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2009 CAROLINA REGION OPERATING CODE

**NOTE:** *Unless otherwise specifically stated, the following regulations and requirements refer to the full Regular (adult) or Junior membership which runs from September 1, 2008 through October 31, 2009. All references, unless otherwise specifically stated, refer to the normal indoor six person sanctioned season.*

**I. NATIONAL ORGANIZATION**

**A. Non-Profit Organization:** USA Volleyball (formerly the United States Volleyball Association) is incorporated in Colorado as a non-profit organization.

**B. Voting Membership:** Voting rights shall be vested exclusively in the member organizations and shall be exercised by the individuals named by each organization to represent them as delegates.

**C. Board of Directors:** All corporate powers and affairs of the corporation are exercised and controlled by a Board of Directors appointed according to Article III of the USVBA Bylaws.

**D. Executive Director:** The Executive Director serves as chief administrative officer and shall be selected by the Board of Directors for a term set by the Board. The administrative offices of USA Volleyball are located at 715 South Circle Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 80910-2368.

**II. REGIONAL ORGANIZATION**

**A. Membership:** Regional officers of the Board of Directors are elected by the Carolina Region membership for three year- terms as provided for in the Bylaws. Other members of the Board are elected from their Advisory Boards as provided in the Operating Code. The President is empowered to promote, arrange and conduct volleyball competition and is authorized to enforce all policies, rules and guidelines of USA Volleyball. The Regional Commissioner shall be appointed by the Board of Directors as provided in the Bylaws and shall serve as the principle representative of the Carolina Region to USA Volleyball.

**B. Non-Profit Organization:** The Carolina Regional Volleyball Association is incorporated in North Carolina as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

**C. Board of Directors:** All corporate powers and affairs of the corporation are exercised and controlled by a Board of Directors selected according to Article IV of the Carolina Region Bylaws.

**D. President:** The President serves as chief administrative officer and shall be selected according to Article IV of the Carolina Region Bylaws. The administrative offices of the Carolina Region are located at 3770 Clemmons Road, Suite C, Clemmons, NC, 27012.

**III GOVERNANCE**

**A. Board of Directors.**

1. **Authority:** Refer to Bylaws, Article IV.
2. **Accountability:** The Board of Directors is the highest authority of the Corporation.
3. **Mission/Responsibilities:** Refer to Bylaws, Article III.
4. **Other Policies:**
  - a) All members of the Board of Directors shall register annually with the Carolina Regional Volleyball Association in whose geographical area they must reside.
  - b) Vacancies in the Board of Directors shall be filled as stated in Bylaws, Article V Section 3.

**B. Officers.**

1. **Authority:** Refer to Bylaws, Article VI.
2. **Accountability:** The officers shall be accountable to the Board of Directors, as specified in Bylaws, Article VI and may be removed as specified in Bylaws, Article IV.
3. **Responsibilities:**
  - a) President:
    - (i) Primary: Refer to Bylaws, Article VI.

- (ii) Others: Refer to Bylaws, Article VI.
  - (a) Shall supervise the Staff, Divisions, Executive Committee, Personnel Committee, and other such committees as authorized by the Board of Directors.
  - (b) Shall approve all appointments made by other elected and appointed officers.
- b) Past President:
  - (i) Primary: Refer to Bylaws, Article VI.
  - (ii) Others: Refer to Bylaws, Article VI.
    - (a) Shall supervise and chair the Corporation Ethics and Eligibility Committee.
    - (b) Shall maintain the Policies and Procedures Manual with the aid of staff.
- c) Secretary:
  - (i) Primary: Refer to Bylaws, Article VI.
  - (ii) Others: Refer to Bylaws, Article VI.
    - (a) Shall supervise the Archives and Structure and Function Committees and shall verify the presence of a quorum at meetings of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Personnel Committees
    - (b) Shall chair the Directors' Nominating Committees, in a non-voting ex-officio capacity.
- d) Treasurer:
  - (i) Primary: Refer to Bylaws, Article VI.
  - (ii) Others: Refer to Bylaws, Article VI.
    - (a) Shall ensure publication of all fiscal policies of the Corporation in the Policies and Procedures Manual.
    - (b) Shall supervise and chair the Finance and Budget Committee

**C. Executive Committee.**

- 1. Authority: Refer to Bylaws, Article XVI Section 1.
- 2. Accountability: The Executive Committee shall be accountable to the Board of Directors.
- 3. Responsibilities:
  - a) Primary: Refer to Bylaws, Article XVI Section 1.
  - b) Others:
    - (i) Shall act on behalf of the Board of Directors between meetings of the Board of Directors.
    - (ii) Shall have general supervisory responsibility for financial development of the Corporation, including the investment portfolio.

**D. Committees and Commissions of the Board of Directors.**

- 1. Authority: Refer to Bylaws, Article XVI Section 2-3.
- 2. Accountability:
  - a) All Committees and/or Commissions established by the Board of Directors shall report to the Board of Directors.
  - b) In consultation with the President, an elected or appointed officer or an Executive Committee liaison shall appoint chairs of each committee and commission, with the approval of the Board of Directors.
  - c) Chairs of committees and commissions may appoint members with the approval of the responsible supervisor.
  - d) If at all possible, Committees and Commissions should share their reports and recommendations with the Executive Committee prior to discussion by the Board of Directors.
- 3. Committees and Commissions:
  - a) Officers' Nominating Committees.
    - (i) Authority: Refer to Bylaws, Article XVI Section 2.
    - (ii) Accountability: The Secretary shall chair and supervise the Directors' Nominating Committees, as an ex-officio, non-voting member.
    - (iii) Mission/Responsibilities: Identify and recruit Carolina Region members for possible service on the Board of Directors.

**E. Division Advisory Boards**

The Board of Directors may create Division Advisory Boards to represent membership constituencies, govern the operations and address division related issues within the guidelines set in the Carolina Region Operating Code Article III.

**1. Adult Division Advisory Board**

The Adult Division Advisory Board will be comprised of a team representative from each team in the active playing divisions. Any adult player member may participate in the activities of the Adult Division Board with voice but no vote.

The Adult Division Advisory Board shall elect from among their membership the Women's Player Representative, elected by the team representatives from the female teams, and the Men's Player Representative, elected by the team representatives from the male teams, to the Board of Directors. The Player Representatives are voting members of the Board of Directors and shall serve for a one year term. The Player Representative elections will be held by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**2. Youth & Junior Division Advisory Board**

The Youth & Junior Division Advisory Board will be comprised of a team representative from each team in the active playing divisions (Boy's and Girl's). Any member involved with a Youth & Junior team may participate in the activities of the Youth & Junior Advisory Board with voice but no vote.

The Youth & Junior Division Advisory Board shall elect from among their membership the Youth & Junior Girl's Representative, elected by the team representatives from the girl's teams, and the Youth & Junior Boy's Representative, elected by the team representatives from the boy's teams, to the Board of Directors. The Youth & Junior Representatives must each have a strong interest in promoting Youth & Junior-level volleyball and sufficient experience in organizing and or coaching Youth & Junior-level volleyball to be able to help coordinate the Region's Youth & Junior activities as well as related coaching development programs. The Youth & Junior Representatives will be voting members of the Board of Directors and shall serve for a one year term. The Youth & Junior Representative elections will be held by June 15<sup>th</sup> at a called Junior Advisory Board meeting. If nominees for the Boy's or Girl's Representative positions are known before the called Junior Advisory Board meeting, an online vendor will be selected to hold the elections. Team Representatives will be able to place their votes through the approved online vendor or in-person at the Advisory Board meeting. Proxies are not allowed for any Carolina Region Advisory Board meetings.

