



September 1, 2016

Dear Prospective Tournament Director:

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

Attached you will find a Carolina Region Tournament Sanction Request Form and a listing of dates available for junior play. This season we will have an age group assigned to play on Sundays on EVERY weekend of the season. Thus, you can submit requests to host on both Saturday AND Sundays this season! We will not need as many courts on those Sundays since only one age group will be assigned to play on a Sunday, so we may not use every site that submits a request. But, please submit a request if you wish to host on any of the available dates. **The Carolina Region strongly recommends that you get written confirmations (indicating dates) with the gyms or facilities you will be using for your tournaments.** If you are interested in any dates, please fill out the Sanction Request form and return it to Region Office as quickly as possible. Please fill out a separate form for each tournament/date you plan to host, so there are no misunderstandings as to what you requested. You will be notified, if your approval is accepted, and may be asked to sign an official sanction form to complete the process (these will be electronic this season hopefully!). Please note that the assigning of divisions and granting of official sanctions will take some time as we gather all the requests in and start to see what type of numbers we have in each division. We will assign out the sites in the same process we used last season; therefore, you will not know which age groups/teams you will be hosting until two weeks out when the deadline passes. We do our best to accommodate all requests and the earlier you get your requests in the higher chance of sanctioning (we rarely do not offer chance to host for at least one division – the more flexible you are the better)! If you think you will be losing your facility during this period, please contact us before turning the facility back in. We will be able to give you an update as to your chances for hosting so you will not lose the facility. **We have grown tremendously the last four seasons, so if you are flexible with your requests, we will be able to use your facility, even if we can't confirm the teams until closer to your event date.**

Items of interest to Tournament Directors for the 2016-2017 Season:

- (1) The **Adult** Division will operate the same as last season. We are not formally scheduling Adult tournaments this season due to the overall decline in adult teams wanting to play Carolina Region tournaments on a consistent basis. We still hope adult teams will register with us and we will sanction any adult tournaments that are requested. If you would like to host a sanctioned one- or two-day adult tournament this year, please submit a request form. You may choose to set your entry fee, accept the entries, and administer the event from start to finish; or we will be happy to accept the entries as we have in the past. Contact the Region Office if you have questions.
- (2) The **Junior Divisions** will be split into EAST and WEST again this year. We will have tournaments for the 12-18's age groups and there will be sites in both the EAST and WEST for each age group on their given weekends. The approximate Geographic split will occur along the GREENSBORO line year with Greensboro facilities and teams defaulting to the EAST. If we do not have enough sites to host in either realm, then we will use other sites as close to the dividing line as possible to accommodate as many teams as possible. Teams will be allowed to choose their initial geographic area when they register with the Region. We will assign teams to tournament sites based on the Points System in 4-team increments after the entry deadline closes (2 weeks before tournament). As a TD, if you need to host a particular team or club, please indicate that on the Tournament Request Form! **See the attached schedule of dates to confirm when each age group and division plays.**

