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## 2025 CAROLINA REGION OPERATING CODE

**NOTE:** *Unless otherwise specifically stated, the following regulations and requirements refer to the full Adult or Junior membership categories which runs from September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025. All references, unless otherwise specifically stated, refer to the normal indoor six-person sanctioned season. Changes from season to season are highlighted in **YELLOW**.*

### 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 4065 Sinton Rd, STE 200, Colorado Springs CO 80907-5096.

### 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 principal 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 **Governance** Committee 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 Committee.
    - (i) Authority: Refer to Bylaws, Article XVI Section 2.
    - (ii) Accountability: The Secretary shall chair and supervise the Directors' Nominating Committee, as an ex-officio, non-voting member.
    - (iii) Mission/Responsibilities: Identify and recruit Carolina Region members for possible service on the Board of Directors.

b) **Governance Committee.**

- (i) **Authority:** Refer to Bylaws, Article XVI Section 2.
- (ii) **Accountability:** The Secretary shall supervise the Governance Committee as a voting member.
- (iii) **Mission/Responsibilities:** The Governance Committee shall be responsible for periodically reviewing the Corporation's governing documents, governance structure and operations, and making recommendations to the Board for revisions as deemed necessary. The Governance Committee shall be responsible for providing orientation for new members of the Board either through written materials, telephonic, or in-person informational sessions. The Governance Committee shall perform such other duties as assigned by the Board.

**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 meet as needed to plan and promote events targeted to adult participants.

**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 team representatives from the girls' teams shall elect from among their membership the Youth & Junior Girl's Representative, the Youth & Junior Girl's Representative – East, and the Youth & Girl's Representative – West to the Board of Directors. The team representatives from the boys' teams shall elect the Youth & Junior Boy's Representative 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 Girl's East Representative shall be elected by team representatives that have designated themselves as playing in the East realm. The Girl's West Representative shall be elected by team representatives that have designated themselves as playing in the West realm. All girls' team representatives will elect the Youth & Girl's Representative position. The Youth & Junior Representatives will be voting members of the Board of Directors and shall serve for a three-year term. The Youth & Junior Representative elections will be held by August 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 during 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 may include:

- a) The Regional Referees' Chair appointed annually by the President. They must be a regular member of the Carolina Region and have been a Regional Referee for at least two years, or a National or Junior National Referee.
- b) The Regional Scorers' Chair appointed annually by the President. They must be a regular member of the Carolina Region and have been a Regional Scorer for at least two years, or a National Scorer.
- c) The Regional Beach Referees' Chair appointed annually by the President. They must be a regular member of the Carolina Region and have been certified as a Beach Referee for at least one year.
- d) Associate Referee Chairs (2) appointed annually by the Regional Referee's Chair.
- e) Associate Scorer Chair appointed annually by the Regional Scorer's Chair.
- f) Lead Clinician – This person works with the Officials Program Director to develop the annual clinic materials each year and train the clinicians. The Lead Clinician is appointed by the Officials Program Director with the approval of the CEO.
- g) **The Carolina Region Officials Program Director will serve as an ex-officio member and Chair of the Advisory Council.**

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 three-year term. The Official's Representative election will be held by August 31st at a called Officials Advisory Board meeting. All candidates for the Officials' Division Representative must be in Good Standing with the Region and must have been a current Adult Professional referee in the Carolina Region for the past two seasons. 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 during the Advisory Board meeting. Proxies are not allowed for any Carolina Region Advisory Board meetings.

**4. Beach/Outdoor Advisory Board**

The Beach/Outdoor Advisory Board will be comprised of one representative from each adult and junior club that conducts Beach/Outdoor events (including but not limited to training, clinics, leagues, or tournaments). Any member involved with a Beach/Outdoor club may participate in the activities of the Beach/Outdoor Advisory Board with voice but no vote.

The Beach/Outdoor Advisory Board shall elect from among their membership the Beach/Outdoor Representative to the Board of Directors. The Beach/Outdoor Representative must have a strong interest in promoting Beach volleyball and sufficient experience in all aspects of Beach volleyball to be able to aid in the Region's development of Beach volleyball programs. The Beach/Outdoor Representative will be a voting member of the Carolina Region Board of Directors and shall serve for a one-year term. The Beach/Outdoor Representative election will be held by September 15th at a called Beach/Outdoor Advisory Board meeting. If nominees for the Beach/Outdoor Representative position are known before the scheduled Beach/Outdoor Advisory Board meeting, an online vendor will be selected to hold the election. Club Representatives will be able to place their votes through the approved online vendor or during 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 July 1 of the current season or
  - b. 19 years of age or younger on July 1 of the current season and meets all requirements outlined in the USA Volleyball Age Definition policy.
  
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 11 and under (on July 1 of the current season) who are participating in an approved Regional youth volleyball program.
  
4. Other - Additional categories of registration approved either by the USAV Board of Directors or RVA Assembly. 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 (multi-day): registration limited to a single event conducted 1 – 5 days in total;
  - c. Tryout: participation limited to USAV sanctioned tryouts only;
  - d. Outdoor: registration limited to sanctioned outdoor events only;
  - e. 8 and under – those players 8 and under the entire season.

