

September 6, 2023



Dear Prospective Tournament Director:

The Region is preparing itself for the coming indoor season, and we hope you are looking forward to it as well. We thank you for your continued support and/or interest in hosting tournaments in our Region, and we hope you will consider hosting some tournaments this indoor season. This letter will outline several key issues for the coming season, and hopefully will get you started towards sanctioning your tournaments.

Attached you will find an updated Carolina Region Tournament Sanction Request Form and a listing of dates available for junior play. This season we will have an age group assigned to play on Sundays EVERY weekend of the season. Thus, you can submit requests to host on both Saturday AND Sundays this season! We anticipate the availability of facilities to continue to be an issue this season. So, if you are available to host on either Saturday or Sunday on any date this season, please submit a request. We may need to move some sites/age groups from Saturday to Sunday after the entry deadline closes just to accommodate as many teams as possible. **The Carolina Region strongly recommends that you get written confirmations (indicating dates) with the gyms or facilities you will be using for your tournaments.** If you are interested in any dates, please fill out the Tournament Sanction Request form and return it to the Region Office as quickly as possible. Please fill out a separate form for each tournament/date you plan to host, so there are no misunderstandings as to what you requested. You will be notified, if your approval is accepted, and may be asked to sign an official sanction form to complete the process. We will assign out the sites in the same process we used the last few seasons; therefore, we will not be able to confirm ANY sites until two weeks out when the applicable tournament entry deadline passes. At that time, we will be able to assign sites and confirm which age groups will be attending each site. We do our best to accommodate all requests and the earlier you get in your requests the higher chance of sanctioning (we rarely do not offer chance to host for at least one division – the more flexible you are the better)! If you think you will be losing your facility during this period, please contact us before turning the facility back in. We will be able to give you an update as to your chances for hosting, so you will not lose the facility.

Items of interest to Tournament Directors for the 2023-2024 Season:

- (1) The **Junior Divisions** will be split into EAST and WEST again this year. We will have tournaments for the 11-18's age groups and there will be sites in both the EAST and WEST for each age group on their given weekends. 11's is a NEW age group this season. They will play on the same day as 12's and if we do not get enough teams to register/enter to hold a 11's tournament, they will be combined with the 12's on that day. The approximate Geographic split will occur along a vertical line through GREENSBORO with Greensboro facilities and teams defaulting to the EAST. If we do not have enough sites to host in either realm, then we will use other sites as close to the dividing line as possible to accommodate as many teams as possible. Teams will be allowed to choose their initial geographic area when they register with the Region. We will assign teams to tournament sites based on the Rankings in 4-team increments after the entry deadline closes (2 weeks before tournament). As a TD, if you need to host a particular team or club, please indicate that on the Tournament Request Form. See the attached schedule of dates to confirm when each age group and division plays.
- (2) **Junior Tournament Format:** We will be assigning teams to sites in 4-team increments so most tournaments can play under that preferred format. This will allow more two-court sites to host and most tournaments will end at a reasonable time. Depending on total entries, we may have some sites that do not have all 4-team pools. For those sites, we will utilize 3-team pools and occasionally a 5-team tournament (playing full round-robin). We will use the excel spreadsheets again this season for Tournament Directors to use to run their tournament. You will mostly just enter who wins each match with the match scores (ties will again be broken automatically based on results during pool play for all events). The spreadsheet will then tell you who is playing next and on which court. The spreadsheet will have multiple tabs at the bottom with all possible tournament formats for 3-12 total teams, so you can switch to the correct tab if teams withdraw or don't show. **You will need access to a laptop or computer running a recent version of EXCEL on site in order to run your tournament!**
- (3) **Tie-Breakers eliminated for Regular Season Tournaments and all Regional Championship Events:** We have eliminated tie-breaker sets at all one-day regular season tournaments and all sites of the Regional Championships! This will allow all those tournaments to end on a more consistent basis. Our spreadsheet has been updated to fully calculate all fields needed to break the ties, so the only thing a TD will need to enter is the match scores of each scheduled match and the spreadsheet will automatically show playoff teams!

