

September 2, 2020



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! Due to the impact of COVID-19, the availability of facilities will be an issue this season. So, if you are available to host on either Saturday or Sunday on any date this season, please submit a request. We may need to move some sites/age groups from Saturday to Sunday after the entry deadline closes just to accommodate as many teams as possible. **The Carolina Region strongly recommends that you get written confirmations (indicating dates) with the gyms or facilities you will be using for your tournaments.** If you are interested in any dates, please fill out the Tournament Sanction Request form and return it to the Region Office as quickly as possible. Please fill out a separate form for each tournament/date you plan to host, so there are no misunderstandings as to what you requested. You will be notified, if your approval is accepted, and may be asked to sign an official sanction form to complete the process. We will assign out the sites in the same process we used last season; therefore, we will not be able to confirm ANY sites until two weeks out when the applicable tournament entry deadline passes. At that time, we will be able to assign sites and confirm which age groups will be attending each site. We do our best to accommodate all requests and the earlier you get 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

Items of interest to Tournament Directors for the 2020-2021 Season:

- (1) COVID-19 Impact – We anticipate many sites that have historically hosted in the past may not be available this season due to COVID-19. We're hopeful clubs will step up and get into new sites that can host. Hosts should be prepared for additional safety precautions when hosting during this time. We also may need to implement reduced admissions policies. We have a Return to Play Guidelines document available on our website. Much more information to follow as we work through the best way to get back on the courts! **Please note that information that follows presumes we can host tournaments similar to how we have in the past. But, we all need to be flexible and be prepared for changes as the circumstances in the state warrant.**
- (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 a vertical line through GREENSBORO with Greensboro facilities and teams defaulting to the EAST. If we do not have enough sites to host in either realm, then we will use other sites as close to the dividing line as possible to accommodate as many teams as possible. Teams will be allowed to choose their initial geographic area when they register with the Region. We will assign teams to tournament sites based on the Rankings in 4-team increments after the entry deadline closes (2 weeks before tournament). As a TD, if you need to host a particular team or club, please indicate that on the Tournament Request Form! See the attached schedule of dates to confirm when each age group and division plays.
- (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). 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 (ties will again be broken automatically based on results during pool play for all events except the overall Regional Championships). 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. **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) **Tie-Breakers eliminated for Regular Season Tournaments and East/West Championships:** We have eliminated tie-breaker sets at all one-day regular season tournaments and the East/West Championships! This will allow all those tournaments to end on a more consistent basis. Our spreadsheet has been updated to fully calculate all fields needed to break the ties, so the only thing a TD will need to enter is the match scores of each scheduled match and the spreadsheet will automatically show playoff teams! The overall Regional Championship Tournaments will still break 3- and 4-way ties with tie-breaking sets same under the same process as in the past (a separate spreadsheet will be sent to those hosts). We will go over all these changes in this fall's Tournament Director webinars (below).
- (5) **Tournament Director's Compensation:** Tournament entry fees did not change this season. 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 \$117 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. Regional Championship Events (this includes the East/West Championships and Regional Championships) tournament entry fees will be \$200 (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). The Tournament Sanction fee is \$25 per tournament, but the Region will allow an Admission fee to be charged by hosts this season. The maximum allowed admission fee will be \$5 per non-participant adult. You will receive a Tournament Directors' Handbook, which will explain the Tournament Directors compensation and tournament policies in more detail. **All Tournament Directors must be registered members with the Region (insurance requirement), clear the USAV Background Screen program, and take the SafeSport course.** NOTE: If you register ONLINE and Early (before Nov 1), you will be eligible for up to a \$10 discount off the regular membership fees – choose the “Adult with Jr Club Membership (Non-Coach)” membership option.
- (6) **Receiving Host Payments:** We implemented a new payment process for all one-day tournament hosts last season in an effort to get communications and payments to hosts quicker! Our Tournament System will now produce all post-tournament financial breakdown statements and they will be emailed from that system to the Tournament Director. Payments can be processed electronically with an ACH payment from our bank to the host's bank. Once all post-tournament paperwork is received in our office (either by mail, fax, or email), we will process the ACH payment and have the financial statement sent out by email through our Tournament System. Interested Tournament hosts will need to submit an ACH form to our office with their bank account information, so we can send electronic payments. If you submitted a form in the past and your bank account information has not changed, you do not need to submit another form. Hosts can still request a check if needed. More information on this feature will be included during our TD webinar.
- (7) **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!
- (8) **Tournament Director Webinar:** We will take advantage of our online meeting technology to host a Tournament Director webinar this fall before the season begins. This will give all tournament directors a chance to discuss the tournament assigning process as well as all our changes and new plans for this season. 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 will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 9 at 7:00 pm and will be recorded. It is important that all interested TD's attend or view the webinar before the season so all tournaments will run uniformly!