**3. Officials Division Advisory Board**

The Official's Division Advisory Board will be comprised of all certified officials (national, junior national, regional, provisional, and team) in the Carolina Region. An administrative Advisory Council shall be established within the Advisory Board and shall include:

- a) The Regional Referees' Chair appointed annually by the President. They must be a regular member of the Carolina Region USVBA, and have been a regional referee for at least two years, or a national or junior national referee.
- b) The Regional Scorekeepers' Chair appointed annually by the President. They must be a regular member of the Carolina Region USVBA, and have been a regional scorekeeper for at least two years, or a national scorekeeper.
- c) Associate Referee Chairs (2) appointed annually by the Regional Referee's Chair.
- d) Associate Scorekeeper Chair appointed annually by the Regional Scorekeeper's Chair.

The Official's Division Advisory Board shall elect from among their membership the Official's Division Representative to the Board of Directors. The Official's Division Representative is a voting member of the Board of Directors and shall serve a one year term. The Official's Representative election will be held by August 15<sup>th</sup> at a called Officials Advisory Board meeting. If nominees for the Officials' Representative position are known before the called Officials Advisory Board meeting, an online vendor will be selected to hold the elections. Officials Advisory Board members will be able to place their votes through the approved online vendor or in-person at the Advisory Board meeting. Proxies are not allowed for any Carolina Region Advisory Board meetings

IV. **PLAYER AND TEAM ELIGIBILITY**

**A. Player Eligibility:** Each player engaged in USA Volleyball sanctioned play is required to register with USA Volleyball through their local Regional Volleyball Association as an athlete in the current season. The player must conform to the definition of an eligible athlete as stated by the International Olympic Committee and must comply with the Rules and Regulations of said body. Players and organizations desiring to participate in USA Volleyball sanctioned tournaments must support the purposes and policies of USA Volleyball as stated in the Articles of Incorporation; Bylaws; and Operating Code.

**B. Player Classification:**

1. A Junior Member is a player who has not participated in a club or varsity volleyball program for a university, college, community college or junior college who is
  - a. 18 years of age or younger on September 1 of the current season or
  - b. 19 years of age or younger on September 1 of the current season and is a high school student during some part of the academic year.
2. A Regular Member includes all other adult persons who wish to participate in USA Volleyball sanctioned events including but not limited to players, coaches, officials and administrators.
3. A Youth Participant includes all individuals between the ages of 7 and 11 who are participating in an approved youth volleyball program.
4. Other. Additional categories of registration approved either by the USVBA Board of Directors or the Vice President, Regional Operations Division. These categories may grant full or limited participation rights. Some examples are:
  - a. Collegiate/Military: available to current college students and military personnel who can provide proof of insurance;
  - b. One Event (one-day): registration limited to a single event conducted on one day;
  - c. One Event (multi-day): registration limited to a single event conducted on multiple days;
  - d. Outdoor: registration limited to the outdoor season only.

**C. Policy on Foreign Player Participation:** A “Foreign Player” shall be defined as 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. **Concurrent registration with more than one National Volleyball Federation is prohibited.** For Carolina Region competitions, each foreign player must have in their possession and on file with the Carolina Region the following:

- Driver’s License or comparable document with photo identification
- Proof of 24-hour health insurance valid for coverage in the United States (or can purchase foreign player insurance from USA Volleyball)

Additionally, Foreign National Juniors must provide:

- Copy of Birth Certificate or government issued ID with birthdate
- USAV Consent for Medical treatment & Release form signed by the athlete(s) parent or legal guardian

A resident Foreign National individual (residing legally in the United States) may participate in the Carolina Region if she/he is a duly registered member of the Carolina Region and is in compliance with the above regulations. A non-resident Foreign National individual, who has competed in a national level program for their country (i.e. Youth National Team, Junior National Team, Senior National Team, or other “elite” team that has represented that country in international competition) or is currently registered with his/her national federation may participate if he/she has been granted a written release from the FIVB-recognized volleyball federation of origin and is duly registered with the Carolina Region and meets the above regulations.

There are additional regulations for foreign national TEAMS. Please contact the Office for more information.

**D. Team Classification:** A Junior Team is composed entirely of players who are Junior Members and will be classified in accordance with USA Volleyball's Junior player definitions based on the birth date of the oldest junior member on that team's roster (whether that player plays in a particular event or not). A Regular Team may be composed entirely of Regular (adult) members or a combination of Regular and Junior members.

**E. Registration Requirements:** In order to be eligible for sanctioned Regional play, teams and players must be properly registered with the Region, which includes paying appropriate fees and signing (either electronically or using paper form) the Waiver and Release of Liability and Code of Conduct form. Upon receipt of payment and reported to USA Volleyball in their online database, membership fees are NONREFUNDABLE.

**F. Violations:** Violations of eligibility by teams or individuals are subject to a \$50 or higher fine and appropriate discipline from the Carolina Region. Individuals or teams that have been fined or sanctioned will not be eligible to participate in Region events until all sanctions and fines are satisfied or under appeal. If a team commits a violation, all members of the team will be held accountable for the resolution of the sanction. Members who are reported by their clubs and/or teams as not paying their required dues to the club/team may be brought before the Region's Eligibility Committee on a Code of Conduct violation.

**V. REGISTRATION OF INDIVIDUALS AND TEAMS**

**A. Team Registration:** Each team participating in USA Volleyball sanctioned events must be registered pursuant to the rules established by the USA Volleyball Committee on Player and Team Eligibility. When registering each season with the Carolina Region, each team must identify and register a Team Representative that is not the representative for any other team. The **Team Representative** will be the principle contact person with the Carolina Region through which all information from the Region will flow. The registered Team Representative will be the only individual from that team that may vote in any Carolina Region elections that are elected by Team Representatives. Teams not properly registered or using illegal players (not registered or members of another non-Club team) are subject to a \$50 or higher fine and possible other sanctions including suspension.

**B. Individual Registration:** All individuals must be registered with the Region Office to participate in USA Volleyball sanctioned competition. An individual may not be registered as a player on more than one team during the same season. Adults affiliating with a Junior team are required to clear the RVA of USAV Background Screen (a screen is valid for two seasons). Adults affiliating with a Junior team must submit their application at least six business days before their first sanctioned event as it takes up to five business days for the approved background screen vendor to process the background screen. Each registered individual will receive a USAV membership number (proof of membership will be available and printable online within each member's record in the Carolina Region online registration system).

**C. Player and Team Registration Deadlines:** Team and player registration must be received by the Region Office no later than seven (7) days prior to participation in sanctioned tournament play. Special requests for registration less than seven (7) days prior to participation will require payment of a late fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) for a team registration and five dollars (\$5.00) for each individual. This late registration must be received by the Office no later than Thursday prior to competition on that upcoming weekend (late registrations may be accepted at other times for extenuating and special circumstances).

**D. Clubs:** The Carolina Region's registration system requires all teams to be a part of a club, even one-team clubs. Teams from the same area may also form a multi-team club in the online registration system. NEW FOR 2009: All Junior teams in the SAME club, will have Player Movement Privileges within the guidelines of the Club Player Movement Policy – see Section IX. F. There will not be a Club Fee. Each team in a club must have a unique name to distinguish it from other teams in the club. For administrative purposes, each team must include an abbreviated form of the club name in its name and must use that form in all tournament entries and Region correspondence. Example: GVC - Pounders, GVC - Hitmen, etc. ADULTS: Again for 2009, all teams in the region will be considered part of the same club FOR CLUB PLAYER MOVEMENT purposes! Adult teams will be able to borrow players from any other adult team in the Region within the guidelines of the Player Movement Policy.