- (4) **Tournament Director's Compensation:** The entry fees and thus tournament host compensation are unchanged this year. The early scheduling incentive will be in effect again for this season. To recap: Tournament Sanction Forms are due in the office eight (8) weeks before your tournament. If you return the Sanction Request Form to the Office by **December 1** (excluding December tournament dates, which still must be in 8 weeks in advance), you will receive the maximum fee possible (approximately \$122 per team –Junior tournaments). After December 1, you will receive \$5 - \$10 less per team (depending on when received); however, if your Sanction Form is not in the Office eight weeks before your tournament, we cannot guarantee approval. Entry fees for Regular season tournaments will be \$200 for Junior tournaments. Regional Championship Events (this includes the East/West Championships and Regional Championships) tournament entry fees will be \$225 (Flat rate \$125 per junior team to TD for Regional Championship Events). This increase is necessary to cover the additional costs associated with running the Regional Championships (Region provides the awards and paid officials will be provided for pool play and playoffs for Regional Championship Events again this season). The Tournament Sanction fee is \$25 per tournament, but the Region will allow an Admission fee to be charged by hosts this season. The maximum allowed admission fee will be \$5 for all non-participant spectators **11 and older**. You will receive a Tournament Directors' Handbook, which will explain the Tournament Directors compensation and tournament policies in more detail. **All Tournament Directors must be registered members with the Region (insurance requirement), clear the USAV Background Screen program, and take the SafeSport course.** **NOTE: When registering online, choose the "Adult – SafeSport & Background Screen Required" membership option.** Contact the Region Office before registering and we will provide you with a code to receive a complimentary background screen.
- (5) **Receiving Host Payments:** We have implemented an online payment process for all one-day tournament hosts in an effort to get communications and payments to hosts quicker! Our Tournament System will now produce all post-tournament financial breakdown statements and they will be emailed from that system to the Tournament Director. Payments can be processed electronically with an ACH payment from our bank to the host's bank. Once all post-tournament paperwork is received in our office (either by mail, fax, or email), we will process the ACH payment and have the financial statement sent out by email through our Tournament System. Interested Tournament hosts will need to submit an ACH form to our office with their bank account information, so we can send electronic payments. If you submitted a form in the past and your bank account information has not changed, you do not need to submit another form. Hosts can still request a check if needed. More information on this feature will be included during our TD webinar.
- (6) **Policy on Determining Playing Sites** – If you are hosting a tournament where all or the majority of the divisions are playing, please note that the Region must be notified of all the facilities you will be using at least six weeks before the tournament. This is to insure there are enough courts provided to adequately host all divisions. In the event that specific facilities cannot be provided, the Region reserves the right to look for alternative sites and tournament directors to host some or all of the divisions. Please secure your playing facilities in writing early!
- (7) **Tournament Director Webinar:** We will publish an on-demand Tournament Director webinar this fall before the season begins. This will give all tournament directors a chance to view the tournament assigning process as well as experience our tournament spreadsheet and tournament administration processes. The link to view the webinar will be at the TD Resources page (link below) before December 1. It is important that all interested TD's attend or view the webinar before the season so all tournaments will run uniformly!
- (8) **WEB Page:** There is a section on our website just for Tournament Directors (Info menu)! We'll put all the forms that you may need up there. These are also in the Tournament Director Handbook, but sometimes they get misplaced or used without making copies. The TD webinar will be accessed from there also! Our website is at: <http://www.CarolinaRegionVB.org/>;  
TD Information page: <http://www.carolinaregionvb.org/td-information-resources/>

