAV Rule Book.

## Awards

Each Bid Tournament will give a team plaque or trophy to each first, second, and third place team (IF THE THIRD PLACE MATCH IS PLAYED DUE TO BID IDENTIFICATION) in the Gold level of each Open and Club division. In addition, the Bid Tournament will give an individual award of minimal value (non-merchandise such as a plaque, trophy or medal) to each player on each first, second and third place team (IF THE THIRD PLACE MATCH IS PLAYED DUE TO BID IDENTIFICATION) in the Gold level of each Open Division. The Bid Tournament may give additional awards.

Bid Tournaments will not select All-Tournament teams.

## Trainers

Each Bid Tournament 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 Bid Tournament will have an on-site Protest Committee consisting of the head official, the Bid Tournament director and another qualified person. No committee member can be coaching a team in the Tournament. The Protest Committee will rule on protests lodged by teams regarding officiating.

# Ethics and Eligibility

## ***Event Arbitrators***

Event Arbitrators shall serve as 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 and/or eligibility rules and regulations at qualifying and/or championship events shall meet with the Event Arbitrator(s).

The authority for the Event Arbitrator begins with the arrival of a team and individual participants in the event's city or forty-eight (48) hours prior to the first day of competition, whichever is earlier, and shall continue through the duration of the event through its conclusion.

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 qualifying and/or championship event of USA Volleyball.

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

An Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee shall be formed for each qualifying and championship event sponsored by USA Volleyball. Each committee shall be composed of three (3) members, one (1) of whom shall meet the definition of USA Volleyball as a domestic player.

Each committee shall act on appeals of the ethics and eligibility decisions that occur during the conduct of the event. The conduct of the event shall commence when an individual or a team arrives at the site of the event, or forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the first day of competition for that event, whichever is earlier, and shall conclude with the departure of the individual and/or team from the city in which the event has been held.

If the committee is of the opinion that a violation is of such a nature that requires further review or more serious discipline, they may file a recommendation with the Member Organization that the team/participant represents and/or with the USAV Corporation Ethics and Eligibility Committee for extended disciplinary measures.

## ***USA Volleyball Age and Identity Falsification Policy (BOD Approved 01/2004)***

For all USAV corporation events, any person who alters any 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 sanctioned as follows:

- Any team representative, coach, program director or responsible adult found to be party to such action shall be:
  1. Immediately suspended from registration with USAV and barred from further participation in the event; and
  2. Barred from participation in any USAV events in any capacity for a minimum of two (2) years; and
  3. 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:
  1. Immediately suspended from registration with the USAV and barred from further participation in the event; and
  2. Barred from participation in any USAV events in any capacity, for a minimum of two (2) years; and
  3. 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.

**Note:** Any player in question must provide proof of identity and age eligibility if requested.

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, with the Corporation Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee and with the registering Member Organization.

## Announcement of At-large Bids

At-large bids must be announced by the USAVED no later than five (5) days after the Boys' JNC entry deadline date. Teams awarded Open division at-large bids will be notified via email from the USAV Events Department to the club director and coach who are listed on the Official Entry form.

In order to be eligible for an at-large bid in the Open divisions, teams applying for at-large consideration must provide complete, accurate, and up-to-date results through the last day of the last Bid Tournament, by the Tuesday following the last Bid Tournament.

Any team that declines an Open bid at two (2) or more events will be ineligible for an at-large bid.

## Requirements for NGB Sanctioned Events

The Girls Qualifier Events and the Boys Bid Events are nationally sanctioned by USA Volleyball, the National Governing Body ("NGB") of the sport of volleyball. All events sanctioned by the NGB must meet the following current requirements for sanction as determined by USA Volleyball:

- a. All participants must be registered in the appropriate membership category with the corporation through a Regional Volleyball Association or the National Office and must have a verifiable record in the national database;
- b. All registered adults participating with a junior team/program must have a current cleared background screening per USAV policy;
- c. All coaches on the roster of a junior team must hold a minimum of IMPACT certification;
- d. All adult officials participating in a junior event must have a current cleared background screening per USAV policy;
- e. Adhere to all of the other rules and regulations as contained in the Domestic Competition Regulations, the current USA Volleyball Official Guidebook including but not limited to the sections titled "Special Information Concerning the USAV Championship Events" and "Definitions and Guidelines for RVA-Sanctioned Regional and Interregional Competition", "Minimum Standards for Junior Second Referees", "Minimum Standards for Junior Scorekeepers" and other standards printed in the Qualifier and National Event Pre-Tournament Manuals.

All activities associated with an event sanctioned by the NGB must be disclosed to and approved by the NGB and shall fall under the same sanction requirements and licensing or other contractual requirements as applicable. These activities include but are not limited to clinics (for players, coaches and officials), non-national qualifier competitions, and exhibitions. All activity in the same general area or playing venue during the same time frame as the NGB sanctioned event shall be considered associated with the event and must be approved and sanctioned.

Any exceptions to these requirements must be approved in writing by USA Volleyball and its risk manager at least 30 days prior to the start of an event.