**E. Team Rosters/Tournament Exceptions:** Each team must submit a roster of players upon registering. Per USA Volleyball rules, rosters for RVA competition are limited to 15 players and up to 5 others who are coaches, chaperones, or medical staff. All persons on the roster should have their proof of USAV membership and be able to show proof of identity at all sanctioned events (junior players without photo ID's may be verified by their parent/legal guardian). For multi-team Junior clubs and all Adult teams (per V. D. above), Club Player Movement is restricted as described in the Operating Code under Section IX, paragraph F with the following exceptions in Adult Competition ONLY: (a) if there is interest within the Region, the Region will maintain a list of registered unaffiliated adult players that adult teams may borrow as needed for a regular season competition. The unaffiliated player must be added to the roster by the Captain at the tournament and reported to the Region with the post-tournament reports (see section F below for additional info/policies on the Unaffiliated players list); and (b) an adult team that arrives at a competition with only FOUR players (this is only exception – cannot borrow with THREE or less) may borrow up to two players from any other team in the tournament to give them six players to start/play the tournament. If the team's fifth/sixth player(s) arrive then the borrowed player(s) may go back to the team with which they are registered or stay with their temporary team under the Club Player Movement Policy. The borrowed player(s) must be written on the roster and reported to the Region with the post-tournament reports. An adult team may only use option (b) ONCE during the season (subsequent instances of only having four/five players at the start of the tournament would be handled under normal policy of dropping from the tournament if six players not present by the 2<sup>nd</sup> game of the 1<sup>st</sup> match). All adult and junior teams' rosters are frozen two weeks before their Division's Regional Championships. After this date players may play only with the team with which they have been frozen (and picking up unaffiliated players or borrowing players will not be allowed so those unaffiliated players wishing to play Regionals must be added to a roster permanently prior to 14 days before the Regionals). Junior clubs with only one team in their club may not borrow or move players from teams from other clubs (within the Region or any other USAV RVA).

**F. Unaffiliated Player List (Adults):** Again for 2009 in the Adult Division ONLY, the Carolina Region will allow those players not affiliated with a registered team to register with the Region and be added to a contact list (name, gender, phone, email, level) which the Region will publish on its website for use by the Adult Teams. If any adult teams are in need of a player(s) for a specific Regular season tournament (since rosters frozen two weeks before Regionals the unaffiliated list applies only to regular season tournaments), then they can contact players on the list to pick them up for the tournament. Teams and Individuals taking advantage of the Unaffiliated Player list are restricted by the following policies: (1) Teams picking up unaffiliated players must have at least FOUR of their registered players at the tournament; (2) Teams using the list may pick up a maximum of THREE players for a tournament; (3) Individuals on the list may only play as an unaffiliated player in THREE events. After the third event played by the unaffiliated player, they will automatically be added to the roster of the THIRD TEAM they participated with. At that time, that player is governed by the normal Player Movement policy. An individual on the list may be added to a team permanently at any time up to the two weeks before Regional Championships when rosters are frozen; (4) All teams utilizing the Unaffiliated list must WRITE the Players names on their roster at the tournament and mark them as from the UNAFFILIATED LIST. This roster must be turned into the Tournament Director at the tournament who will forward to the Region at the end of the event. Failure to follow these procedures will cause a team to be ineligible to use the unaffiliated list in future events.

## **VI. REGION TOURNAMENTS/EVENTS**

**A. Sanctioned Season:** The adult indoor six person sanctioned season begins on December 1 and ends on June 1 of the current season. During this season, all tournaments must be sanctioned by the Region and conducted according to USA Volleyball and Regional Guidelines. The sanctioned season for indoor Junior competition begins on December 1 and ends July 31. All Junior tournaments must be sanctioned by the Region and conducted according to USA Volleyball and Regional Guidelines. Other specialized sanctioned seasons may be established as required.

**B. Sanctioned Tournaments:** Tournament Directors must submit a Tournament Sanction Request Form to the Region Office eight weeks before a tournament and must submit a Tournament Result Form immediately after the completion of the tournament. There is a \$15 Tournament Sanction Fee for all sanctioned tournaments (in addition to other administration/sanction fees as described in the Tournament Director's Handbook). Tournament Directors must identify the gym sites they will be using at least six weeks before their tournament or risk losing some or all of their divisions to other identified sites. Tournament Directors may not waive Carolina Region/USA Volleyball regulations and are expected to conduct all tournaments in accordance with Carolina Region/USA Volleyball guidelines.

**C. Sanctioned Practices/Events:** In order to be covered by USA Volleyball's Insurance policy (Liability insurance and Secondary Health policy), all practices/events must be sanctioned by the Carolina Region. To be sanctioned, all active participants must be a member of the Carolina Region (or other USA Volleyball Region) and all adults affiliating with a Junior Club must pass the required Background Screen BEFORE participating in any sanctioned event. One-event or multi-day memberships may be offered to participants in order to meet the membership requirements (contact Office for more information). To sanction an event (camp, clinic, practice, scrimmage, fundraiser, etc), an Application for Event Sanction Form must be completed and submitted to the Region office at least one week before the event. All events other than club/team practices/tryouts require a \$15 Sanction fee in order for the event to be sanctioned.

**D. Divisions:** The Carolina Region will offer play in various divisions each season based on demand. Examples are: ADULT - Gold (highest skill level), Silver, and Bronze; JUNIOR - Platinum (highest skill level), Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Copper. The Adult & Junior Competition Committees reserve the right to add or subtract divisions as needed to maintain a sufficient number of teams or competitive balance in their respective divisions. With their initial team registration, Adult and Junior teams may select the division they will start playing. Division reassignments will be made by the appropriate Competition Committees based on the Reassignment policy in Section VIII. M. In addition, the Region will sanction Co-ed (minimum 3 males and 3 females on roster) and U-Volley (height restricted tournaments) tournaments for those tournament directors that wish to hold these special tournaments. Contact the Region Office for additional information if you wish to host a Co-ed or U-Volley tournament.

**E. Uniform Rule:** During the indoor sanctioned season, all teams must abide by the uniform rule that requires team uniforms to be similar, clean and of the same color and conform to USA Volleyball regulations regarding jersey numbers. For the current season, USA Volleyball rules require that the number must be placed on the center of the front and back. Each jersey must use the same color and number height for all players except the Libero. The number is recommended to be a minimum of 6" in height on the chest and 8" on the back, but can be 4" on front and 6" on back for younger junior teams. The stripe forming the numbers shall have a minimum width of 2 cm (3/4 "). In addition, for those teams utilizing the Libero rule, the Libero must wear a uniform (or jacket/bib for the redesignated Libero) whose jersey contrasts in color with the uniform of the other members of the team (Color combinations such as purple/black, dark green/black, and navy/marron are not distinctive enough to comply with the rule). [Beginning November 1, 2009 the Libero uniform may not include any color from the regular team jersey, excluding the color of the number.] The Libero uniform may have a different design, but it must be numbered like the rest of the team members. If a jacket or bib is worn by the re-designated Libero (only), the uniform number must be visible. The Libero's uniform number must be recorded on the scoresheet before each set in the special box on the line-up sheet. Consult the rule book for the entire uniform rule. For Region play, it is permissible for shorts to have a minor difference in style and trim. Teams may petition in writing to the Region to receive waivers on the uniform requirements (both regular and Libero). Teams may be subject to more stringent uniform requirements (consult the rule book) when playing in other Regions, playing at the Adult or Junior Hi Neighbor (inter-Regional competitions) or at the USAV National Events. Players are forbidden to wear any article - pins, jewelry, glitter, etc. - which may cause injury during the play of the game. The Region will look into purchasing some uniform tops and have them available at the Adult tournaments to use with some of the special new member/team categories we will be promoting. These one-event teams will not have as strict uniform requirements (shorts) or officiating requirements in an effort to promote the sport and grow our adult division.

