



# Letter to Juniors' Club Directors

## September 8, 2011

Dear directors,

Welcome to the 2012 season for junior volleyball in the Ohio Valley Region. Thank you for providing opportunities for our youth to participate in USAV-sanctioned volleyball programs. We welcome the opportunity to be able to serve your needs for non-interscholastic volleyball participation.

You can apply for sanction of your tryouts from the links at [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/), 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 register your coaches sufficiently early to allow time for their background screens to clear.

All club directors must complete the ASEP Sports Club Director course. An individual's ASEP accreditation does not expire. Directors may register for the online course or attend the course given by the Ohio Valley Region on Saturday, December 3, 2011. Details concerning the requirement are available at [www.ovr.org/juniors/directing/asep.php](http://www.ovr.org/juniors/directing/asep.php).

There are several important announcements for the 2011-2012 season. The registration fee is \$60 for everyone except parent chaperones (\$35). Background screens are still \$20 and are required every two seasons. The maximum fee for single-day tournaments remains \$175 (permission must be granted if you need to charge more). The entry fee for the *Ohio Valley Region, Inc. Kaepa®-USA 2012 Girls' Volleyball Championships* is \$235 for all teams that participate in the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

There will be one new division of play this season. The new division of 12 National has been created. Teams in this division may participate in 12 and Under, 12 National, 13 American, and older National divisions of play.

Clubs may host tryouts for high school age athletes the day after the state championships in their state(s) in Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Athletes from these 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 (10/28-30) is the first weekend that 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. Please refer to the acceptance guidelines in *Procedures and Rules for Juniors' Clubs* for deadlines. Any athlete who is not originally accepted, but who is subsequently offered an opportunity with a club, must be given four days from the date of the offer to accept that opportunity.

Tryouts are limited to one contact per weekend, not to exceed three consecutive hours. Any second session or "call back" is also limited to three consecutive hours. No post-tryout organizational meetings are to be scheduled prior to the deadline for acceptance. 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 preapprove these Club activities.

Each OVR-registered coach has agreed, by signing the *USA Volleyball Juniors' Club Personnel Code of Ethics*, item 5M that they "shall not allow, encourage, condone or require any behavior that threatens an athlete's amateur status or Regional, USA Volleyball, school and/or collegiate 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 *USA Volleyball Juniors' Club Personnel Code of Ethics*.

Part of the OVR Mission is to "Promote and develop the sport of volleyball." A coach who violates the *USA Volleyball Juniors' Club Personnel 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).

Boys may participate in 10-and-Under and 11-and-Under girls' tournaments on coed or 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.

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 3/4" wide."

Additionally, there is new verbiage concerning the color of the Libero jersey:

USAV 19.2a: "The Libero jersey must contrast in color with that of the predominant color(s) 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 rules."

We will continue to recommend that the Libero jersey will be a contrasting solid color unique to the jerseys of the other members of the team.

Rules defining rosters and their restrictions are detailed at [www.ovr.org/juniors/divisions.php](http://www.ovr.org/juniors/divisions.php).

Other restrictions include on levels of competition include:

1. Only players registered on National teams are eligible for regular-season National events.
2. National teams can only play in National events within the OVR. Regional teams can only play in Regional events within the OVR. *Example:* Teams may play up in age; e.g. a 16 Regional team may enter a 17 Regional tournament. American teams may play up in the next age level of Regional tournaments.
3. Grade-level Regional and American teams must play at the age-appropriate level of their oldest player outside the OVR, Keystone, and Pioneer Regions.
4. A National player may not play on any Regional or American team regardless of age. An American or Regional player may be moved to a National team with the permission of the respective OVR Girls' or Boys' Program Director.
5. Players may not be on the roster of multiple teams within the same tournament.
6. Clubs may not register phantom or shell teams to provide a vehicle to aid in organizing player movements from team to team; e.g. shifting of complete teams or multiple players from a Regional, American, or National team to the other to permit playing in both competition divisions and/or attending OVR Bid tourna-

ments.

7. A club may not alter any registered team roster by more than two players for major OVR tournaments; e.g. (Bids and championships) without special written consideration from the respective OVR Girls' or Boys' program director.
8. Any division of players (National, American, or Regional) may participate in age-specific ("and Under") tournaments.
9. Any club or team found violating the competition policies will be sanctioned as if an age violation had occurred following the *USA Volleyball Age Falsification Policy*.

The use of electronic devices by the support officiating crews at our tournaments will not be tolerated. Work teams and their coaches are not permitted to use cell phones or other devices while line judging, keeping score, etc. Teams in violation of this regulation will be assessed a 10-point penalty in their next set that day. There is a financial penalty assessed, payable by the club, if the violation occurs after their last match of the tournament.

The Greater Columbus Convention Center will host all divisions of the *Ohio Valley Region, Inc. Kaepa®-USA 2010 Girls' Junior Championships* on the weekends of April 28-29, May 5-6, May 12-13, and May 19-20. We will use 16 to 50 courts on the 4 weekends. 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 their dates of play are always tentative.

Have a great season!

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