- (9) **WEB Page:** There is a section on our website just for Tournament Directors (Info menu)! We'll put all the forms that you may need up there. These are also in the Tournament Director Handbook, but sometimes they get misplaced or used without making copies. The TD webinar schedule and registration link is posted there as well! Our website is at: <http://www.CarolinaRegionVB.org/>;
TD page: <http://www.carolinaregionvb.org/td-information-resources/>
- (10) **Behavior Policy:** The Junior Advisory Board and Carolina Region Board of Directors approved a Spectator and Participant Behavior Policy. This policy puts all participants at a tournament on notice that inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. The Tournament Director has the right and obligation to remove participants from the facility for inappropriate behavior. We hope this policy will make it easier to administer events as behavior will not be as much of an issue. The full policy and Warning Cards will be a part of the Tournament Director's Handbook that will be sent to you when you submit a request form. As always, please let us know how this policy works for you and whether there are other things we need to address to make your experience better. We will also be providing all new Tournament Hosts a banner that they can display at the entrance to the gym/facility to inform spectators and participants about the types of behavior that is expected at all USAV-sanctioned events.
- (11) **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 14, 2021 (see enclosed schedule for additional information). This year we will have our Regional Championship Events on the March 20/21 and March 27/28 weekends. We will award our National Bids on two Sundays during the Season (February 21 & March 14, 2021). 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.
- (11) **PLEASE NOTE: Submitting a request does not mean your event will be sanctioned. This is just the first step in the sanctioning process and additional factors are considered before sanctioning is approved. Sanction Requests are not necessarily accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis, but that is a factor when evaluating two similar and valid requests. First priority goes to tournament directors that have run tournaments for us in the past on those dates (Quest, MAPL, etc.) However, if those organizations do not submit their requests in a timely fashion for their normal dates, others may be considered! We make all attempts to honor all timely sanction requests and early requests are rarely not approved. Those willing to host any division stand the best chance at approved sanctions.** With the growth of our Junior divisions, we generally need all the courts we can get each Saturday and we foresee that again this season. By splitting into East and West divisions, adding Sunday tournaments, and the emphasis on 4-team pools for all junior tournaments, we anticipate two-court facilities again being able to host a majority of the junior divisions, so please consider hosting if you can (and help us find more 2-court sites ready to host)!

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

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



Kevin M. Wendelboe
Executive Director, Carolina Region
ceo@carolinaregionvb.org
www.carolinaregionvb.org
336.766.3581 office
336.766.3501 fax
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/CarolinaRegion>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CarolinaRegionVB>
YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/CarolinaRegion1>

Attachments to follow

APPROVED 2021 JUNIOR TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE



Below are the approved weekends for the 2021 Carolina Region Indoor Sanctioned Volleyball Season. Site assignments for Junior Tournaments will not be finalized until after the entry deadline for each tournament. However, tournaments will be held on all these dates for all the age groups listed, and 50-75 courts are 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 Tournament System ONLY (tournaments.carolinaregionvb.org). PLEASE NOTE: Submitting a request does not mean your event will be sanctioned or approved. This is just the first step in the sanctioning process and additional factors are considered before sanctioning is approved. Sanction Requests are not necessarily accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis, but it is a factor when evaluating two similar and valid requests. NOTE: This schedule is being presented as if a normal indoor volleyball season can be held. Of course, in this time of COVID-19, the Region will continue to monitor all government requirements and recommendations and may make adjustments to the schedule as needed for the safety and well-being of our members and supporters. Any changes to the schedule will be updated on our website and communicated to clubs and TD's.

December, 2020-January, 2021:

TBD – Quest New Year's Tournament

January:

- 2 - Regular season tournaments begin; All divisions for age groups 14's, 17's; Carolina Kick Off (Jan 2-3);
- 3 - Regular season tournaments begin; All divisions for age groups 15's;
- 9 - All divisions for age groups 13's, 16's, 18's;
- 10 - All divisions for age groups 12's
- 16-18 – City of Oaks Tournament – Raleigh Convention Center; (MLK trns)
- 23 - All divisions for age groups 15's, 17's;
- 24 - All divisions for age groups 14's
- 30 - All divisions for age groups 12's, 16's; 18's
- 31 – All divisions for age group 13's

February:

- 6 - All divisions for age groups 14's, 15's; Queen City (Feb 6-7); (ACT Test Date)
- 7 - All divisions for age groups 17's
- 13 – All divisions for age groups 12's, 13's; 16's
- 14 - All divisions for age groups 18's
- 20 – All divisions for age groups 14's, 17's;
- 21 - All divisions for age groups 15's
- 21 – National Bid tournament – 12's, 13's, 16's, & 18's age groups
- 27 - All divisions for age groups 12's, 13's, 18's; MAPL Raleigh (Feb 27-28);
- 28 - All divisions for age groups 16's

March:

- 6 – All divisions for age groups 14's, 15's;
- 7- All divisions for age groups 17's
- 13 – All divisions for age groups 13's, 16's, 18's; (SAT Date)
- 14 - All divisions for age groups 12's;
- 14 – National Bid tournaments – 14's, 15's, 17's
- 20 – Regional/East/West Championships for age groups 15's, 17's;
- 21 – Regional/East/West Championships for age groups 14's
- 27 – Regional/East/West Championships for age groups 12's, 16's, 18's
- 28 – Regional/East/West Championships for age groups 13's

April:

- 4 - Easter
- 17-18 – Junior Hi Neighbor (ACT Test Date)

Carolina Region Direct Pay Registration Form



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

Email: _____
Payment Confirmations will go here

Is this a: Personal Account or Business Account

Is this account: Savings or Checking

Name as it appears on Bank Account: _____

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

Bank Name: _____

Routing Number: _____

Account Number: _____

FAX TO: 336.766.3501

EMAIL TO: ceo@carolinaregionvb.org



2021 Junior Girls' Division Tournament Structure

FOREWORD:

This document is being presented as if a somewhat normal indoor volleyball season can be held. Of course, in this time of COVID-19, the Region will continue to monitor all government requirements and recommendations and may make adjustments to the schedule and/or formats as needed for the safety and well-being of our members and supporters. Any changes to our formats will be updated on our website and communicated to club directors.

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

The Carolina Region has experienced tremendous growth in the Juniors Program through the past 30+ seasons. Our Clubs and Tournament Directors have done a great job of promoting the sport and giving more and more kids the opportunity to experience this great game. We have been fortunate that our clubs have been able to continue to expand to accommodate the growth and that we continue to have existing and new Tournament hosts willing to host tournaments so that as many teams as possible can play each weekend. We will continue to need more Clubs and facilities to host tournaments to handle both our current membership demands and anticipated growth. If your club doesn't currently host tournaments but has access to a two- or three-court facility on Saturdays or Sundays during our season, please contact the Region Office for more information on hosting (or visit our TD Section at [our website](#)). This will be especially critical for 2021 as we anticipate losing access to many public schools sites that have been able to host in the past.

The East/West split for our tournaments has been received very positively the past eight seasons. We will continue to divide the Region in to East and West geographic areas for the 2021 season. The "invisible" North/South line splitting the Region will continue to be drawn through Greensboro this season with teams and facilities along that "line" being designated in the EAST. This will give us more facilities available in the East. The East/West split will still allow teams to know approximately the furthest they would have to travel on any given weekend. However, if we do not have enough courts in any given area on a weekend to accommodate the full number of entries, then we will attempt to schedule additional sites as close to the "dividing line" as possible so as many teams can play (for example – some East sites played in Winston-Salem area

in the past when there were not enough East sites requesting to host and some West sites have been assigned in Greensboro in the past).

We will have one-day tournaments on every Sunday during the season. With our growth, we have not been able to keep up in the number of facilities AND professional officials needed to accommodate the number of teams wanting to play on any given weekend. Only one age group each weekend is assigned to play on Sunday. The age groups playing on Sunday are alternated throughout the season. We know it is not always preferred to play on Sunday, but this is the only way we can accommodate as many teams that want to play as possible. **One 2021 adjustment may be the movement of some other age groups scheduled for Saturday of the same weekend to Sunday if sites are an issue. Teams should be prepared to play either Saturday or Sunday of their scheduled weekends.**

2021 JUNIOR TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE/INFORMATION

NATIONAL BID TOURNAMENTS:

We will have stand-alone National Bid Tournaments in 2021. Based on the Regional, Inter-Regional and National Junior Tournament Schedules, we have decided to have TWO weekends of National Bid Tournaments (they will be played on Sunday on the opposite weekend of their scheduled East/West tournaments): (A) Sunday, Feb 21, 2021 – 12's, 13's, 16's, & 18's age groups; and (B) Sunday, March 14, 2021 – 14's, 15's, & 17's age groups. Teams interested in competing for a bid will be able to enter the National Bid tournament for a chance at one of the Region's bids to the 2021 Junior National Championships. The 18's National Championships will be held May 21-23, 2021 in Columbus, OH. All other age groups will have their National Championships at a site and dates yet to be announced by USAV. To be eligible to enter the National Bid tournaments: (a) Participating teams must be a registered Carolina Region team; and (b) teams must have played in ONE (1) Carolina Region sanctioned event during the 2021 season before the National Bid tournament. As many courts will be utilized as available based on the number of teams submitting valid entries by the entry deadline. **Teams that enter the National bid tournament are CONFIRMING they will accept any bid awarded among the teams that enter the bid tournament (the playing of matches may not be necessary depending on the total number of entries – bids will still be awarded and must be accepted).** Additional information on the National Bid tournaments will be posted and emailed to Club Directors later in the season when USA Volleyball releases additional information on the 2021 Championships.

JUNIOR TOURNAMENTS:

During registration, teams will self-select into EAST and WEST realms based on where they are located. A North/South line through GREENSBORO is the approximate dividing line for East and West this season (team may choose which ever realm they wish). Teams will also self-select whether they think they will be ranked in the: (1) Top 20% of ALL teams in their age group; (2) 21-40% of teams; (3) 41-60% of teams; (4) 61-80% of teams; or (5) lower 20% of teams. When thinking about the percentages, teams should factor in ALL teams in their age group including OPEN teams and National traveling teams (i.e. factor in where they stand against those teams when figuring out your percentages). If you select Category 1, then it means you will be competing against the top teams in the Region when they play in the Region! However, keep in mind, that the Site you are placed in when tournament pools are assigned will depend only on the total number of teams ranked higher than your team that enter that particular tournament (for example, a team ranked 16th overall among 15 East teams may be placed at Site 1 site if many of the teams ranked above them do not enter that particular tournament). The Region will utilize the initial self-selected category to enter the teams into the Tournament System in that age group and geographic area (i.e. 15 East teams; 13 West teams, etc.). All teams will be ranked Top to Bottom in the Tournament system based on where they anticipate they fit overall within their age group. NOTE: After tournaments have been played, the initial self-selected category will no longer apply to the team as their rankings will change up or down based on their tournament results. Again for 2021 - Teams may petition the Carolina Region for an adjustment to their initial point's value that will adjust their next tournaments division by one level up/down depending on their request. All petitions must be received in writing by the Region office by Monday noon of the business week following the second Regular season tournament of their age group. CR Staff will evaluate their request and results and may adjust their starting point's value accordingly.

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

Entry Deadline and Site Assignments: The entry deadline for ALL tournaments is **TWO** weeks before the tournament. This will be a firm deadline – **late entries may not be accepted!** At the entry deadline we will assign teams to tournament sites in 4-team pool increments based on the Rankings **AND, if needed, the DATE the entry was received (we still track when entries are received and if we do not have enough courts to accommodate all teams then earlier received entries will have priority over the last entries received)**. Since a lot of teams will be starting with the same points value initially, the first tournament assigned will be assigned as best as possible based on proximity to sites and past club history. Some sites may have 8 teams/2 pools and some

sites may have 12 teams/3 pools (depending on the facility size). The final site assigned may have a non-4-team pool format. It will depend on the total number of entries for that weekend. If we have a non-4-team pool site, then we **MAY** be able 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 2021 Operating Code. (b) There is no guarantee we can accept entries that come in after the deadline. Even if a team pays the \$25 late fee, there may not be room in the tournament.

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

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

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

Regional Championship Events: All our Regional Championship Events will occur over two weekends this season. The 14's, 15's, and 17's will play on the March 20-21, 2021 weekend, and the 12's, 13's, 16's, and 18's will play on the March 27-28, 2021 weekend. The top four teams in each age group from the East rankings and the West rankings that enter their Regional Championship Event by the entry deadline will be placed into the Regional Championships automatically. The Regional Championship's sites will be placed as close to center of the state as possible (since East and West teams will be participating). All other teams that enter their Regional Championship by the entry deadline will be placed in their respective East/West Championships tournaments, and will compete at sites in their respective realms. This procedure worked well last season and was implemented for following reasons: (a) in the past, we had a difficult time confirming eight teams for the Regional Championships. This process will guarantee eight teams for all Regional Championships as those teams will have already qualified and submitted their entry for the Regional Championship event. (b) The volleyball tournament calendar both regionally and nationally made it hard to find a good weekend in April to hold a Regional Championships as we had done in the past.

Regional Championships Eligibility Requirement:

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

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

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

ITEMS OF NOTE FOR CLUBS AND PARENTS:

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