**C. Policy on Foreign Individual Participation:** A “Foreign Participant” shall be defined as a participant who is not a citizen of the United States OR a citizen residing in a U.S. territory having its own National Volleyball Federation to which the participant is affiliated.

**Concurrent registration with more than one National Volleyball Federation is prohibited.**

A. **Resident Foreign Participant**, who has competed in international competition representing his/her country/federation of origin (i.e. Youth National Team, Junior National Team, Senior National Team, or other "elite" team that has represented that country in international competition) is required to have a written release from that volleyball federation of origin before he/she can become a registered member of a Regional Volleyball Association.

B. This would not apply to a participant who has been in continuous legal residence in the United States and unaffiliated with a foreign national volleyball federation for greater than two years.

**Participation in Regional Association Programs and Events:**

Subject to above regarding concurrent registrations with multiple National Federations, a **Resident Foreign Participant** (residing legally in the United States, e. g. exchange student) may participate if he/she is a duly registered member of a USA Volleyball Regional Volleyball Association (RVA).

USA Volleyball has additional policies, procedures, and requirements for participation by Non-Resident Foreign Individuals and Teams. This information is published on the Carolina Region and USA Volleyball websites. Please contact the Office for more information.

**D. Team Classification:** A Junior Team is composed entirely of players who are Junior or Youth 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 and National 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, requests for refunds will only be processed based on the Carolina Region Refund Policy.

**F. Violations:** Violations of eligibility by teams or individuals are subject to a \$200 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.

**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 primary 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 \$200 or higher fine and possible other sanctions including suspension. Once a team has registered for the season and submitted their applicable team fee to the Region Office, requests for refunds will only be processed based on the Carolina Region Refund Policy.

**B. Individual Registration:** All individuals must be registered with the Region to participate in USA Volleyball sanctioned events. An individual may not be rostered as a player on more than one team during the same season. Adults affiliated with a Juniors team are required to clear the USAV Background Screen and complete the online SafeSport course. Adults affiliating with a Juniors team must submit their application at least seven 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 which is available online within each member's record in the Carolina Region/USAV Member Management System).

**C. Gender Competition Guidelines:** The Carolina Region and USA Volleyball's goal is to allow athletes to compete in the gender with which they identify, while maintaining competitive equity. The Carolina Region will follow all North Carolina laws concerning sports participation and gender. When NC law does not apply or address a particular situation, the Carolina Region will follow USA Volleyball's Gender Competition Guidelines available here - <https://usavolleyball.org/about/gender-guidelines/>

**D. Player and Team Registration Deadlines:** Team and player registration must be completed 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 completed no later than Thursday prior to competition on that upcoming weekend (late registrations may be accepted at other times for extenuating and special circumstances).

**E. Clubs:** The Carolina Region's registration system requires all indoor teams to be a part of a club. A club shall consist of one or more teams that choose to register as one organization within the Carolina Region. An individual player may only affiliate and participate with ONE indoor club each USAV indoor season (the USAV indoor season begins on September 1 and concludes at the end of the USA Junior National Championships (indoor)). Petitions to move to a different indoor club during the indoor season will **only** be considered for:

- (a) movement before the first tournament of the season and at agreement of both clubs (if LOC signed);
- (b) a club totally disbands before February 1; or
- (c) the athlete moves to a different part of the state than their original club.

If none of the above situations apply, then a player who has played with his or her registered team in USAV-sanctioned junior volleyball season competition is forbidden from transferring to another indoor club. The Carolina Region retains the right to approve or deny a petition for club transfers.

**JUNIOR CLUBS:** 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's name in its name and must use that form in all tournament entries and Region correspondence. Example: GVC - Pounders, GVC - Hitmen, etc.

**ADULT CLUBS:** Each team will be set up as a unique CLUB in the USAV Member Management System. See Section IX for the Club Player Movement Policy for Adults.

**F. 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, Club Player Movement is restricted as described in the Operating Code under Section IX, paragraph F.

For Adult Competition ONLY:

- (a) 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);
- (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> set of the 1<sup>st</sup> match).

All adult and junior teams' rosters are frozen ONE week before their Division's Regional or East/West 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 a Regional Championship Event must be added to a roster permanently prior to 7 days before the Championships). Players may only play in ONE indoor Regional Championship tournament. 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).