- (3) **Junior Tournament Format:** We will be assigning teams to sites in 4-team increments so most tournaments can play under that preferred format. This will allow more two-court sites to host and most tournaments will end at a reasonable time. Depending on total entries, we may have some sites that do not have all 4-team pools. For those sites, we will utilize 3-team pools and occasionally a 5-team tournament (playing full round-robin this season). We will use the excel spreadsheets again this season for Tournament Directors to use to run their tournament. The spreadsheet will run the tournament for you. You will mostly just enter who wins each match with the match scores (if two or more teams tie after pool play then TD will have to follow the written Tournament policies to break the tie). The spreadsheet will then tell you who is playing next and on which court. The spreadsheet will have multiple tabs at the bottom with all possible number of teams at your tournament so you can switch if teams withdraw or don't show. We have continued to make improvements to the spreadsheet, so it should be easier than ever to run your events this season! **You will need access to a laptop or computer running at least 2010 or 2013 version of EXCEL on site in order to run your tournament!**
- (4) **Tournament Director's Compensation:** **Tournament Hosts are receiving an increase in the amount of revenue they will receive from each tournament this season!** Hosts will receive an additional \$20 per team out of the entry fees (which did rise also in order to increase the host compensation). The early scheduling incentive will be in effect again for this season. To recap: Tournament Sanction Forms are due in the office eight (8) weeks before your tournament. If you return the Sanction Request Form to the Office by ***December 1*** (excluding December tournament dates, which still must be in 8 weeks in advance), you will receive the maximum fee possible (approximately \$118 per team –Junior tournaments). After December 1, you will receive \$5 - \$10 less per team (depending on when received); however, if your Sanction Form is not in the Office eight weeks before your tournament, we cannot guarantee approval. Entry fees for Regular season tournaments will be \$175 for Junior tournaments. The Regional Championships (this includes the East/West Championships and Regional Championships) tournament entry fees will be \$200 for all Junior Regionals (Flat rate \$120 per junior team to TD for Regional Championship Events). This increase is necessary to cover the additional costs associated with running the Regional Championships (Region provides the awards and paid officials will be provided for pool play and playoffs for Regional Championship Events again this season). You will receive a Tournament Directors' Handbook, which will explain the Tournament Directors compensation in more detail. **All Tournament Directors must be registered members with the Region (insurance requirement) and clear the USAV Background Screen program.** **NOTE: If you register ONLINE and Early (before Nov 1), you will be eligible for up to a \$10 discount off the regular membership fees!).**
- (4) **Policy on Determining Playing Sites** – If you are hosting a tournament where all or the majority of the divisions are playing, please note that the Region must be notified of all the facilities you will be using at least six weeks before the tournament. This is to insure there are enough courts provided to adequately host all divisions. In the event that specific facilities cannot be provided, the Region reserves the right to look for alternative sites and tournament directors to host some or all of the divisions. Please secure your playing facilities in writing early!
- (5) **Tournament Director Webinar:** We hope to take advantage of our online meeting technology to host some Tournament Director webinars this fall before the season begins. This will give all tournament directors a chance to discuss the tournament assigning process. It is also a chance for new and old tournament directors to ask questions of staff and other tournament directors about running tournaments. The webinar schedule will be posted on the Tournament Director section of website - <http://www.carolinaregionvb.org/directors>
- (6) **COED tournaments:** The Carolina Region has sanctioned COED tournaments in the past and will continue to do so if interest (however, there can be no guaranteed participation based on prior entry levels). Our adult players have indicated that the Fall and April/May are good time periods to host Coed tournaments. There is a spot on the Sanction Request Form to indicate a request for COED Sanctioning.

- (7) **WEB Page:** There is a section on our website just for Tournament Directors (Tournament Directors in top header)! We'll put all the forms that you may need up there. These are also in the Tournament Director Handbook, but sometimes they get misplaced or used without making copies. If there are other items you think you might like to see on the web page, let us know! Our website is at: <http://www.CarolinaRegionVB.org/>
- (8) **Behavior Policy:** The Junior Advisory Board and Carolina Region Board of Directors approved a Spectator and Participant Behavior Policy. This policy puts all participants at a tournament on notice that inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. The Tournament Director has the right and obligation to remove participants from the facility for inappropriate behavior. We hope this policy will make it easier to administer events as behavior will not be as much of an issue. The full policy and Warning Cards will be a part of the Tournament Director's Handbook that will be sent to you once you get on the schedule. As always, please let us know how this policy works for you and whether there are other things we need to address to make your experience better. We will also be providing all Tournament Hosts a banner that they can display at the entrance to the gym/facility to inform spectators and participants about the types of behavior that is expected at all USAV-sanctioned events.
- (9) **Regional Championship Events Information:** The Board of Directors has passed a policy that the Region will not sanction a competing event on the same date as any Regional Championship Event. Please keep this in mind when considering special events or tournaments. All age groups will continue to have tournaments on alternating weekends through March 19, 2017 (see enclosed schedule for additional information). This year we will have our Regional Championship Events on the March 25/26 and April 8/9 weekends. We will identify the teams participating in the Regional Championships divisions differently this year (this will be discussed during TD webinars)! We will award our National Bids on three Sundays during the Season (February 26, March 5 & March 19, 2017). If you are interested in hosting any one of the Regional Championship Events and/or National Bid tournaments, please submit a Request as for any other tournament.
- (10) **PLEASE NOTE: Submitting a request does not mean your event will be sanctioned or approved. This is just the first step in the sanctioning process and additional factors are considered before sanctioning is approved. Sanction Requests are not necessarily accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis, but that is a factor when evaluating two similar and valid requests. First priority goes to tournament directors that have run tournaments for us in the past on those dates (Quest, MAPL, etc.) However, if those organizations do not submit their requests in a timely fashion for their normal dates, others may be considered! We make all attempts to honor all timely sanction requests and early requests are rarely not approved. Those willing to host any division stand the best chance at approved sanctions.** With the growth of our Junior divisions, we generally need all the courts we can get each weekend and we foresee that again this season. By splitting into East and West divisions, adding Sunday tournaments, and the emphasis on 4-team pools for all junior tournaments, we anticipate two-court facilities again being able to host a majority of the junior divisions, so please consider hosting if you can (and help us find more 2 court sites ready to host)!