- (9) **Behavior Policy:** The Junior Advisory Board and Carolina Region Board of Directors approved a Spectator and Participant Behavior Policy. This policy puts all participants at a tournament on notice that inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. The Tournament Director has the right and obligation to remove participants from the facility for inappropriate behavior. We hope this policy will make it easier to administer events as behavior will not be as much of an issue. The full policy and Warning Cards will be a part of the Tournament Director's Handbook that will be sent to you when you submit a request form. As always, please let us know how this policy works for you and whether there are other things we need to address to make your experience better. We can also provide new Tournament Hosts a banner that they can display at the entrance to the gym/facility to inform spectators and participants about the types of behavior that is expected at all USAV-sanctioned events.
- (10) **Regional Championship Events Information:** The Board of Directors has passed a policy that the Region will not sanction a competing event on the same date as any Regional Championship Event. Please keep this in mind when considering special events or tournaments. All age groups will continue to have tournaments on alternating weekends through March 17, 2024 (see enclosed schedule for additional information). This year we will have our Regional Championship Events on the March 23/24 and April 6/7 weekends. We have changed how we will award our Regional bids to the USAV Junior National Championships this year. We will not hold any Regional Bid tournaments in 2024. If you are interested in hosting any one of the Regional Championship Events, please submit a Request as for any other tournament.
- (11) **PLEASE NOTE: Submitting a request does not mean your event will be sanctioned. This is just the first step in the sanctioning process and additional factors are considered before sanctioning is approved. Sanction Requests are not necessarily accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis, but that is a factor when evaluating two similar and valid requests. First priority goes to tournament directors that have run tournaments for us in the past on those dates (Quest, MAPL, etc.) However, if those organizations do not submit their requests in a timely fashion for their normal dates, others may be considered! We make all attempts to honor all timely sanction requests and early requests are rarely not approved. Those willing to host any division stand the best chance at approved sanctions.** With the growth of our Junior divisions, we generally need all the courts we can get each Saturday and we foresee that again this season. By splitting into East and West divisions, adding Sunday tournaments, and the emphasis on 4-team pools for all junior tournaments, we anticipate two-court facilities again being able to host a majority of the junior divisions, so please consider hosting if you can (and help us find more 2-court sites ready to host)!

If you have any questions about the tournament sanctioning process, please give me a call. Just about all the information on our organization can also be found on our web site.

Thank you for all your work in promoting volleyball in North Carolina!



Kevin M. Wendelboe  
Executive Director, Carolina Region

[ceo@carolinaregionvb.org](mailto:ceo@carolinaregionvb.org)

[www.carolinaregionvb.org](http://www.carolinaregionvb.org)

336.766.3501 fax

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/CarolinaRegion>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CarolinaRegionVB>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/CarolinaRegion1>

Attachments to follow



## APPROVED 2024 JUNIOR GIRLS' TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Below are the approved weekends for the 2024 Carolina Region Indoor Sanctioned Girls' Volleyball Season. Site assignments for Junior Tournaments will not be finalized until after the entry deadline for each tournament. However, tournaments will be held on all these dates for all the age groups listed, and 50-75 courts are usually needed on each weekend to host all possible teams. Those interested in hosting a tournament on one of these available dates should complete the Tournament Sanction Request Form. Sites are needed now for all dates including Regional Championship Event tournaments (except the Special events listed which are operated independently from the Region and are noted as FYI only). Final site assignments will be shown on our Tournament System ONLY (tournaments.carolinaregionvb.org). **PLEASE NOTE:** Submitting a request does not mean your event will be sanctioned or approved. This is just the first step in the sanctioning process and additional factors are considered before sanctioning is approved. Sanction Requests are not necessarily accepted on a first come, first-serve basis, but it is a factor when evaluating two similar and valid requests.