**G. Unaffiliated Player List (Adults):** In the Adult Division ONLY, the Carolina Region will allow those players not affiliated with a registered team to register 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 are frozen one week 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 TWO 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 one week 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 September 1 and ends on June 15 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 at the conclusion of the indoor USAV Junior National Championships. All Junior tournaments desiring coverage under the USAV Insurance Program must be sanctioned by the Region and conducted according to USA Volleyball and Regional Guidelines. The sanctioned season for Beach events begins on March 1 and ends on October 31. 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 four weeks before a tournament and must submit the Tournament Results immediately after the completion of the tournament. There is a \$25 Tournament Sanction Fee for all sanctioned indoor tournaments (in addition to other administration/sanction fees as established in the Tournament Director's Handbook). Tournament Directors must identify the gym sites they will be using at least four weeks before their tournament or risk losing some or all of their divisions to other identified sites. The Region has established and approved formats and policies for the administration of Carolina Region sanctioned regular season one-day tournaments and Regional Championship Events that are found in the Carolina Region Tournament Director Handbook. The Carolina Region may sanction approved multi-day tournaments in the Region during the indoor season. At a minimum, the hosts of multi-day tournaments must provide a minimum match guarantee of FIVE matches for two-day events and SEVEN matches for three-day events. 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 found in the Tournament Directors Handbook and the Operating Code. USA Volleyball requires all Junior Tournament Directors and event workers to have current USAV membership and to clear the USAV/RVA Background Screen. The Carolina Region will pay the background screen fee for our Junior Tournament Directors. **Tournament sanction requests for tournaments in the same division on the same date as a Regional Championship Event in that division will be reviewed and approved for sanctioning on a case by case basis.**

**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 current member of the Carolina Region (or other USA Volleyball Region) and all adults affiliating with a Junior Club must complete SafeSport and pass the required USAV Background Screen BEFORE participating in any sanctioned event. One-event 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 electronic 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 indoor USAV club/team practices require a \$15 Sanction fee to be submitted with the sanction request form.

**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 –See page 3-18 for more information about the Junior team structure. 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 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 hosts 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 they 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 ") and must clearly contrast with the color of the jersey irrespective of any border around the number. In addition, for those teams utilizing the Libero rule, the Libero must wear a uniform (or jacket/bib for the re-designated Libero) whose jersey contrasts in color with that of the predominant colors of the jerseys of the other team members (Color combinations such as purple/black, dark green/black, navy/maroon, and white/light yellow are not distinctive enough to comply with the rule). 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 in CR-sanctioned two-day special Tournaments (inter-Regional competitions) or at the USAV National Events. Players are forbidden to wear any article which may cause injury during the play of the game.

**F. Officiating Responsibilities:** Since six people are needed to officiate a match, it is a team responsibility. 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 IX D. of this Operating Code. Failure to comply with these responsibilities will result in the assessment of a \$200 or higher fine and possible ineligibility for a Regional Championship Event. Teams that deliberately leave a regular season tournament without officiating a scheduled match (pool or playoffs) will be subject to a \$200 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 a Regional Championship Event without officiating a scheduled match (pool or playoffs) will be subject to a minimum \$200 fine and no member of the team listed on the roster will be eligible to register with the Carolina Region in subsequent seasons until the fine is paid.

**G. Regional Championships/Tournament System for the Indoor Season:** Indoor Teams in each division shall earn points while playing in Carolina Region tournaments in order to be ranked in the Carolina Region Tournament System. The Adult & Junior Standings will be used for seeding purposes and to aid in putting together tournament pools. In the event that there are not enough courts for all teams submitting entries, then teams (adult & junior) will be accepted into any Regional Championship Event based on the Standings (Priority to the higher ranked teams that enter by the deadline).

Adult & Juniors one-day tournaments during the regular season will automatically be designated as Points tournaments and count towards Regional Championship Qualification. Any Carolina Region sanctioned multi-day tournament held before a Regional Championship Event whose only entry criteria is date of entry may also count towards one of the required tournaments to be eligible for the Regional Championships. If acceptable results can be received from the hosts of Carolina Region sanctioned multi-day tournaments, then match results between Carolina Region teams will be entered into the Tournament System.

**H. Tournament Guidelines:** All sanctioned regional tournaments must be conducted in accordance with USA Volleyball and Carolina Region policies and formats. These policies and formats appear in the Tournament Director's Handbook and are reproduced in the online Team Handbook (a printed copy is available through the Region Office for a 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 policies. 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 Deadlines:**

1. Adult Tournaments: The Tournament Entry deadline for all indoor Regular Season tournaments administered by the Carolina Region shall be 10 days before the weekend the tournament is scheduled. Since tournaments may be scheduled on either a Saturday or Sunday, the entry deadline will be the Wednesday of the prior week before the event. The Tournament Entry deadline for the Adult Regional Championships shall be 14 days before the weekend the tournament is scheduled. Tournaments not administered by the Carolina Region may set their own Entry deadline and Entry Fees.
2. Junior Tournaments: The Tournament Entry deadline for all Regular Season and the Junior Regional Championship Events shall be 14 days before the weekend the tournament is scheduled.
3. Tournament entries will not be processed into the Region Tournament System until the team has COMPLETED all club and team registration requirements for the season. These requirements include: Season club registration, team creation in the USAV Member Management System with a minimum of 6 players and 1 coach on the roster, and team fee invoice has been paid.
4. Late Entries: All entries received with full entry fee payment (by mail or through the online payments page) on the deadline day will meet the deadline. Entries received AFTER the deadline day require a \$25 late fee in addition to the entry fee to be considered for entry.
5. Beach Tournaments: The Tournament host for each sanctioned Beach event may set their own tournament entry guidelines and procedures.