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

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



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

Enclosures



Site assignments for Junior Tournaments will not be finalized until after the entry deadline for each tournament. However, tournaments will be held on all these dates for all the age groups listed, and 50-75 courts are needed on each weekend to host all possible teams. Those interested in hosting a tournament on one of these available dates should complete the Tournament Sanction Request Form. Sites are needed now for all dates including Regional Championship Event tournaments (except the Special events listed which are operated independently from the Region). Final site assignments will be shown on our Points System/Tournament Management System ONLY ([points.carolinaregionvb.org](http://points.carolinaregionvb.org))

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## **APPROVED 2017 JUNIOR TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

### **January:**

- 7 - Regular season tournaments begin; All divisions for age groups 13's, 16's, 18's;
- 8 - Regular season tournaments begin; All divisions for age groups 12's;
- 14-16 – City of Oaks Tournament – Raleigh Convention Center; (MLK trns)
- 21 - All divisions for age groups 17's, 15's;
- 22 - All divisions for age groups 14's
- 28 - All divisions for age groups 12's, 13's; 16's (possible SAT date)
- 29 - All divisions for age groups 18's;

### **February:**

- 4 – All divisions for age groups 15's, 14's; Queen City (2/4-5)
- 5 – All divisions for age group 17's
- 11 - All divisions for age groups 12's, 13's; 18's (ACT Test Date)
- 12 - All divisions for age groups 16's;
- 18 – All divisions for age groups 17's, 14's;
- 19 - All divisions for age groups 15's;
- 25 – All divisions for age groups 12's, 16's, 18's;
- 26 - All divisions for age groups 13's;
- 26 – National Bid tournaments – 14's, 15's, 17's;

### **March:**

- 4 – All divisions for age groups 17's, 15's;
- 5 - All divisions for age groups 14's;
- 5 – National Bid tournament – 18's age group only;
- 11 – All divisions for age groups 12's, 13's, 16's; (possible SAT dates); MAPL Raleigh (11-12)
- 12- All divisions for age groups 18's;
- 18 – All divisions for age groups 17's, 14's;
- 19 - All divisions for age groups 15's;
- 19 – National Bid tournaments – 12's, 13's, 16's
- 25 – East/West AND Regional Championships for age groups 12's, 13's, 18's;
- 26 - East/West AND Regional Championships for age groups 16's;

### **April:**

- Mar 31-Apr 2 – Big South Qualifier;
- 8 – East/West AND Regional Championships for age groups 14's, 15's (ACT Test)
- 9 - East/West AND Regional Championships for age groups 17's;
- 15/16 –Easter weekend;