### **January, 2024:**

- 6 - Regular season tournaments begin; All divisions for age groups 14's, 17's
- 7 - Regular season tournaments begin; All divisions for age groups 15's
- 13-15 – City of Oaks Tournament – Raleigh Convention Center; (MLK trns)
- 20 - All divisions for age groups 13's, 16's, 18's
- 21 - All divisions for age groups 11's, 12's
- 27 - All divisions for age groups 15's, 17's
- 28 - All divisions for age groups 14's

### **February:**

- 3 - All divisions for age groups 11's, 12's, 16's, 18's; Queen City Classic (Feb 3-4)
- 4 – All divisions for age group 13's
- 10 - All divisions for age groups 14's, 15's; (ACT Test Date)
- 11 - All divisions for age groups 17's
- 17 – All divisions for age groups 11's, 12's, 13's; 18's
- 18 - All divisions for age groups 16's
- 24 – All divisions for age groups 14's, 17's
- 25 - All divisions for age groups 15's

### **March:**

- 2 - All divisions for age groups 13's, 16's, 18's; MAPL Raleigh (Mar 2-3)
- 3 - All divisions for age groups 11's, 12's
- 9 – All divisions for age groups 14's, 15's; (SAT Date)
- 10- All divisions for age groups 17's
- 16 – All divisions for age groups 11's, 12's, 16's, 18's
- 17 - All divisions for age groups 13's
- 23 – Regional/East/West Championships for age groups 15's, 17's
- 24 – Regional/East/West Championships for age groups 14's
- 31 – Easter; Big South Qualifier

### **April:**

- 6 – Regional/East/West Championships for age groups 11's, 12's, 13's; 18's
- 7 – Regional/East/West Championships for age groups 16's



## **APPROVED 2024 JUNIOR BOYS' TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

Below are the approved dates for the 2024 Carolina Region Indoor Sanctioned Boys' Volleyball Season. Site assignments for Junior Tournaments will not be finalized until after the entry deadline for each tournament. We are adding designated days for Boys' volleyball this season to promote growth in this area and allow clubs to plan to play in the Region if they wish. We will assign out the sites for these tournaments using the same process as for the Girl's tournaments. Those interested in hosting a Boys' tournament on one of these available dates should indicate BOYS on the Tournament Sanction Request Form. If you mark "any" on the form, we will also consider your site for a boy's tournament unless you let us know otherwise. Note that the boys' 16's and 18's age groups play on a higher net than the girl's divisions. Final site assignments will be shown on our Tournament System ONLY ([tournaments.carolinaregionvb.org](https://tournaments.carolinaregionvb.org)). **PLEASE NOTE:** Submitting a request does not mean your event will be sanctioned or approved. This is just the first step in the sanctioning process and additional factors are considered before sanctioning is approved. Sanction Requests are not necessarily accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis, but it is a factor when evaluating two similar and valid requests.

### **January, 2024:**

13-14 – \*City of Oaks Tournament\* – Triangle Volleyball Club\*  
28 – Boys 14's/16's/18's

### **February:**

11 – Boys 14's/16's/18's  
24-25 - \*Carolina Volleyball Classic\* - Rocky Mount

### **March:**

2-3 - \*Battle of the Bros\* – Raleigh\*  
9-10 - \*Locomotive Challenge\* - Rocky Mount  
24 – Regional Championships Boys 14's/16's/18's

\* These are special events that will have Boy's divisions. They are listed for informational purposes only. Do not submit to host on weekends that are hosting a special event. We only need sites on the non-special event dates above.



# Carolina Region Direct Pay Registration Form



The Carolina Region will be using a Direct Pay Service through our bank to pay our Tournament Hosts electronically this season. The benefits to our hosts are that funds should show in your bank account within 1-2 business days and all post-tournament communication will be handled electronically through our Tournament System. Hosts will still receive an emailed financial statement to match the electronic payment. Please provide ALL the information requested below so we may build your profile in our Direct Pay service. This form can be emailed or faxed to the Region Office. All banking information will be kept confidential and only used to make payments as needed for Carolina Region activities.

Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Payment Confirmations will go here

Is this a:  Personal Account or  Business Account

Is this account:  Savings or  Checking

Name as it appears on Bank Account: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name with Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_  
Required if put Personal Account above

Bank Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Routing Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX TO: 336.766.3501

EMAIL TO: [ceo@carolinaregionvb.org](mailto:ceo@carolinaregionvb.org)



## 2024 Junior Girls' Division Tournament Structure

### INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

The Carolina Region has experienced tremendous growth in the Juniors Program through the past 30+ seasons. Our Clubs and Tournament Directors have done a great job of promoting the sport and giving more and more kids the opportunity to experience this great game. We have been fortunate that our clubs have been able to continue to expand to accommodate the growth and that we continue to have existing and new Tournament hosts willing to host tournaments so that as many teams as possible can play each weekend. We will continue to need more Clubs and facilities to host tournaments to handle both our current membership demands and anticipated growth. If your club doesn't currently host tournaments but has access to a two- or three-court facility on Saturdays or Sundays during our season, please contact the Region Office for more information on hosting (or visit our TD Section at [our website](#)).

The East/West split for our tournaments has been received very positively the past ten seasons. We will continue to divide the Region in to East and West geographic areas for the 2024 season. The "invisible" North/South line splitting the Region will continue to be drawn through Greensboro this season with teams and facilities along that "line" being designated in the EAST. This will give us more facilities available in the East. The East/West split will still allow teams to know approximately the furthest they would have to travel on any given weekend. However, if we do not have enough courts in any given area on a weekend to accommodate the full number of entries, then we will attempt to schedule additional sites as close to the "dividing line" as possible so as many teams can play (for example – some East sites played in Winston-Salem area in the past when there were not enough East sites requesting to host and some West sites have been assigned in Greensboro in the past).

We will have one-day tournaments on every Sunday during the season. With our growth, we have not been able to keep up in the number of facilities AND professional officials needed to accommodate the number of teams wanting to play on any given weekend. Only one age group each weekend is assigned to play on Sunday. The age groups playing on Sunday are alternated throughout the season. We know it is not always preferred to play on Sunday, but this is the only way we can accommodate as many teams that want to play as possible. **Teams should be prepared to play either Saturday or Sunday of their scheduled weekends.**



## 2024 JUNIOR TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE/INFORMATION

### NATIONAL BID INFORMATION:

The Carolina Region will award its bids to the USAV Girl's Junior National Championships (JNC) based on the Carolina Region Regional Bid Ranking System process introduced last season. Feedback from clubs that participated in the Ranking System process was positive and some minor enhancements have been incorporated for this season. As all bids will be awarded based on the rankings, there will not be a bid tournament this season. Teams that are committed to attending the USAV JNC if they are awarded a bid will submit an online application by their age group's designated deadline. Once the deadline passes, the Region will produce a ranking based on the National Bid Ranking System and award our bids. The 18's USAV Junior National Championships will be held April 26-28, 2024 in Baltimore, MD. The 11's – 13's USAV Girls' JNC will be June 21-24, 2024 in Dallas, TX. The 14's – 17's USAV Girls' JNC will be July 3 – 11, 2024 in Las Vegas, NV.

The 18's Online Application deadline will be March 18 2024. The 11's – 17's Online Application deadline will be April 8, 2024. All teams will submit their online application [at this link](#).

Teams that submit an application to be considered for the bids are CONFIRMING they will accept any bid awarded). Should a team be offered a Region bid based on their placement in the Region Bid Ranking system and choose not to accept the bid, the club will need to pay a sanction fee of \$500 to be eligible to participate in the Region Bid Ranking System in a future season.