**J. Tournament Entry Priority:** The Region's policy regarding how the Region Office assigns teams to tournament sites is as follows (except the Junior Hi Neighbor, MAPL, Quest tournaments, and/or any other special two-day sanctioned events which sets and administers their own criteria): if a Carolina Region 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 is received by the next tournament's entry deadline. The remaining slots will be filled in the order in which the complete and timely entry forms of Carolina Region teams within their assigned "age group/realm" are received by the Region Office. Teams may play in two different age group tournaments on a given weekend if the schedule allows it. **NOTE: Teams are NOT GUARANTEED entry into any tournament even if their entry is received before the Entry Deadline. The number of teams accepted into tournaments will still be determined based on the total number of courts available for hosting within the approved tournament formats.** 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 if entered by the entry deadline (except for any sanctioned multi-day tournaments that accept their own entries). After the Entry deadline passes, the following priority applies based on the date the entry is received: Carolina Region girls' teams; 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 Girls' teams within the division, 2) out-of-region Girls' teams within the division, and 3) out-of-division Girls' teams on a first come, first serve basis.

**K. Withdrawing from Tournaments:** Teams MUST notify the Region Office if they are withdrawing from a tournament. Failure to notify the 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 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. 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. Withdrawals after the tournament entry deadline cannot be refunded as the Region is committed to paying the Tournament Director that fee at that time. Forfeited entry fees may be appealed in writing to the Board of Directors.

**L. Intentional Forfeits:** A few teams in the past that qualified 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 \$200 fines to suspension of memberships.

**M. 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 XIII for information on All-Tournament teams.

## **VII. REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS**

**A. Definition:** The Carolina Region sanctions four types of Regional Championship Events. (1) Junior East/West Championships – teams that meet the qualification requirements to compete in this event will play against other teams from their same geographic area (as chosen when registering each season). Teams in the East area will have their own Championship and teams in the West will also have their own Championship; (2) Junior Regional Championships – the top four teams at each age group in the Standings in each geographic area (East and West) that qualify to enter a Regional Championship event and have submitted an entry to participate in a Regional Championship Event will be entered automatically into the Junior Regional Championships for that age group. Those teams will play an 8-team tournament to decide the overall Regional Champion at each age group; (3) Adult Regional Championships – Adult teams that meet the qualification requirement to compete in this event will play against other teams of their same gender and playing level to decide the Region Champions in each division. (4) Beach Regional Championships – bids to the Junior Regional Championships are earned through high finishes during Junior Beach Tour events.

**B. Tournament Site/Entry Fee:** The location of all indoor Regional Championship Events will be selected upon the basis of suitability and availability of appropriate facilities. Requests to host an indoor Regional Championship event 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. Requests to host a Beach Regional Championship event will be sent to the Carolina Regional Beach Director by February 1.

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

**D. Player and Team Eligibility:** For the Adult Program - A player must participate in at least ***ONE*** sanctioned Carolina Region tournament before participating in the Regional Championships. For the Junior Program – A player must participate in at least ***TWO*** sanctioned Carolina Region tournaments before participating in a Regional Championship Event. An adult team must participate in at least ***ONE*** sanctioned Carolina Region tournaments to be eligible to participate in the Regional Championships. A Junior team must participate in at least ***THREE*** Carolina Region sanctioned tournaments before the East/West Regional Championships to be eligible to compete at the 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: (a) One or Two Carolina Region one-day tournaments; (b) Any two-day Carolina Region sanctioned event whose only criteria is date of entry (examples: Quest tournament, City of Oaks, **Queen City**, Carolina Classic, **Locomotive Challenge**); (c) 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). If a sanctioned Carolina Region regular season, one-day tournament is cancelled then the teams entered in that tournament will have their requirement to be eligible to participate in the Regional Championships reduced by one. If a team withdraws from a tournament due to inclement weather but the tournament is still held, then that team may appeal to the Region to have their minimum requirement lowered by one. For the Junior Beach Regional Championships, both participants on the team must be current Carolina Region members.

### **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. Tournament Directors may call the Region Executive Director for clarifications on Regional policies. Any ruling issued by the Executive Director shall be final.

**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 Secretary, Official's Rep, and the Rep of the division (Boys', East or West) 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 General Forms section of the Carolina Region website.

### **IX. ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

**A. Annual Registration:** All players participating in sanctioned competitions within the jurisdiction of the Carolina Region must be registered with USA Volleyball for the current membership season (September 1-August 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 the USAV background screen and SafeSport course for junior teams). Completed online registration 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. Registrations 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 MEMBER MANAGEMENT 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 \$200 fine. A second occurrence of an illegal player or illegal club player movement will result in a \$300 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 membership 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 an event. The membership will be valid for five consecutive days beginning on the start date the applicant enters during the registration process. Players using this category must still register using the same procedures as a full member, indicate the event date they are participating in during the application process, pay the one-event fee, and complete the purchase process at least one week before the event. A one-event can also be added as late as Thursday before a tournament with a \$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. The Region will allow a team to be formed in the one-event category once per season. Each player would pay \$10 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. In addition to the one-event membership option, the Region also offers a Tryout membership for \$11 (\$6 Region; \$5 USAV). The Tryout membership will allow an individual to participate in any USAV-sanctioned tryout. The Tryout membership may not be used for any other USAV-sanctioned event and is not eligible to be added to a roster. Members may upgrade the Tryout membership to another Carolina Region membership and credit will be received for their prior purchase. The Tryout membership will be valid from **July 6** – December 31, but additional tryout period options may be offered as well in the summer.