# CAROLINA REGION TOURNAMENT SANCTION REQUEST



## I. Tournament Director Information:

## II. Tournament Information

Tournament Director's (TD) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

TD's Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

TD's City/St/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

TD's Home Phone # (with area code): \_\_\_\_\_

TD's Work # (with area code): \_\_\_\_\_

TD's Mobile # (with area code): \_\_\_\_\_

TD's # to be reached day of trn (cell/pager/gym office): \_\_\_\_\_

Which Number to put on Schedule? (Check)  Home  Work  Mobile

TD's Fax # with area code: \_\_\_\_\_

TD's E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Post-Trn Checks Made Payable To? \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Completed W-9 Required) Name or Organization

Name of Tournament (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of Tournament: \_\_\_\_\_

Site(s) of Tournament (List all gyms/facilities): \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor(s) of Tournament (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Special Requests, waivers, non-tournament requests. Please be specific in describing your request: \_\_\_\_\_

### Check all appropriate Divisions and Classifications (by gender and group):

#### INDOOR ADULTS:

- Men  Gold  Silver  Bronze
- Women  Gold  Silver  Bronze
- Coed  AA  A  BB  B

Total Number of Courts Available for Adults \_\_\_\_\_

#### INDOOR JUNIORS: (Check Division, Age, Class, & Gender)

- East or  West

- 18  17  16  15  14  13  12

- Host any Division/Class/Age this weekend

- Or List club/Teams needing to host: \_\_\_\_\_

- Girl's  Boy's

Total Number of Courts Available for Juniors \_\_\_\_\_

- OUTDOOR:** (check all that apply)  Open  AA  A  BB  B  Jrs  Coed  M  W
- 2's  3's  4's  6's  Sand  Grass

I hereby request sanction for the above-described tournament. In consideration for this sanction, I agree to pay all applicable fees to the Carolina Region and conduct this tournament in accordance with the regulations of the Carolina Region and with the Official United States Domestic Competition Rules as approved and published by USA Volleyball. The Carolina Region shall have the right to review all entered teams and place teams within their appropriate playing divisions as needed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**PRINTED NAME**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**SIGNATURE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete all sections above and sign. Outdoor requests must include \$15 sanction fee with form (most indoor is taken out of post-tournament checks). **Send form at least 3 weeks in advance of tournament** (1 week for outdoor) to Region. Requests submitted after deadline may not be accepted.

Send form to: Carolina Region, USAV office@carolinaregionvb.org  
 P.O. Box 1757, Clemmons, NC 27012-1757 (336) 766-3501 (fax)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_ Denied: \_\_\_\_\_



## 2017 Junior Girls' Division Tournament Structure

### **INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:**

The Carolina Region has experienced tremendous growth in the Juniors Program through the past 25+ seasons. Our Clubs and Tournament Directors have done a great job of promoting the sport and giving more and more kids the opportunity to experience this great game. We have been fortunate that our clubs have been able to continue to expand to accommodate the growth and that we continue to have existing and new Tournament hosts willing to host tournaments so that as many teams as possible can play each weekend. We will continue to need more Clubs and facilities to host tournaments to handle both our current membership demands and anticipated growth. If your club doesn't currently host tournaments but has access to a two- or three-court facility on Saturdays or Sundays during our season, please contact the Region Office for more information on hosting (or visit our TD Section at <http://www.carolinaregionvb.org/directors>).

The East/West split for our tournaments has been received very positively the past four seasons. We will continue to divide the Region in to East and West geographic areas for the 2017 season. The "invisible" North/South line splitting the Region will continue to be drawn through Greensboro this season with teams and facilities along that "line" being designated in the EAST. This will give us more facilities available in the East. The East/West split will still allow teams to know approximately the furthest they would have to travel on any given weekend. However, if we do not have enough courts in any given area on a weekend to accommodate the full number of entries, then we will attempt to schedule additional sites as close to the "dividing line" as possible so as many teams can play (for example – some East sites played in Winston-Salem area last year when there were not enough East sites requesting to host and some West sites have been assigned in Greensboro in the past).