**F. Officiating Responsibilities:** Since six people are needed to officiate a match, it is a team responsibility and it is important that each team have on its roster persons that are qualified officials. Each team playing in indoor sanctioned Regional tournaments is required to comply with the officiating rules described in Section VIII D. of this Operating Code. Failure to comply with these responsibilities will result in the assessment of a \$50 or higher fine and possible ineligibility for the Regional Championships. Teams that deliberately leave a regular season tournament without officiating a scheduled match (pool or playoffs) will be subject to a \$50 or higher fine. In addition, those teams that deliberately leave without officiating will be notified of a Code of Conduct Violation and will be subject to further sanctions which may include suspension of playing privileges for the team and individual members. Teams that leave a tournament without fulfilling their officiating requirements more than once will be subject to review by the appropriate Eligibility Committee for possible sanction/suspension. Teams that leave the Regional Championships without officiating a scheduled match (pool or playoffs) will be subject to a \$100 fine and no rostered member of the team will be eligible to register with the Carolina Region in subsequent seasons until the fine is paid.

**G. Regional Championships/Points System for the Indoor Season:** Teams in each division shall earn points while playing in tournaments. The Adult & Junior Points Standings will only be used for seeding purposes and to aid in putting together tournament pools. All Adult teams that play in four regular season tournaments will be eligible for the Adult Regional Championships (space permitting). In the event that there are not enough courts for all teams submitting entries, then teams (adult & junior) will be accepted into the Regional Championships based on the Points Standings (Priority to the higher ranked teams that enter by the deadline). The Adult Regional Championships will be a regular format tournament this season.

Adult & Juniors tournaments during the regular season will be designated as Points tournaments (except Asheville Adult & Junior Hi Neighbor and other special multi-day tournaments that may be sanctioned). Any Carolina Region sanctioned multi-day tournaments will count towards one of the required tournaments to be eligible for the Regional Championships, but they will not have points assigned to it (due to its inter-Regional makeup and differing formats).

**H. Tournament Guidelines:** All sanctioned regional tournaments must be conducted in accordance with USA Volleyball and Carolina Region guidelines and formats. These guidelines and formats appear in the Tournament Director's Handbook and are reproduced in the online Team Handbook (a printed copy is available for a small printing fee). A Tournament Director's Handbook is provided to each tournament host. Tournament directors and hosts are expected to enforce all USA Volleyball and Carolina Region rules. Where discrepancies are found between Carolina Region and USA Volleyball policies/guidelines, then Carolina Region policies found in the Operating Code and Tournament Directors' Handbooks will supersede any of those published by USA Volleyball.

**I. Tournament Entry Priority:** The Region's policy regarding how the Region Office assigns which teams will be allowed to participate in a tournament is as follows (except the Asheville Hi Neighbor and Quest tournaments which sets and administers their own criteria): if a team was closed out of the previous tournament, the team will be guaranteed a spot in the next possible tournament on the schedule if its entry to that tournament is complete and beats the deadline. The remaining slots will be filled in the order in which the complete and timely entry forms of teams within the division are received by the Region Office. Regarding out-of-region teams and Carolina Region teams both from the same division and with complete and timely entries, Carolina Region teams will always receive priority over out-of-region teams in registering for sanctioned tournaments (except for any sanctioned multi-day tournaments that accept their own entries – Hi Neighbor/Quest). Out-of-region teams within the same Division whose entries are complete and timely would have priority over any out-of-division teams. If there are still slots remaining to be filled after this priority scheme, the order of acceptance of late team entries that are valid and include a \$25 surcharge is as follows: 1) Carolina Region teams within the division, 2) out-of-region teams within the division, and 3) out-of-division teams on a first come, first serve basis.

**J. Withdrawing from Tournaments:** Teams MUST notify the Region Office if they are withdrawing from a tournament. Failure to notify the Region Office (or Tournament Director/Contact if withdrawing on Friday before a weekend tournament) will result in a \$50 or higher fine. JUNIORS - *To receive a full refund/credit of the Tournament Entry Fee only (late entry fees are non-refundable), you must notify the Office and cancel at least two weeks before the tournament date.* Withdrawal one to two weeks before the tournament date forfeits all entry fees unless the Region can replace the team in the tournament. If a replacement is found, 50% of the entry fee will be refunded/credited. Withdrawal one week or less before the tournament date will result in no refunds as the Region is committed to paying the Tournament host that fee. ADULTS - If you withdraw by the tournament entry deadline (10 days in advance), then you will receive a full refund/credit. Withdrawals after the tournament entry deadline cannot be refunded as the Region is committed to paying the Tournament Director that fee at that time. All refunds are treated as credits that may be used towards future tournaments. *Tournament entries still must be submitted in writing by the appropriate tournament deadline to use credits or a late fee will be charged.* Credits left over at the end of the season will be refunded. Forfeited entry fees may be appealed in writing to the Board of Directors.

**K. Intentional Forfeits:** A few teams in the past that qualify for playoffs early in Pool Play have voluntarily forfeited their last match of pool play to “rest up” for the playoffs. By forfeiting a pool play match, these teams are taking a playing opportunity away from another team that has paid their entry fee in the expectation of playing volleyball. An important objective for the Region in sponsoring volleyball competition is for teams to have fun and enjoy the sport of volleyball. An Intentional forfeit in pool play causes at least one team to lose a playing opportunity and thus reduces their enjoyment of the event. For that reason, the Carolina Region Board of Directors has decided that intentional forfeits in pool play other than due to injury may be treated as a Code of Conduct Violation. Specifically, this is “conduct which is inappropriate as determined by comparison to normally accepted behavior”. Teams reported to the Carolina Region as intentionally forfeiting pool play matches are subject to penalties ranging from a minimum \$50 fines to suspension of memberships.

**L. Adult All Region Voting:** Based on prior seasons’ participation and feedback from the Adult Team Reps, the Adult division will not select an All-Region team this season. Juniors - see Section XII for information on All-Region teams.

## **VII. REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**A. Tournament Site/Entry Fee:** The location of both the Adult and Junior Regional Championships will be selected upon the basis of suitability and availability of appropriate facilities. Bids must be submitted to the Region Office no later than February 1. The Entry Fee may be higher than Regular season tournaments and will be set once various costs and expenses for the tournaments are established.

**B. Tournament Director:** The Executive Director will appoint a Tournament Director for all Regional Championships and, with the assistance of the Board of Directors, shall plan and conduct both Regional Championships. Generally speaking, the tournament host that requests to host a Regional Championship will be appointed as the Tournament Director for the Regional Championship they are hosting.

**C. Player and Team Eligibility:** A player must participate in at least **TWO** sanctioned Carolina Region tournaments before participating in the Regional Championships. An adult team must participate in at least **THREE** sanctioned Carolina Region tournaments to be eligible to participate in the Regional Championships. A Junior team must participate in **THREE** regular season tournaments to be eligible for their Regional Championships. Sanctioned two-day inter-regional tournaments do count as regular season events (i.e. Quest & Jr Hi Neighbor) and participating in a National Qualifier can count as one.

## **VIII. PROTESTS**

**A.** Protests arising in a specific tournament with respect to eligibility, interpretation of playing rules, or decisions of the officials must be handled by a Tournament Protest Committee assigned by the Tournament Director and must be made in writing in accordance with current USA Volleyball rules.

**B.** Protests other than those above involving USAV should be directed to the Regional Office.

C. A Grievance Committee also exists to redress problems/grievances lodged IN WRITING by a region team or player about policies, procedures, violations, and/or competitions in the Region. The committee consists of the Men's Player Rep, Women's Player Rep, and the Rep of the division (Adult or Junior) from where the complaint is coming. A decision by the committee is final. The aggrieved team/player may appeal the decision to the President who then may affirm, modify, or reverse the decision of the committee. A full Due Process statement can be found in the Forms section of the Carolina Region website.

