



## 2020 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 seven seasons. We will continue to divide the Region in to East and West geographic areas for the 2020 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.

## 2020 JUNIOR TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE/INFORMATION

### NATIONAL BID TOURNAMENTS:

We will have stand-alone National Bid Tournaments in 2020. Based on the Regional, Inter-Regional and National Junior Tournament Schedules, we have decided to have TWO weekends of National Bid Tournaments (they will be played on Sunday on the opposite weekend of their scheduled East/West tournaments): (A) Sunday, Feb 23, 2020 – 12's, 13's, 16's, & 18's age groups; and (B) Sunday, March 15, 2020 – 14's, 15's, & 17's age groups. Teams interested in competing for a bid will be able to enter the National Bid tournament for a chance at one of the Region's bids to the 2020 Junior National Championships. The 18's National Championships will be held May 1-3, 2020 in Reno, NV. All other age groups will have their National Championships in Dallas, TX June 25 – July 4, 2020. To be eligible to enter the National Bid tournaments: (a) Participating teams must be a registered Carolina Region team; and (b) teams must have played in ONE (1) Carolina Region sanctioned event during the 2020 season before the National Bid tournament. As many courts will be utilized as available based on the number of teams submitting valid entries by the entry deadline. Teams that enter the National bid tournament are CONFIRMING they will accept any bid awarded among the teams that enter the bid tournament (the playing of matches may not be necessary depending on the total number of entries – bids will still be awarded and must be accepted). Additional information on the National Bid tournaments will be posted and emailed to Club Directors later in the season when USA Volleyball releases additional information on the 2020 Championships.

### 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 2020 - Teams may petition the Carolina Region 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.

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 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 2020 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.

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; Queen City). 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 21-22, 2020 weekend, and the 12's, 13's, 16's, and 18's will play on the March 28-29, 2020 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 reasons: (a) 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. (b) The volleyball tournament calendar both regionally and nationally made it hard to find a good weekend in April to hold a Regional Championships as we had done in the past.

### 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 pre-season tournament, Carolina Kickoff, City of Oaks, Queen City Classic)
- 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. 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 four 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.