



## Ohio Valley Region Letter to Juniors' Club Directors

Dear directors,

Welcome to the 2009 season for girls' junior volleyball in the Ohio Valley Region. Thank you for providing opportunities for our youth to participate in USAV-sanctioned volleyball programs. We are excited to be able to serve your needs for non-interscholastic volleyball participation.

You can apply for sanction of your tryouts from the links at the top of [www.ovr.org/juniors/tryouts/](http://www.ovr.org/juniors/tryouts/). However, you must register as a member first at [www.ovr.org/register/](http://www.ovr.org/register/), and then follow up with your forms and fees to complete your registration. You must register and have current background screening for all coaches that participate in your tryouts. It usually takes a minimum of 7 business days to process a background screen. Please make note of this when you register your coaches.

There are several important new announcements you should be aware of as you plan for the season. Please read through these items carefully. The registration fee for membership remains \$50 for full membership for everyone except parent chaperones (\$25) and junior males (\$40). Background screens are \$20 and are required every two years. The maximum fee for single day tournaments is \$170. The entry fee for the Ohio Valley Region, Inc. Kaepa-USA 2008 Girls' Volleyball Championships is \$235 for all teams. The region has kept the costs of these expenses the same for 2009.

Clubs may host tryouts for high school age athletes the day after the state championships in their state. Athletes from surrounding states are not permitted to attend tryouts in another state until the day after the state tournament has concluded in their state of residence. The last weekend of October is the first weekend tryouts are permitted for all other age groups (10s-14s). Contracts for elementary and junior high athletes may not be signed or accepted until November 1. All families must be given 10 days from the date of their offer to accept membership with a program. Any athlete who is not originally accepted, but who is subsequently offered an opportunity with a club, must be given 4 days from the date of the offer to accept that opportunity.

Tryouts are limited to one contact per weekend, not to exceed 3 consecutive hours. Any second session or "call back" is also limited to 3 consecutive hours. No post-tryout organizational meetings are to be scheduled prior to the expiration of the 10 day acceptance period. You can reference the complete policy on recruiting at [www.ovr.org/juniors/registration\\_packet/OVR\\_Recruiting\\_Policy\\_Girls.pdf](http://www.ovr.org/juniors/registration_packet/OVR_Recruiting_Policy_Girls.pdf).

It is the responsibility of each club and coach to operate appropriately when trying to attract athletes to their programs. Clubs and coaches are reminded to respect each athlete's commitment to their high school program and each high school athlete's agreement to abide by their state athletic association rules.

Clubs may advertise their tryouts through the media (newspapers, web pages, etc.) and distribute information about them to the coaches of the schools in their area. Clubs may also respond to requests for information about their program. Clubs providing clinics prior to tryouts are cautioned to act in accordance with the state athletic association rules for participants. The OVR will not review, sanction, or otherwise pre-approve these Club activities.

Each OVR-registered coach has agreed, by signing the Juniors' Coaches' Code of Ethics, item #9, that they will not "allow, encourage, condone, or require any action that threatens a player's High School Association, USAV or NCAA eligibility." While the OVR will not actively monitor Clubs relative to state athletic association rules, any OVR coach who's participation in clinics, training, tryouts or other related actions results in or contributes to an

athlete's violation of OHSAA Rule 10-3-1, or similar rules in other states, will likely have violated the Juniors' Coaches' Code of Ethics.

Part of the OVR mission is to "Promote and develop the sport of volleyball." A coach who violates the OVR the Juniors' Coaches' Code of Ethics in a manner that leads to an athlete's ineligibility to play volleyball should, therefore, expect to receive the most severe sanctions from the OVR.

Links to state athletic associations may be found at [www.ovr.org/juniors/eligibility.php](http://www.ovr.org/juniors/eligibility.php).

There will be a new division in the 14-and-Under age group this season. In addition to the National and Regional designation, we will include an American division for teams that are more competitive than Regional teams, but do not wish to compete at the National level.

Boys may participate in 10-and-Under girls' tournaments on coed or gender-specific (all boys) teams. There is no limit to the number of boys on a team. Boys may not participate on 12-and-Under girls' teams. Regular USA Volleyball rules for Youth teams will be used with accepted region modification.

To provide more playing opportunities for younger boys' teams, the OVR will allow 11-, 12-, 13-, and 14-and-Under boys' teams to participate in specially designated girls' tournaments of the next higher age. Specifically:

- 10-and-Under boys' teams can play in 10-and-Under girls' tournaments (no change)
- 11-and-Under boys' teams can play in 12-and-Under girls' tournaments (new for 2008-2009)
- 12-and-Under boys' teams can play in 13-and-Under girls' tournaments (new for 2008-2009)
- 13-and-Under boys' teams can play in 14-and-Under girls' tournaments (new for 2008-2009)
- 14-and-Under boys' teams can play in 15-and-Under girls' tournaments (new for 2008-2009)

Combined tournaments will use girls' net height and ball (Molten SuperTouch). Girls' teams should be aware of this designation when entering events.

When ordering uniforms, the numbers on jerseys are required to be centered on the front and the back of the jersey. The actual rule is USAV 4.3.3.1a, Page 16: Uniform numbers must be clearly visible and centered on the chest and back. Each jersey must use the same color and number height for all players except the Libero. The height of the number is a minimum of 4" on the front, and 6" on the back. It is recommended that numbers are 6" on the front and 8" on the back. The line forming the numbers should be at least  $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide.

The Ohio Valley Region Inc. Kaepa®-USA 2009 Girls' Volleyball Championship youth divisions (and probably 13 National) will be hosted at two sites in Columbus on the weekend of May 2-3. The Greater Columbus Convention Center will again host all other age groups on the weekends of May 9-10 and May 16-17. The need to keep the 18s aware from graduation weekends may mean that some age groups may change their date of play. We will look at the numbers of teams that participated last season and try to anticipate the divisions that may grow. Remember that the divisions and dates are always tentative.

Have a great season!

Bill Zehler