**C. Support the Carolina Region with a Donation:** The Carolina Region is a 501 (c)(3) North Carolina nonprofit dedicated to supporting the sport of volleyball in our state. We do accept tax-deductible donations of any amount to support our mission. Please consider showing your support for North Carolina Volleyball by making a generous donation. Contact the [Region Office](#) for more information.

**D. Officiating Requirements:** Each Junior team is required to have a minimum of THREE certified officials on their roster. It is recommended that each Adult team have a minimum of THREE certified officials on their roster. The following policies apply for each Division:

- **ADULT TEAMS** – The Region would like each adult team to have at least two “trained” (attend clinic, pass tests, and modified rating) referees (R1, R2) and one (different) certified scorer. The certification process begins with an officiating/scoring clinic. Officiating clinics will be offered online only for adult officials this season.
- **JUNIOR TEAMS** - For Junior Teams, the team must have at least TWO certified Referees, ONE certified scorer, and one certified Adult (Coach, Chaperone, or Team Rep) on the roster BEFORE the team will be allowed to play in a Sanctioned tournament. See Section XIII. G. for more Junior Team Officiating information.

**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 scorers at sanctioned junior events will be placed on probation for the first offense, be fined \$200 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 scorer 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:**

- Certification of all officials shall begin each season with an on-line clinic. USA Volleyball will have all certification clinics available online.
- All officials must take the approved Referee and Scorekeeper Tests annually (during the clinic).

Each candidate for certification as a Provisional or Regional (1 or 2) Referee 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 Rater for attending a tournament to do ratings. Certification will be valid through the sanctioned season. A portion of each team fee is designated to cover the costs of ratings. Officials wishing to attain a Regional (1 or 2) rating will need to submit an application by January 15 of each season to be considered. Information on upgrading a referee certification can be found at the Officiating Section of the Region's web site or by contacting the Referee or Scorer Chair.

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 Scorer 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 1	yes	yes	Pass	Pass	1
Provisional 2	yes	yes	Pass	Pass	2 R1, 1 R2**
Regional 1	yes	yes	Pass	Pass	2 R1, 2 R2**
Regional 2	yes	yes	Pass	Pass	2 R1, 2 R2**
Scorer	no	yes*	no	Pass	1

\*For regional scorers, 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.

Officials Accelerated Advancement Program (OAAP) – the Carolina Region has created this program to provide an avenue for officials to receive enhanced training to advance their skills in a shorter amount of time. The cost of the program is \$150 for three years of training. This program is the designated route for Carolina Region officials to advance to obtain their Junior National and National certifications. Priority for recommendations to USA Volleyball on Carolina Region National rating candidates will be given to officials in the OAAP. Referees in the OAAP will be ranked based on evaluations performed by region raters and trainers.

**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 team members listed on the roster as submitted to the Carolina Region that has been sanctioned will be considered to be responsible for the sanctions placed on that team. As a matter of policy, all sanction fees and fines received by the Carolina Region will be designated to the Junior Referee College Scholarship Budget.

**F. Player Movement Within Multi-Team Clubs:**

ADULTS - For Regular Season Tournaments, the Region has eliminated the Club Player Movement Policy for adults to promote ease of play. Adult teams will be able to pick up any current member up to the max roster size as needed in order to play in a regular season Carolina Region tournament. All such player movements **must still be recorded** by a team rep in writing on the Club Player Movement Form and submitted to all affected tournament hosts before the start of competition (with roster at Captain’s Meeting). Player Movement Forms do not need to be sent to the Region before a tournament if the move is only Temporary. Permanent Team Movements should be sent to the Region Office **directly** and REQUIRE the written approval of both affected team reps before it can be approved by the Region. **Regional Championships Player Movements:** Rosters still FREEZE (no changes allowed) ONE week before the Regional Championships. Team Reps need to submit all Roster updates (with a Club Player Movement Form) to the Region Office at least one week before the scheduled Adult Regional Championships in order for the affected players to be eligible for the Regional Championships.

JUNIOR BOYS – All Carolina Region Boys teams will be considered part of the same Club. Boys’ teams are still restricted to the procedures below when utilizing Player Movement.

JUNIOR GIRLS – All multi-team Junior Girls Clubs will be able to utilize the Player Movement Policy within their respective club only during the season without paying a club fee.

Player movement (either Temporary or Permanent) in a club is restricted based on the policies outlined below.

All 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. The Carolina Region will use the current Standings of all teams as found at the Carolina Region Tournament System when processing all club movements per the policies below.