**IX. ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

A. **Annual Registration:** All players participating in sanctioned competition within the jurisdiction of the Carolina Region must be registered with a team for the current membership season (the Carolina Region's membership year runs from September 1-October 31 of the following year). No team will be registered unless the team roster contains the names and required information for at least six (6) players (and an adult coach who has passed a background screen for junior teams). Signed (electronically online or mailed "wet" signature) waiver and release of liability forms and membership fees must be received by the Region Office a minimum of seven (7) days before participation by an individual or team in a tournament. Special request for registration less than seven (7) days before participation (Late) in a sanctioned event will require payment of a late fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) for each team registration and five dollars (\$5.00) for each individual being registered. Late Registrations must be received by the Office no later than Thursday before competition on that weekend (other late registrations may be considered for special or extenuating circumstances). Payment for late fees will be made payable to the "Carolina Region" and must be attached to the registration request in addition to normal Carolina Region and USA Volleyball registration fees. **NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE CURRENT UNTIL THE APPROPRIATE SIGNED WAIVERS AND FEES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY THE OFFICE OR IN THE ONLINE REGISTRATION SYSTEM.** In no case will a team be given permission to participate on the basis of a telephone registration. Original signatures on the waiver and release are required for our files so any faxed forms must have the original submitted to the Region Office within one week. Failure of a team to comply with player registration or movement policies will result in a \$50 fine. A second occurrence of an illegal player or illegal club player movement will result in a \$100 fine and the team will be ineligible to advance to playoffs in future tournaments. A third occurrence will be handled by the Board on a case by case basis.

B. **One-Event Registrations:** The Carolina Region also offers a one-event (one-day tournaments only) registration category for new players that want to experience Carolina Region tournaments to see what it is like or as an option when a team needs to pick up a player in order to play in a tournament. Players using this category must still register using the same procedures as a full member, check the one-event category box, indicate the event they are participating in the space provided or online, pay the one-event fee of \$5, and submit the completed form and fee at least one week before the tournament. A one-event can also be added as late as Thursday before the tournament with the \$5 late fee (i.e. same registration requirements as regular members). Indoor Players may only play as a one-event registration twice during the season and then must upgrade to a full registration (at the normal membership fee). The Region will allow a team to be formed in the one-event category once per season. Each player would pay \$5 and the one-event team fee would be \$10. The deadline for receipt of registrations remains the same as above (one week before). If the team wanted to do the one-event category again, no more than three of the original players can be on the second team's roster. Players wishing to play in a multi-day tournament (Jr Hi Neighbor, Adult Hi Neighbor, or Quest tournaments) may register as a multi-day one-event member for \$10. The same requirements and deadlines per above apply.

C. **High Performance Donation Program:** USA Volleyball has instituted a donation program to provide funds for its High Performance Programs. This is an OPTIONAL donation to benefit and grow the level of volleyball in the U.S. There is a box included on the registration form and in the online registration system that individuals can check to donate \$5 to the High Performance programs. \$4 will go to USA Volleyball for their Girl's & Boy's High Performance programs and Men's & Women's National teams (\$1 each). \$1 will remain in the Carolina Region to be used to develop our own High Performance programs to benefit our players. If you wish to participate in this optional donation, please check the appropriate box on your form and include an additional \$5 with your registration fees. Thank you for your support.

**D. Officiating Requirements:** Each Adult and Junior team is required to have THREE certified officials on their team. The following policies apply for each Division:

- **ADULT TEAMS** - Each adult team is required to have at least two “trained” (attend clinic, pass tests, and modified rating) referees (R1,R2) and one (different) certified scorekeeper to be eligible for competition. The certification process begins with an officiating/scoring clinic. For Adult teams, being in the process of certification (attending an officiating/scoring clinic, taking an officiating/scoring test, being rated) will qualify a team for participation, but the certification process for an adult team must be completed by **January 1** of the sanctioned season. After January 1<sup>st</sup>, if a team has not completed their minimum officiating requirements, it will be allowed to participate in a January tournament with a \$25 fine (per tournament). No adult team will be allowed to participate after February 1 until the minimum team officiating requirements are met.
- **JUNIOR TEAMS** - For Junior Teams, the team must have at least TWO certified Referees, ONE certified scorekeeper, and one certified Coach/rostered Adult BEFORE the team will be allowed to play in a Sanctioned tournament. The certified Adult may not officiate for the team but is to physically supervise their team while in the vicinity of the score table at all times during their team’s officiating assignments to assist the paid official. Incomplete work teams (including the certified coach/rostered adult that is not supervising their team in the vicinity of the score table) may be penalized one point per-minute that they are incomplete to a maximum of 25 points off their next match. The paid official shall monitor the work team and assess the penalty points as needed.

**Once officials have completed their certification, only those individuals listed as certified on the roster should be refereeing or keeping score for their adult or junior team! Teams discovered in violation of not using certified referees, second referees, or scorekeepers at sanctioned adult and junior events will be placed on probation for the first offense, be fined \$50 for a second offense, and not permitted to participate in sanctioned events after the third offense.** If an out-of-Region team enters a Carolina Region tournament and does not have two certified referees and/or a certified scorekeeper in attendance at the tournament, they will be required to hire the required number of officials to meet the minimum at the rate of \$15 each for all matches that they are scheduled to work as the referee team.

**ANNUAL OFFICIALS TESTING REQUIREMENTS:**

- The initial certification of all brand new officials shall be at a face-to-face clinic. They will have to take the test onsite and if they score an 80 or above on the test they can be eligible for the online re-cert clinic the next season.
- A regional referee/scorekeeper must pass Form A with a score of 80 and correct it to 100.
- A provisional referee/scorekeeper must pass Form A with a score of 70 and correct it to 100.
- Those Referees wanting to be certified as “Trained” will not need to correct their test to 100 if they make a score of 70 on the Form A
- Regional referees/scorekeepers may attend a re-certification clinic.
- Provisional officials/scorekeepers must attend a certification clinic (or re-cert clinic if they have been certified for the past two seasons).

Each candidate for certification as a Provisional or Regional official must be rated by an approved regional or higher rater and receive a satisfactory rating to be certified. The Carolina Region shall pay a designated fee to a regional official/scorekeeper for attending a tournament to do ratings. Certification will be valid through the sanctioned season. A portion of each tournament entry fee and each team fee is designated to cover the costs of the clinics and ratings.

Officials wishing to be considered for advancement to USA Junior National or National status may obtain a copy of the Requirements and an application form by visiting the Officiating Section of the Region’s web site, contacting the Region office, or contacting the Referee or Scorekeeper Chair.

<b>OFFICIAL'S CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS</b>					
Level	Referee Clinic	Scorekeeper Clinic	Ref Test	Scoring Test	Practical Rating
Trained Ref	yes	yes	Pass	pass	Short form
Provisional Ref	yes	yes	Pass w/ 70	pass	1
Regional Ref	yes	yes	Pass w/ 80	pass	2**
Scorekeeper	no	yes*	no	pass	1

\*For regional scorekeepers, the clinic requirement may be waived.  
 \*\*At the discretion of the Regional Referee's Chair, the required number of ratings may be raised or reduced.

**E. Past Due Fees and Fines:** No team or individual will be registered until all fees and fines due the Region from current or previous seasons have been received by the Carolina Region. All rostered-members of a team that has been sanctioned will be considered to be responsible for the sanctions placed on that team.

**F. Player Movement Within Multi-Team Clubs:** ADULTS/BOYS - All Adult and Boys teams will be able to use this policy to move players during the 2008/2009 season. JUNIOR GIRLS – All multi-team Junior Girls Clubs will be able to utilize the Player Movement Policy within their respective club during the 2009 season without paying a club fee.