## **JUNIOR TOURNAMENTS:**

During registration, teams will self-select into EAST and WEST realms based on where they are located. A North/South line through GREENSBORO is the approximate dividing line for East and West this season (team may choose which ever realm they wish). Teams will also self-select whether they think they will be ranked in the: (1) Top 20% of ALL teams in their age group; (2) 21-40% of teams; (3) 41-60% of teams; (4) 61-80% of teams; or (5) lower 20% of teams. When thinking about the percentages, teams should factor in ALL teams in their age group including OPEN teams and National traveling teams (i.e. factor in where they stand against those teams when figuring out your percentages). If you select Category 1, then it means you will be competing against the top teams in the Region when they play in the Region! However, keep in mind, that the Site you are placed in when tournament pools are assigned will depend only on the total number of teams ranked higher than your team that enter that particular tournament (for example, a team ranked 16<sup>th</sup> overall among 15 East teams may be placed at Site 1 site if many of the teams ranked above them do not enter that particular tournament). The Region will utilize the initial self-selected category to enter the teams into the Tournament System in that age group and geographic area (i.e. 15 East teams; 13 West teams, etc.). All teams will be ranked top to bottom in the Tournament system based on where they anticipate they fit overall within their age group. NOTE: After tournaments have been played, the initial self-selected category will no longer apply to the team as their rankings will change up or down based on their tournament results. Again for 2023 - Teams may petition the Carolina Region office for an adjustment to their initial point's value that will adjust their next tournaments division by one level up/down depending on their request. All petitions must be received in writing by the Region office by Monday noon of the business week following the second Regular season tournament of their age group. CR Staff will evaluate their request and results and may adjust their starting point's value accordingly.

A six-tournament schedule will be developed with tournaments for each age group – one in the East and one in the West. We will recruit sites in both geographic areas to host as many teams as we can on any given weekend. **Ultimately, the number of teams we can assign to sites will depend on the total number of sites/courts that have requested to host on a given weekend. We cannot guarantee that all teams that enter a tournament will get into any given tournament.**

Entry Deadline and Site Assignments: The entry deadline for ALL tournaments is ***TWO*** weeks before the tournament. This will be a firm deadline – **late entries may not be accepted!** At the entry deadline we will assign teams to tournament sites in 4-team pool increments based on the Rankings **AND, if needed, the DATE the entry was received (we still track when entries are received and if we do not have enough courts to accommodate all teams then earlier received entries will have priority over the last entries received)**. Since a lot of teams will be starting with the same points value initially, the first tournament assigned will be assigned as best as possible

based on proximity to sites and past club history. Some sites may have 8 teams/2 pools and some sites may have 12 teams/3 pools (depending on the facility size). The final site assigned may have a non-4-team pool format. It will depend on the total number of entries for that weekend. If we have a non-4-team pool site, then we **MAY** be able to accept late entries and out-of-Region teams to fill the site to have the optimum pool size (if they fit in to the skill level of that site). **PLEASE NOTE:** (a) Entering a tournament by the deadline still does not guarantee a team a spot in the tournament. It will still depend on total number of courts available and the total number of teams trying to play that weekend. Entries will be accepted based on the entry criteria policy in the 2024 Operating Code. (b) There is no guarantee we can accept entries that come in after the deadline. Even if a team pays the \$25 late fee, there may not be room in the tournament.

Formats: Since we will have 4-team pools at most sites, we will use the ideal round-robin pool play format with playoffs after pool play. If a team happens to withdraw at a site, then there will be a 3-team pool used (double round-robin format for the 3-team pool). The last site assigned may not have all 4-team pools. In that case, we will utilize 3-team and 4-team formats to allow as many teams to play as possible. (a) If we have six (6) teams at a tournament site, they will be split into two 3-team pools. Each pool will play a single round-robin format and then all six teams will be seeded into a 6-team playoff; (b) If we have five (5) teams (only) at a tournament site, they will play a round robin format but only play two sets. The top two teams will advance to a Championship match after pool play based on their set win percentage. All tournament formats are available at our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section of our website.