Player Movement Restrictions-Junior Program:

- Players being moved to a team in a lower age group must meet the birthdate requirements for the age group they are being moved to.
- An individual player may only be used TWICE for temporary moves during the indoor season. After a player has participated with another club team 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.
- Players registered on 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** ranking a maximum of **two (2)** times (within their individual limit) before rosters are frozen one week prior to their age group's first Regional Championship Event.
- Players may participate with a team having a **lower** ranking than the one with who the player is registered a maximum of **one (1)** time (within their individual limit) before rosters are frozen one week prior to their age group's first Regional Championship Event.
- Players may participate with two teams on a given weekend provided: (a) the age groups are playing on different days (i.e. 12's team plays on Saturday and 13's team plays 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 junior 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.
- Any registered Club player may continue participation with another team in the same club upon notifying the Office of a permanent roster change before rosters are frozen one week prior to their age group's first Regional Championship Event. Once a permanent move is made, no other moves (temporary or permanent) are allowed for that player.
- Players registered as unaffiliated (member of the club but not on a team) must still appear on a Club Movement Form if desiring to play on a team within their club and are still limited by the restrictions above.
- Registered unaffiliated members in the Region (not on any team) must first join a club before they can play in a tournament.

Team Movement Restrictions:

- Teams may add a maximum of two (2) Club players not on their roster in any given tournament.
- Teams may add a maximum of one (1) player not on their roster from a higher ranked team in their club in any given tournament.
- Teams may add a maximum of two (2) players not on their roster from a higher ranked team in their club 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 a Regional Championship Event, 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 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 Regional Championship Event:** No Club movements will be approved, and no new players may be registered or added to the roster of any adult or junior team within 7 days of that team's Regional Championship Event 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 as a Qualifier for the USAV Junior National 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 Region Office unless the requirements outlined on page 6 Section V. D. are met. All requested 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 one week before a Division's Regional Championship Event.

**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 7 days of a team's Regional Championship Event would reduce a team to less than eight (8) players on the roster for the 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 an unaffiliated player to their roster.

**M. Team Division Assignment Policy:** The Region encourages all teams to participate in the Division appropriate to their skills:

ADULT PROGRAM: Occasionally, an adjustment in a team's participation level is necessary. All teams are subject to review of their Division assignments by Region Staff. The Adult Competition Committee will move adult teams among their divisions based on the Points Standings. Efforts will be made to keep the divisions in the Adult Program equal in number of teams as the competitive level allows. 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 one scheduled tournament remaining in that higher classification before the Regional Championships.

JUNIOR PROGRAM: At registration, teams will select from among five (5) categories when initially registering their team with the Carolina Region. The FIVE categories correspond with: 1-top 20% of teams in age group; 2-next 21-40% of teams; 3-41-60%; 4-61-80%; 5- bottom 20% of all teams. The Region will use these self-selections to determine the initial starting point's value for all teams in the Region Tournament System. As teams play in Carolina Region one-day tournaments against other teams in the system, teams will move up and down the Standings strictly by their results of each match they play. Junior teams will be assigned to the next tournament site based on where they are in the overall Standings. 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. There will be no NAMED divisions for the Junior tournaments this season – each site will be numbered 1 to N (where N is the total number of tournaments being held in that age group and geographic area).



**N. Officials Good Standing Policy:** In order to be in good standing in the Carolina Region, ALL officials (National, Junior National, Regional, Provisional, and Junior) must fulfill the requirements as stipulated by USA Volleyball and the applicable Carolina Region Good Standing Policy to maintain their certification. The National Good Standing Policy and the Carolina Region Good Standing Policy for Regional and below officials 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 any USAV sanctioned event. 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. The Carolina Region has also instituted a Purple Card Program to enhance the Spectator Behavior Policy and give another tool for Officials to control inappropriate behavior without the removal of the spectator from the facility. Each Professional Official in the Carolina Region will be provided with a PURPLE card to be carried along with their standard Red and Yellow cards. A professional official may use the PURPLE card to WARN (held with Yellow card) or PENALIZE (held with Red card) inappropriate behavior by spectators. If a spectator receives a PENALTY card, then the opposing team will be awarded a penalty point. Future misbehavior by that spectator would be governed by the Participant/Spectator Behavior Policy.

**Q. Tournament Admissions Policy:** Sanctioned one-day tournaments may charge an admission fee up to a maximum of \$5 for all spectators 11 and older. Children of the age 10 and below will be free. All event participants (including but not limited to players, coaches, and officials) may not be charged an admission. Sanctioned multi-day tournaments may set their own admission policy to cover the increased costs for their facilities. Tournament Directors may request a waiver to the admissions 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. See also XIII, M. page 23.