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



## **2017 JUNIOR TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE/INFORMATION**

### **NATIONAL BID TOURNAMENTS:**

We will again have stand-alone National Bid Tournaments in 2017. Based on the Regional, Inter-Regional and National Junior Tournament Schedules, we have decided to have THREE weekends of National Bid Tournaments (these tournaments will be played on Sunday on the opposite weekend of their scheduled East/West tournaments): (A) Sunday, Feb 26, 2017 – for the 14's, 15's, & 17's age groups; (B) Sunday, March 5, 2017 – for the 18's age group; and (C) Sunday, March 19, 2017 – for age groups 12's, 13's, & 16's. Teams interested in competing for a bid will be able to enter the National Bid tournament for a chance at one of the Region's bids to the 2017 Junior National Championships. The 18's National Championship site or date has not been announced as of this writing (check our schedule on website for updates). All other age groups will have their National Championships in Minneapolis, MN June 25 – July 4, 2017. The criteria to be eligible to enter the National Bid tournaments is: (a) Participating teams must be a registered Carolina Region team; and (b) teams must have played in ONE (1) Carolina Region sanctioned event during the 2017 season before the National Bid tournament. Teams will be accepted into the National Bid tournament in increments of 4 based on their rankings in the Points System. As many courts will be utilized as available based on the number of teams submitting valid entries by the entry deadline. Additional information on the National Bid tournaments will be posted and emailed to Club Directors later in the season when USA Volleyball releases additional information on the 2017 Championships.

### **JUNIOR TOURNAMENTS:**

During Registration, teams will self-select into EAST and WEST realms based on where they are located. A North/South line through GREENSBORO is the approximate dividing line for East and West this season (team may choose which ever realm they wish). Teams will also self-select whether they think they will be ranked in the: (1) Top 20% of ALL teams; (2) 21-40% of teams; (3) 41-60% of teams; (4) 61-80% of teams; or (5) lower 20% of teams. When thinking about the percentages, teams should factor in ALL teams including OPEN teams and National traveling teams (i.e. factor in where they stand against those teams when figuring out your percentages. If you select Category 1, then it means you will be competing against the top teams in the Region when they play in the Region! However, keep in mind, that the Division/Site you are placed in when tournament pools are assigned will depend only on the total number of teams ranked higher than your team that enter that particular tournament (for example, a team ranked 15<sup>th</sup> overall among 15 East teams may be placed in a Division 1 site if many of the teams ranked above them do not enter that particular tournament). The Region will utilize this information to place the teams into the Points System in that age group and geographic area (i.e. 15 East teams; 13 West teams, etc.). All teams will be ranked Top to Bottom in the Points

system based on where they anticipate they fit overall. Again for 2017 - Teams may petition the Carolina Region for an adjustment to their initial point's value that will adjust their next tournaments division by one level up/down depending on their request. All petitions must be received in writing by the Region office by Monday noon of the business week following the second Regular season tournament of their age group. CR Staff will evaluate their request and results and may adjust their starting point's value accordingly.

A 6-tournament schedule will be developed with tournaments for each age group – one in the East and one in the West. We will recruit sites in both geographic areas to host as many teams as we can on any given weekend.

Entry Deadline and Site Assignments: The entry deadline for ALL tournaments is **TWO** weeks before the tournament. This will be a firm deadline – **late entries may not be accepted!** At the entry deadline we will assign teams to tournament sites in 4-team pool increments based on the Points System Rankings **AND, if needed, the DATE the entry was received (we still track when entries are received and if we do not have enough courts to accommodate all teams then earlier received entries will have priority over that last entries received).** Since a lot of teams will be starting with the same points value initially, the first tournament assigned will be assigned as best as possible based on proximity to sites and past club history. Some sites may have 8 teams/2 pools and some sites may have 12 teams/3 pools (depending on the facility size). Only the final site assigned may have a non-4-team pool format. It will depend on the total number of entries for that weekend. If we have a non-4-team pool site, then we **MAY** be able accept late entries and out-of-Region teams to fill the site to have the optimum pool size (if they fit in to the skill level of that site). **PLEASE NOTE:** (a) Entering a tournament by the deadline still does not guarantee a team a spot in the tournament. It will still depend on total number of courts available and the total number of teams trying to play that weekend. Entries will be accepted based on the entry criteria policy in the 2017 Operating Code. (b) There is no guarantee we can accept entries that come in after the deadline. Even if a team pays the \$25 late fee, there may not be room in the tournament.