Player movement (Temporary or Permanent) for adult teams is restricted to one Divisional level when moving down, that is, Gold to Silver, Silver to Bronze, but not Gold to Bronze. For Juniors, movement is allowed for Platinum to Gold, Gold to Silver, Silver to Bronze, and Bronze to Copper (if there are more than three divisions in each age group), but the age group restriction must still be met. There is no restriction on moving up, that is, a Player on a Bronze (or Copper for juniors) team may play with any team in a club of any Division (Juniors must still meet age requirements). All such player movement must be recorded by a club officer and submitted to all affected tournament hosts before the start of competition (with roster at Captains'/Coaches' Meeting). Temporary Club Movements **do not** have to be sent to the Region Office before the competition (only permanent moves) – the Region will receive the form after the tournament with the rosters.

Player Movement Restrictions:

- Players registered to a club team and participating in sanctioned competition within the jurisdiction of the Carolina Region may participate with another team from the same club having a **higher** classification a maximum of **two (2)** times before the two weeks prior to their division's Regional Championships. Remember: rosters are frozen 2 weeks before a Division's Regional Championships.
- Players may participate with a team having a **lower** classification than the one with who the player is registered a maximum of **one (1)** time before the two weeks prior to their Division's Regional Championships. Any registered Club player may continue participation with another team in the same club (subject to the above restrictions) upon notifying the Office of a permanent roster change.
- Players may participate with two teams on a given weekend provided: (a) the divisions are playing on different days (i.e. W Silver on Saturday, W Bronze on Sunday); (b) all other Player Movement Requirements described here are followed (limit of 2 moves per season, Movement Form filled out, etc.); (c) for clubs with combined adult and juniors teams, a junior player **MUST** play with his/her junior team if that team is playing on the same day as an adult tournament. If the adult division is playing on a different day, then the junior player may move under the provisions of the Club Movement Policy.
- After a player has participated with another club team in a different division two times, the player shall be frozen to the roster of their **original** team unless a permanent roster move is reported to the Region Office.
- There is no limit and **the same reporting requirements as above** on movement of players between teams in the same club in the same classification (W Silver to W Silver, 16 Bronze to 16 Bronze, etc.).
- Players registered as unaffiliated (member of the club but not on a team) must still fill out a Club Movement Form if desiring to play on a team within their club and are still limited by the restrictions above.
- Permanent Moves – Adult teams requesting a permanent move under this policy require the approval of both of the team representatives of the affected teams and are still subject to Carolina Region approval.

**Team Movement Restrictions:**

- Teams may use at most two (2) Club players in any given tournament.
- Teams may use at most one (1) player from a higher division in any given tournament.
- Teams may use at most two (2) players from a higher division per season.
- Teams are limited to accepting up to two (2) permanent moves per season. If a permanent move is made with the intent to play in the Regional Championships, then ideally the player being moved should have played at least once with that team during the regular season under a normal player movement. The Region will hear petitions for extenuating circumstances.

Clubs failing to comply with the reporting requirements will have the player movement privilege suspended. Report forms are available on the Forms section of the Region web site or by contacting the Region Office.

**G. Registration of Player Movement Within Club:** Requests by a team for the permanent change of a player to a different classification (other than required by the provisions of Section F above) must be submitted in writing on the Club Player Movement Form so that it is received by the Office no less than seven (7) days before the participation of the player(s) in any sanctioned event within the jurisdiction of the Carolina Region. Request for change of classification less than seven days in advance must be accompanied by a late fee of five dollars (\$5.00) per player payable to the Carolina Region.

**H. Player Movement Before Regionals:** No Club movement will be allowed and no new players may be registered or added to the roster of any adult or junior team within 14 days before that team's Regional Championships unless required due to verifiable injuries (see paragraph L below).

**I. Player Movement for Non-Region Tournaments:** There is no restriction on the number of times players registered to a club may participate with another team from the same club having a higher classification than the one to which registered during competition OUTSIDE of the Carolina Region (except for USAV Junior Qualifiers which have roster regulations due to it being a Qualifier for the USAV Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships).

**J. One-team Club Roster Changes (Junior Girls only):** Players in clubs with only one team will not be permitted to participate with other teams/clubs. Requests for movement of a player from one club to another club will not be considered by the Eligibility Committee unless the original club is fully disbanded before February 1. All roster change requests must be made in writing to the Region Office at least one week before they are to become effective. All rosters are frozen two weeks before a Division's Regional Championships.

**K. Masters Competition:** Conglomerate Masters (adult age-group teams) teams preparing for National competition may be formed at any time. Masters teams will be permitted to participate in tournaments in both pool play and playoffs. The teams must play at least at the "Silver" level (subject to the discretion of the Commissioner), and they will be treated like out-of-region teams when it comes to entry priority in tournaments. They will not receive participation/playing points. All team members must be Carolina Region and/or USA Volleyball members.

**L. Injuries Requiring Player Movement:** In the event that injuries to players within 14 days before a team's Regional Championships would reduce a team to less than eight (8) players for the Regional Championships, players from within a club may be moved to a higher classification if approved by the Eligibility Committee. Injuries causing the shortage of players must be verified and reported to the Region Office for consideration and necessary action. Players whose injuries create the necessity for movement of a player(s) from a higher classification to a lower classification for the Regional Championships shall not be eligible to participate in the tournament unless approved by the Eligibility Committee. Junior Girls clubs with only one team in the club that have an injury that reduces them to less than eight players may petition the Board to add a player to their roster.

**M. Team Division Assignment Policy:** The Region encourages all teams to participate in the Division appropriate to their skills. Occasionally, an adjustment in a team's participation level is necessary. All teams are subject to review of their Division assignments by a Competition Committee composed of the Commissioner, Player Reps, and the team's Division Rep. The Adult Competition Committee will move adult teams among their divisions based on the Points Standings. For the first three tournaments in the season and depending on the number of divisions in each age group, the Region Office will automatically move the top two teams in the Points Standings in Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Copper to the next highest division and move the bottom two teams in the Points Standings in Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze to the next lowest division (NOTE – for the first tournament of the season, the Region may choose to move more than two teams or none at all, in order to balance the number of teams in the divisions). Additional moves may be made if results warrant such a move later in the season. Efforts will be made to keep the divisions in both Adults and Juniors equal in number of teams as the competitive level allows. This effort will be made as early in the season as possible. Matters pertaining to the movement of teams or individual players to a higher classification of competition must be submitted to the Competition Committee through the Region Office for consideration and appropriate action. Written appeal of the Committee's decision for division assignments may be made to the full Board of Directors. No team will be moved without the team rep's agreement to a higher classification of competition with fewer than two scheduled tournaments remaining in that higher classification before their Regional Championships.

**N. Officials Good Standing Policy:** In order to be in good standing in the Carolina Region, a National or Junior National Official must fulfill the requirements as stipulated by the USAV and the Carolina Region Good Standing Policy to maintain their certification. The Carolina Region Good Standing Policy is published on the Officials Section of the Region website. The deadline for all National and Junior National Officials to take their scorekeeper test will be the same as the national deadline for the referee tests.

**O. Eligibility Violations Procedure:** All eligibility matters, including violations of eligibility, will be submitted through the Region Office to the Eligibility Committee for investigation and recommendation of appropriate disciplinary action. All eligibility matters of any nature, or written requests or suggestions of disciplinary actions for teams and/or individuals received by the Commissioner will be referred to the Eligibility Committee for consideration and recommendations. Recommendations made by the Committee will be taken as final unless evidence can be submitted to verify that the action is either too severe or is unfair. Members are subject to penalties ranging from fines to suspension of membership.

**P. Participant/Spectator Behavior Policy:** The Carolina Region has adopted a Participant/Spectator Behavior Policy outlining the type of behavior that will not be tolerated at sanctioned events. Tournament Directors have the authority to ban participants and spectators from a facility if they violate the good sportsmanship principles that the Carolina Region supports. Individuals that are banned from a facility will be reported to the Region Office for possible further sanction. A copy of the Participant/Spectator Behavior Policy is available on the Carolina Region website.