## **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 eligible to be allocated one bid in each age division to USA Volleyball's Junior Girls' National Volleyball Championships (we usually get one bid each in the National, American, and Freedom Divisions in the 13-18 age groups but must wait each year for the allocation formulas to be published by USA Volleyball to confirm our actual bids). Junior teams wanting to earn a bid in the Open or USA divisions must attend a Qualifier Tournament. The Region will award all its available bids to the USAV Junior Girls' National Championship Events based on a ranking system where points are awarded based on a team's results at USAV-sanctioned events during the current season. A complete description of the Regional Bid Ranking system can be found at the Junior Club Director Forms section on the Region website. All teams wishing to be considered for a Region bid must submit an online application by their applicable deadline: (a) 18's teams by **March 17, 2025**; (b) 12's – 17's teams by **April 28, 2025**. **Should a team be offered a Region bid based on their placement in the Region Bid Ranking system and choose not to accept the bid, the club will need to pay a sanction fee of \$500 to be eligible to participate in the Region Bid Ranking System in a future season.** Teams may also try to qualify for a 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 a National Championship 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 in conjunction with the approval of the annual budget. 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, Staff, and NC Volleyball individual Hall of Fame honorees will be paid by the Region.

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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 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. Junior Tryout & Commitment Date Policy:

- Tryouts for Girls' youth and junior athletes for the next USAV season may take place at any time after the completion of the prior season's Girls' USAV Junior National Championships.
- Athletes may officially select and commit to a USAV club in the Carolina Region beginning on September 1st of each year.
- Athletes must sign a Carolina Region Letter of Commitment form on or after Sept 1st to affirm their club of choice. The form will reside with the club and must be made available within 3 business days upon request by the Carolina Region. Note: Only current year Letter of Commitment forms issued by the Carolina Region will be considered valid. Prior year forms will be invalid.
- Players may only affiliate with one club during the USAV indoor club season which ends at the completion of the USAV Girls' Junior National Championships.
- Requests for transfers to another club will be handled by the Carolina Region Club Transfer Policy.
- All personal business/legal commitments made between the club and a player's family will remain the responsibility of the related parties. The Carolina Region will not be responsible for enforcing private agreements. Contracts between a club and family are independent of any region obligations and policies.

The Carolina Region Board of Directors endorses the Athlete and Club Bill of Rights, the Club Fair Tryout Pledge, and the importance of all school volleyball programs. Families are encouraged to support clubs that enact policies and procedures that also support those ideals.

- C. Indoor Junior Division Structure:** The Junior division will be broken into East and West geographic areas (a North/South line through the Greensboro area will be the approximate dividing line with the Greensboro clubs and tournament sites going into the East). Teams will indicate to the Region when they register where they think their team fits among all the other teams (top 20%, next 20%, and so on). CLUB teams will be entered in the Tournament System's initial Standings based on which percentage group they choose. Teams will be assigned to tournament sites in groups of FOUR (4) based on their position in the Standings (this will occur for ALL tournaments). Points will be calculated and updated in the system based on a team's results in each match. The tournament entry deadline for Junior Tournaments will be TWO weeks before a tournament since the Region will not be able to assign teams to tournament sites until AFTER the results of the prior tournament are calculated. The majority of sites will now have all four-team pool play so LATE entries or requests to play at another site/age group will not be allowed (unless it allows us to have another 4-team pool at a lower site). Teams may request to play at a higher Age bracket and in a different geographic area if their competitive level warrants it. However, these requests will only be allowed if REQUESTED BEFORE the entry deadline for that specific tournament. Requests to play in a higher age group/different geographic area should be submitted to the Region Office by email at least one week before the entry deadline.
- D. Junior Boys Information:** In the interest of promoting and growing boys' volleyball in North Carolina, the membership fee for Boys 18 and younger will be \$43 (representing a reduced Carolina Region member fee and the USAV admin fees). All applicable registration deadlines and late fees still apply (See Section IX. A.) If competitive opportunities for Boys' 12 & Under teams do not meet their needs, they will be permitted to enter appropriate level girls' 13's or 14's tournaments if there is room after the entry deadline. 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 site 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 Girls' 13-and-under age group, teams will be allowed to form coed rosters in order to encourage participation for boys and girls in these age groups. There will be a limit of TWO boys on a Girls' coed roster. The Region will work with these teams to find an appropriate Girl's division to play in, and a Girls' coed team will be treated as a Girl's team for tournament entry priority purposes. Coed teams will only be eligible to play in Carolina Region-sanctioned one-day events including Regional Championship Events. A coed team will need permission by the applicable Tournament Host to participate in any CR-sanctioned multi-day tournaments and out-of-Region events (since they are more likely to be inter-regional events). To further promote the growth of Boys' volleyball, the Carolina Region will publish a 2025 Boys Tournament Schedule to provide more tournament opportunities for boys in North Carolina. This schedule is available on the Carolina Region website.
- E. 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. 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 by the Carolina Region. The Carolina Region will honor an All-Tournament Team at the Carolina Regional Championships for each age group. 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 an MVP that does not have to come from the Champion team. The coaches of those respective teams will choose the All-Tournament Player(s) from their team after their playoff matches (there is no vote involved for participating teams). The MVP will be selected by a committee made up of the Tournament Director, the paid officials working the championship match, and the Head Coaches from the two finalist teams. The tournament director will chair the committee and break any tie. An ATT team will not be named at the individual East and West Regional Championship sites; however, we will announce an MVP at each East/West Regional Championships site (to be selected as outlined above). The top two finishing teams will receive individual awards at all Regional Championships Events.