Formats: Since we will have 4-team pools at most sites, we will use the ideal round-robin pool play format with playoffs after pool play. If a team happens to withdraw at a site, then there will be a 3-team pool used (double round-robin format for the 3-team pool). The last site assigned may not have all 4-team pools. In that case, we will utilize 3-team and 4-team formats to allow as many teams to play as possible. Again for 2017: (a) If we have six (6) teams at a tournament site, they will be split into two 3-team pools. Each pool will play a single round-robin format and then all six teams will be seeded into a 6-team playoff; (b) If we have five (5) teams (only) at a tournament site, they will play a round robin format but only play two sets. The top two teams will advance to a Championship match after pool play based on their set win percentage.



Points System: Clubs, Players, and Parents will need to refer to the Points System (our Tournament management system) frequently during the season. We will do our best to update the results from each tournament on the Monday after the tournament. Once those results are in, we will then be able to assign out the next tournament two weeks later (this is why entry deadline was moved to TWO Weeks since tournaments occur approximately every two weeks). There will be no need to “move” teams as the rankings will be used to assign teams to sites. Teams will move up or down the rankings based on their results. This should help alleviate a lot of the confusion with the Points System (there is no change in how the rankings are calculated this season).

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

Regional Championship Events: All our Regional Championship Events will occur over two weekends this season. The 12's, 13's, 16's and 18's will play on the March 25-16, 10`7 weekend, and the 14's, 15's, and 17's will play on the April 8-9, 2017 weekend. We are determining the teams that will participate in the Carolina Regional Championship in each age group differently this season. The top four teams in each age group from the East rankings and the West rankings that enter their Regional Championship Event by the entry deadline will be placed into the Regional Championships automatically. The Regional Championship's sites will be placed as close to center of the state as possible (since East and West teams will be participating). All other teams that enter their Regional Championship by the entry deadline will be placed in their respective East/West Championships tournaments, and will compete at sites in their respective realms. This new procedure is being tried for a couple reasons: (a) in the past, we had a difficult time confirming eight teams for the Regional Championships. This process will guarantee eight teams for all Regional Championships as those teams will have already qualified and submitted their entry for the Regional Championship event. (b) The volleyball tournament calendar both regionally and nationally made it hard to find a good weekend in April to hold a Regional Championships as we have done past couple seasons. We will try this process this year and request feedback from the clubs to see if we will continue process in the future.

### Regional Championships Eligibility Requirement:

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

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

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

### ITEMS OF NOTE FOR CLUBS AND PARENTS:

- Based on how we are assigning sites now, we will not be able to publish a schedule with site assignments until after the tournament results are in from the previous tournament and the entry deadline passes. This is one of the tradeoffs with trying to have as many 4-team pools as possible and having predictable tournament end times.
- Teams will not be able to change sites after the assignments are made. Most all sites will be 8- or 12-team tournaments. Withdrawals and changes take the tournament away from the ideal format.
- We have made several enhancements to the Points System this offseason in addition to other enhancements made in the past two seasons. Users should notice a big difference in site responsiveness as well as added features like: (a) website is now mobile friendly; (b) pre-built filters for all ages have been added; (c) search for key words to quickly find your team/club listings; (d) filters to only show the tournament weekends your age group plays in; (e) additional information in a team's details view; (f) improved tournament results information; and (d) we are working on even more! Let us know if there are additional features you would like that we might be able to add to make the site even more informative and useful!

Thanks for your understanding and cooperation. We heard nothing but positives from this scheduling system over the past few seasons, so we are hopeful the process will only get smoother each season. We thank everyone for their support and feedback.