**Q. Tournament Admissions Policy:** It is the policy of the Carolina Region, that all sanctioned tournaments shall provide free admission to all participants and spectators. Tournament Directors may apply for a waiver of this policy on their Tournament Sanction Request form. All waivers must be approved by the Carolina Region in advance of the event date.

**R. Alcohol Policy:** The sale and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited at all Carolina Region events unless specifically permitted by the facility and a Tournament Sanction exception is granted. Most facilities used by the Region do not permit the consumption of alcoholic beverages on site. An individual in violation of this rule is considered in violation of the Code of Conduct and is subject to a fine and/or suspension.

**X. APPEALS**

**A.** An individual to whom an amateur certification of membership is refused or who has an amateur certification revoked, or who has a membership suspended in whole or part, or a team that has a registration refused or suspended in whole or part, may appeal for a review of that action by following the procedure outlined in the Carolina Region Due Process policy. A decision made by the Carolina Region may not be appealed to USA Volleyball. If contacted, USA Volleyball's Ethics and Eligibility Committee will only rule on whether Due Process was afforded to the complainant.

**XI. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AND ATLANTIC ZONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

**A. Tournament Site:** The location of the National Championships and Atlantic Zonal Championship shall be determined by USA Volleyball's Board of Directors and the Atlantic Zone Commissioners respectively on the basis of bids submitted. Contact the Region Office for information on these Championships.

**B. Regional Qualification:** ADULTS - Qualification for play in the Adult USA Volleyball Championships and Atlantic Zonal Championships shall be on an open basis for duly registered teams in the respective Divisions contested. Should USA Volleyball have to institute a limit to the number of teams coming from a Region in a particular division, then the Region's bid(s) will be awarded to the highest finisher at the Adult Regional Championships and then by date of receipt of National entry paperwork and fees. Adult teams can download the Entry Booklet from USA Volleyball's web site - [www.usavolleyball.org](http://www.usavolleyball.org) (usually available in December/January). JUNIORS - the Region is allocated one bid in each age division to USA Volleyball's Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships (we get one bid each in the Club National and American Divisions). Junior teams wanting to earn a bid in the Open age divisions must attend a Qualifier Tournament. For the 2009 season, the Region will hold a separate National Bid Tournaments on April 18 and April 25. To be eligible to compete in their age division's National Bid tournament, a junior team must play in a minimum of two sanctioned Carolina Region tournaments in their age group one of which must be a regular season tournament (i.e. one-day event on the Carolina Region schedule). The other tournament may be one of the following: the pre-season Quest tournament, the Junior Hi Neighbor, or another one-day regular season event. All Platinum teams wishing to compete for a bid must submit all National entry materials and Entry Fees to the Region Office by the March 28/April 4 deadlines respectively. An information letter and the Entry materials will be sent to all Platinum teams when USA Volleyball announces the entry procedures. The highest finishers at the Regional National Bid tournament will receive our Region's bids (in the National and American divisions) in that age group. **Should a team withdraw after accepting the Region's bid and committing to attend, all members on the team shall be subject to sanctions from the Region on participating in future National events.** Teams may also try to qualify for a JO Bid at a National Qualifier. For the National Qualifying Tournament Schedule or further information about the Junior National Championships contact the Region Office or visit the web page for a link to the inter-Regional Schedule. All Adult & Junior teams planning to attend Nationals should not plan for any reimbursement from the Region on National Entry Fees.

**XII. DUES**

Annual Membership Dues in the Carolina Regional Volleyball Association shall be established yearly by the Board of Directors. Individual and Team registration fees will be published on the Carolina Region website and in its annual registration materials. As a matter of policy, individual dues for the Board of Directors will be paid by the Region.

**XIII. ADDITIONAL JUNIOR INFORMATION**

**A. Recruiting Issues:**

Guiding Principle:

Clubs/Teams/Coaches need to understand that they do not own the rights to players. Players (with help from their parents/guardians) have the right to choose where they want to get their club volleyball experience. Each membership year, each family (which includes the individual player and his/her parents/guardians) has the right to choose to play for a different club/team than the year before without repercussions from their previous club. A club is defined as one or more teams registering with the Carolina Region and club representatives include but are not limited to official club reps, team reps, coaches, assistant coaches, chaperones, parents of players in the club, and players in the club (all of which may represent the club to others in some capacity).

**Promoting a Club:**

Clubs have the right to promote their club and tryout information. They may do this in a variety of ways including but not limited to newspaper ads, direct mail, flyers, brochures, and websites. Clubs may mail/email general information on their tryouts/club to anyone. Clubs may approach players to inquire as to their club affiliation status and to promote their own club.

**Recruiting a Player:**

Clubs and individuals are permitted to attempt to recruit a player to play with their club at any time. Once a player has committed to a particular club in a specific season, any recruitment can only be for a future season. Players and families have the right to inform other clubs that they have signed a *Letter of Commitment* with a club and request not to be contacted in the future. Other clubs must respect and honor this request and may not denigrate other clubs while promoting their own club. The Carolina Region expects all coaches and club representatives to honor the Coaches Code of Ethics and Participant Code of Conduct that they agree to uphold each season which addresses appropriate behavior towards athletes and their families.

The Carolina Region/USAV encourages all clubs to adopt these philosophies/principles as policies within their club at a minimum for the benefit of all junior players in our Region.

**B. Tryout Guidelines:**

New for 2008/2009 Season: There will be TWO tryout periods available to clubs. (1) Clubs may begin holding tryouts on Saturday October 18, 2008 for the following age groups: 15's, 14's, 13's, and 12's. (2) Tryouts for the 16's, 17's, and 18's age groups should be held beginning Sunday, November 2, 2008 (after the North Carolina State Championships for public High Schools on November 1, 2008). The Carolina Region/USAV will not publish any tryouts for girls' teams on its website that occur before these dates for the respective age groups. Some middle and private school seasons can last longer than the High School season so the Region recommends club directors check with Middle and/or private school coaches in their area to determine optimum tryout dates for their various age groups.

**Signing Date:**

Players should have the right to attend more than one club's tryouts. The Carolina Region has established a signing date of NINE DAYS after an age group's Tryout Period begins (Oct 27 for the 15's, 14's, 13's, and 12's age groups; November 10 for the 16's 17's, and 18's age groups). These are the earliest dates that clubs can force a player to commit to their club (players may voluntarily commit before then). For tryouts just before or after the signing date, clubs should give a minimum wait period of one week before requiring a player to commit to their club. The Carolina Region encourages all clubs to use the new *Letter of Commitment* when accepting players into their clubs. This form should not be sent to the Carolina Region, but kept on file with the club should an issue arise about a player's commitment to a club.

The Carolina Region/USAV encourages all clubs to adopt these tryout guidelines at a minimum as policy within their club for the benefit of all junior players in our Region.

**C. Junior Division Structure:** For the 2009 season, teams may choose the level they feel their team deserves to play – Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, or Copper in each age group (18's, 17's, 16's, 15's, 14's, 13's, 12's). The use of three, four, or five divisions in each age group will depend on the number of teams that register in each age group. In some age groups there may only be enough teams for three divisions – Platinum, Gold, and Silver. In other age groups, five or even six (to be named) divisions may be needed. After each of the first three tournaments, the top two teams in the Points Standings in Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Copper (if all divisions are formed) will be moved to the next highest division. The bottom two teams in the Points Standings in Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze will be moved to the next lowest division. If a team is moved to a new division, their initial points value will be adjusted to the starting value of their new division (a team's initial points value will only be adjusted once, even if moved again after another tournament). After the first three tournaments, the Region will continue to monitor all results and move teams as needed to achieve competitive and administrative balance. Teams may request to play at a higher Age bracket if their competitive level warrants it. These requests will only be allowed if there is room in the tournament field and it does not affect the tournament of their assigned division. Requests to play in a higher age group should be submitted to the Region Office.