- F. National Team Development Program:** USA Volleyball has instituted a National Team Development Program (NTDP). Programming details for the NTDP are available at USA Volleyball's website. Regional programming options are still under development. The Carolina Region hopes to implement some NTDP programming offerings this season. More information on the 2025 NTDP program will be posted to our web site as details are developed.
- G. Special Rules for Junior Competition:**
- All Junior teams must have two certified referees, one certified scorer, and one certified coach or adult on the roster before being allowed to participate in a tournament. Coaches are not allowed to officiate Junior play. Players must handle these roles [EXCEPTION: Adult Professional Officials will work as R1 for all 12's and 13's tournaments for all matches. With the approval of the head coach and supervising official, a certified player referee may work the second set as R1 during pool play.] Per above, at least one registered adult on the roster 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/adult must physically supervise (i.e. keep outside distractions like food, phones, MP3 players, parents, and other non-working teammates away from the work team) 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/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 in the first set of their next match. The paid official shall monitor the work team and assess the penalty points as needed.
  - Coaches Education Policy - The Carolina Region believes that every player deserves a coach trained in the current techniques and safety issues of the sport. All Head and Assistant Coaches are required to have at a minimum, current IMPACT and SafeSport certifications in order to coach in the Region. An IMPACT certification now grants **three seasons** of coaching eligibility in the Carolina Region. Although USAV IMPACT certification does not expire, the Region believes it is important for coaches to stay current in the field. Attending an IMPACT clinic or other approved Coaching Development Clinic at any time will extend a coach's eligibility for another three seasons.
  - All Junior coaches must be at least 18 years of age and at least two years older than the team they coach. However, individuals who have reached their 16th birthday may serve as a rostered Assistant Coach for teams that are a minimum of three age groups younger than the coach. Teams utilizing these junior coaches must register a Chaperone 25 or older also to be on the roster and sit on the bench in the event that the Head Coach is not able to finish a match on the bench. In addition, the Head Coach must be 25 or older and must be on the bench to start all matches. These Junior coaches must comply with all coaching prerequisites (IMPACT/SafeSport) before they can be added to the roster. In the event, the coach turns 18 during the season, they must clear the USAV Background Screen policy and would be governed by the current Coaches' policy as found below.
  - All adults affiliating with a Junior Club are required to agree to the USAV Code of Ethics and an Acknowledgement of SafeSport and MAAPP statement and submit a USAV Background Screen during the registration process. Any individual that does not pass the Background Screen will be prohibited from participating in all USAV-sanctioned Junior events and activities.
  - All adults affiliating with a Club must have a current SafeSport certification in their USAV member record. Individuals will automatically be enrolled in an applicable SafeSport course whenever they purchase a membership affiliated with participation in a Junior program. SafeSport certification must be renewed once it expires to remain eligible to participate in USAV-sanctioned Junior activities.
  - Tournament entry registrations are due **two** weeks before each tournament and must be sent to the Region Office (except for the sanctioned special multi-day tournaments like Quest/City of Oaks/Queen City/MAPL that go directly to their attention).
  - Teams may participate in two different tournaments on one weekend if the age groups and schedule allows it.

- H. Coaches' Meetings:** All teams must have a representative (coach, parent, coach from same club, or player all acceptable) at the mandatory 8:30 am Coaches' Meeting. 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).
- I. Rule for 11-and 12-and-under tournaments:** (a) For the first regular season tournament of the sanctioned season, all 11's and 12's divisions will establish service lines 6 feet (2 meters) and 3 feet (1 meter) inside of the normal service line. Players will be allowed the OPTION to serve from the 6-foot line on their first serve during each term of service. If the team wins the point, they must move back to the 3-foot line. If they win that point, they must serve from normal service line for the remainder of that term of service. (b) Beginning with the second tournaments of the sanctioned season and continuing to the end of the regular season, the 11's and 12's Division 1 site will play using the normal service line in the USAV Rule book; all other 11's and 12's sites will play using the modified service lines described above in (a). **NOTE: for development purposes, all 11's sites may continue to use the step in modification in (a) for other regular season events with full agreement by the Coaches at the Coaches meeting.** (c) For all Regional Championship Events and National bid tournaments, all 11's and 12's divisions will play using the normal service line in the USAV Rule book.
- J. 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).
- K. 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 7 days of that team's Regional Championship Event unless required due to verifiable injuries (see Section IX, paragraph H and L, page 16).
- L. Out-of-Region teams:** All out-of-Region teams will be assigned to sites with the TOP teams grouping (or next highest) of the age group of the oldest player on their team in all regular Carolina Region sanctioned tournaments (Quest, City of Oaks, Queen City, and other multi-day tournaments may have their own team acceptance policies). Teams will be allowed to play in lower groupings with confirmation of their team's level of play from their Region's Commissioner or Junior Coordinator. Out-of-Region teams will only be assigned if it allows additional sites to have a 4-team pool format.
- M. 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/privacy-policy/>