Tournament System: Clubs, Players, and Parents will need to refer to our Tournament System (<https://tournaments.carolinaregionvb.org>) frequently during the season. We will do our best to update the results from each tournament on the Monday after the tournament. Once those results are in, we will then be able to assign out the next tournament two weeks later (this is why entry deadline was moved to TWO Weeks since tournaments occur approximately every two weeks). There will be no need to “move” teams as the rankings will be used to assign teams to sites. Teams will move up or down the rankings based on their results. This should help alleviate a lot of the confusion with the Tournament System (there is no change in how the rankings are calculated this season). We will be able to calculate points for Carolina Region teams that play in multi-day tournaments in the Carolina Region and play another Carolina Region team (i.e. Kickoff, City of Oaks, MAPL Raleigh, and any other multi-day CR-sanctioned event that uses AES as their registration platform). We will receive the results from the Tournament host and upload into our system. Teams will be able to see how their rankings changed from within their individual team page in the Tournament System. This should help teams that do not play as many one-day events earn points for Regional Events qualification.

Teams will be able to choose to play in an East or West division if they wish. However, they must make this determination by the ENTRY Deadline and thus they will not know which site they are assigned to until after the prior tournament results are in the system. Teams will not be able to change to their original geographic area after the sites are announced (we would have already assigned the sites in 4-team pool increments). Thus, it is critical to enter by the deadline AND be willing to travel to any site to play on the weekends you enter.

Regional Championship Events: All our Regional Championship Events will occur over two weekends this season. The 14's, 15's, and 17's will play on the March 23-24, 2024 weekend, and the 11's, 12's, 13's, 16's, and 18's will play on the April 6-7, 2024 weekend. The top four teams in each age group from the East rankings and the West rankings that enter their Regional Championship Event by the entry deadline will be placed into the Regional Championships automatically. The Regional Championship's sites will be placed as close to center of the state as possible (since East and West teams will be participating). All other teams that enter their Regional Championship by the entry deadline will be placed in their respective East/West Championships tournaments, and will compete at sites in their respective realms. This procedure worked well last season and was implemented for following reason: In the past, we had a difficult time confirming eight teams for the Regional Championships. This process will guarantee eight teams for all Regional Championships as those teams will have already qualified and submitted their entry for the Regional Championship event.

Regional Championships Eligibility Requirement:

All teams must play in THREE Carolina Region Regular season sanctioned events to be eligible for a Regional Championship Event (defined as the East/West Championships and the Carolina Regional Championships). At least one of those events must have been a Carolina Region one-day tournament. The other two events may consist of any two of the following **if held BEFORE the Regional Championship Event:**

- One or Two Carolina Region one-day tournaments
- Any two-day Carolina Region sanctioned event whose only criteria is date of entry (examples: Quest tournament, Carolina Kickoff, City of Oaks)
- Only ONE of the following tournaments: a National Qualifier or any other Carolina Region sanctioned event with a restricted access entry criteria (example: MAPL Raleigh).

All-Tournament Teams: We will not award All-Tournament Teams at the East/West Championship sites. We will, however, name an MVP at all the East/West Championship sites. We will announce an All-Region team in all age groups at the Regional Championships sites. We will award 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place medals at all Regional Championship Events.

ITEMS OF NOTE FOR CLUBS AND PARENTS:

- Based on how we are assigning sites now, we will not be able to publish a schedule with site assignments until after the tournament results are in from the previous tournament and the entry deadline passes. This is one of the tradeoffs with trying to have as many 4-team pools as possible and having predictable tournament end times.
- Teams will not be able to change sites after the assignments are made. Most all sites will be 8- or 12-team tournaments. Withdrawals and changes take the tournament away from the ideal format.
- We have made several enhancements to the Tournament System this offseason in addition to other enhancements made in the past six seasons. Users should notice a big difference in site responsiveness as well as added features like: (a) website is now mobile friendly; (b) pre-built filters for all ages have been added; (c) search for key words to quickly find your team/club listings; (d) filters to only show the tournament weekends your age group plays in; (e) additional information in a team's details view; (f) improved tournament results information; (g) eligibility for Championship events now show on team page; and (h) we are working on even more! Let us know if there are additional features you would like that we might be able to add to make the site even more informative and useful! Thanks for your understanding and cooperation. We heard nothing but positives from this scheduling system over the past few seasons, so we are hopeful the process will only get smoother each season. We thank everyone for their support and feedback.