**C. Junior Boys Information:** New for 2009 – In the interest of promoting and growing boys volleyball in North Carolina, all registration fees for Boys 18 and younger will be \$15. All applicable registration deadlines and late fees still apply (See Section IX. A.). If competitive opportunities for the Boys' 12's & 14's do not meet their needs, they will be permitted to enter appropriate level girls' 14's, 15's, 16's or 18's tournaments. In such a situation, results against boys' teams will count in pool standings, and they will be eligible for playoffs should they qualify. If a boy's team makes the playoffs in a girl's tournament one week, they will automatically be moved to a higher age and/or division with the next tournament they play in. For in-Region play, all boys' teams will be considered part of the same club and permitted to borrow players under the current Club Player Movement Policy (a boy's unaffiliated Player list will also be provided on the Carolina Region website if there is interest). For the Boys' 13-and-under age group, teams will be allowed to form coed rosters in order to encourage participation for boys and girls at this age group. The Region will work with these teams to find an appropriate Girl's division to play in. If enough boys' teams are formed, the Region will attempt to sanction separate Boy's tournaments for the teams.

**D. Junior Team Sportsmanship, Junior All-Tournament Teams, and Officiating Awards:** The Junior Division will continue to recognize the positive Team aspects of the sport of volleyball by identifying teams with Good Sportsmanship and Good Officiating teams. Again for 2009, the Adult Officials will have the opportunity to vote/recognize teams at each tournament that exhibit Good Sportsmanship, both on and off the court (honor calls, cleaning up their benches and team area, etc). Teams with the most votes will be recognized with a Team Sportsmanship Award at the end of the season. There is no longer a limit of one winner per division but teams must receive multiple votes in order to be considered and there is no requirement that all divisions have a winner. Teams that take their officiating duties seriously and professionally and are recommended by the Adult Officials as deserving recognition will be recognized in our summer online newsletter. The Carolina Region will again honor an All-Tournament Team at all Regional Championships for all ages and divisions. The All-Tournament Team will consist of eight players: three from the tournament champion team; two from the runner-up team; one each from the other semi-finalist teams; and a MVP that does not have to come from the Champion team. The coaches of those respective teams will choose the deserving players after their playoff matches (there is no vote involved for participating teams). Awards will be given out at the Regional Championships.

**E. High Performance Program:** Our High Performance Program's goal is to attract the top talent in the Region and provide them with high level training. Any player in the Region will have opportunity to try out for the High Performance program. More information on the 2009 HP program will be posted to our web site as details are developed.

**F. Special Rules for Junior Competition:** All Junior teams must have two certified referees, one certified scorekeeper, and one certified coach/rostered adult before being allowed to participate in a tournament. Coaches are not allowed to officiate Junior play. Players must handle these roles. However, at least one coach or rostered adult per team must attend a junior clinic and be on the roster as certified so they know the materials the officials are taught and can help their junior officials during the tournaments. **The certified coach or rostered adult must physically supervise their team while in the vicinity of the score table at all times during the team's officiating assignment. Incomplete work teams (including the certified coach/rostered adult that is not supervising their team in the vicinity of the score table) may be penalized one point per-minute that they are incomplete to a maximum of 25 points off their next match.** All new Junior coaches must attend an **IMPACT** Coaching Clinic or have at least a **CAP** Level I rating **BEFORE** they will be allowed to coach at a Sanctioned tournament. There is a Continuing Education Requirement for ALL Coaches on Junior teams that are already IMPACT/CAP certified to attend an approved Coaching Clinic yearly, either the Region provided gym clinic in conjunction with an IMPACT clinic, a USA Volleyball Coaching Accreditation Program (CAP) clinic, or other Region-approved clinic. All Junior coaches must be at least 18 years of age and at least two years older than the team they coach. *In addition, if the Head Coach of a Junior team is under the age of 25, the team must have on the roster either a registered adult over the age of 25 as assistant coach or chaperone, preferably of the same sex as the team. This adult must be identified at the Coaches Meeting as present at the tournament in order for the team to participate.* All Junior coaches are required to sign the Carolina Region Coach's Code of Ethics and turn in a Background Screen Form giving permission for the Region to run a Background Screen. Failure to sign the Coach's Code of Ethics or failure to pass the Background Screen will result in the suspension of coaching privileges. Tournament entry registrations are due **three** weeks before each tournament and must be sent to the Region Office (except for the sanctioned special multi-day tournaments Jr Hi Neighbor/Quest that go directly to their attention). Priority in tournament entries will be given to teams based on (1) proper timely and complete entry, (2) closed out of previous tournament, and (3) date of entry. An effort will be made to provide space in a tournament for all interested teams that enter by the deadline.

**G. Coaches' Meetings:** All teams must have a representative (coach, parent, coach from same club, or player all acceptable) at the mandatory Coaches' Meeting (8:30 am). This is so that the Tournament Director can verify all teams are in attendance, go over the pool and playoff formats, and distribute other information that all teams need to hear. If a team is not represented and they later show (existing guidelines in the Tournament Director's Handbook for when to drop a team is still in place) without a reasonable excuse, and they have not called indicating they would be late, then they may forfeit their first set as penalty for missing the Coaches' Meeting (Tournament Director's Discretion). New for 2009: Teams that do not have a coach over 25 on the roster are required to have their registered chaperone present at the Coaches meeting for verification by the Tournament Director.

**H. Guidelines for Junior Tournament Awards:** The North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) requires that awards earned by high school athletes have a limited value. Acceptable awards include medals, trophies, plaques, ribbons, or similar items with no intrinsic value. T-shirts, bags, water bottles, hats, or clothing are just some examples of awards that are NOT permitted under NCHSAA rules. If in doubt, contact the Region Office or the NCHSAA office (919/962-2345).

**I. Player Movement Before Regionals:** No Club Player Movement will be allowed and no new players may be registered or added to the roster of any Junior team within 14 days before that team's Regional Championships unless required due to verifiable injuries (see Section IX, paragraph L, page 11).

**J. Out-of-Region teams:** All out-of-Region teams MUST play in the Platinum division of the age group of the oldest player on their team in all regular Carolina Region sanctioned tournaments (Jr Hi Neighbor, Quest, and other multi-day tournaments may have their own team acceptance policies). Teams will be allowed to play in lower divisions with confirmation of their team's level of play from their Region's Commissioner or Junior Coordinator.

**K. Alcoholic Beverage Policy:** The Carolina Region supports the following Resolution adopted by USA Volleyball:

WHEREAS, the U.S. Volleyball Association (USVBA), is the National Governing Body for the sport of volleyball in the United States of America, as authorized by the U.S. Olympic Committee consistent with the Amateur Sports Act of 1978, and

WHEREAS, it is a purpose of the USVBA to conduct national championships and open competitions, and also to establish standards for Group D Member Organizations (regional volleyball associations), and

WHEREAS, it is deemed inappropriate to conduct activities for participants registered as Junior Olympic Volleyball athletes, and others deemed minors by State and National Statutes in locations distributing alcoholic beverages,

BE IT RESOLVED that the USVBA Executive Committee establish policy that reads: "That the sale and/or distribution of alcoholic beverage at a site conducting Junior Olympic Volleyball activities be strictly controlled in accordance with the local, state, and national laws, and that the coaches be charged with maintaining the ethical responsibility for standards regarding alcohol consumption.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be formally stated as USVBA policy for all events in this category, and included in its policy statements in the Administrative Manual.

#### **XIV. PRIVACY POLICY**

The Carolina Region's policy is to respect and protect the privacy of our members. The Carolina Region Board of Directors has adopted a Privacy Policy outlining the type of information (both online and off) we collect from members and visitors to our web page and how we use it. To receive a copy of the Privacy Policy contact the Region Office or view it online at: <http://www.CarolinaRegionVB.org/Misc/privacy.html>