



## OHIO VALLEY REGION

*Advancing volleyball in Ohio, western Pennsylvania, and West Virginia*

### **2016 OVR Sand Volleyball Handbook**

The following Ohio Valley Region (OVR) procedures and rules supplement USA Volleyball rules for the USA/OVR Sand Volleyball season (May 9<sup>th</sup> 2016-Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016).

#### **1.) Membership**

You must be a current member of USA Volleyball, registered in the Ohio Valley Region, to organize a junior's club in the OVR. Register for the 2016 season at [www.ovr.org/register/](http://www.ovr.org/register/). Your membership is not complete until your registration fee, signed waiver and release, and signed Juniors Club Personnel Code of Ethics are received and processed by the OVR office.

The club director must have received ASEP sports club director training and certification ([www.ovr.org/juniors/coaching/asep.phd](http://www.ovr.org/juniors/coaching/asep.phd)). There will be no exceptions. Registration may be blocked if existing clubs do not comply. The accreditation does not expire. Club directors lacking the accreditation may take the course online or attend the course offered by the region the first Saturday of December.

#### **2.) Background screen**

It is the policy of the Ohio Valley Region that any individual intending to hire or use registered individuals in any sanctioned juniors volleyball activities will submit to a background screening policy as determined by USAV. Club Directors, club administrators, team reps, coaches, chaperones, and trainers who intend to register, affiliate, and/or participate with juniors volleyball club or team in the Ohio Valley Region will be screened. Failure to do so is grounds for automatic suspension of membership privileges to participate in sanctioned juniors events and/or activities. All registered individuals of USAV and the Ohio Valley Region have the right of due process. The Ohio Valley Region of USA Volleyball will not register, or allow to be registered, any individual who refuses to consent to a background screen if he or she intends to participate in Ohio Valley Region sanctioned events with registered junior members. A background screen is not required for individuals classified as junior players or members not associated with juniors activities.

#### **3.) Practice Sites**

An emphasis is being made to ensure the quality of practice sites. The terrain in sand volleyball must be composed of leveled sand, as flat and uniform as possible, free of rocks, shells and

anything else, which can represent risks of cuts or injuries to the players. The sand depth should be a minimum of 12 inches deep. All poles and referee stands must be padded. Support wires are not suggested but if used must be padded and marked by bright flags. Anchors for any guy lines must be free of sharp edges and driven flush with or buried beneath the playing surface.

Players must be permitted to pursue volleyballs without endangering themselves or other participants.

#### **4.) Coach selection**

It is a club's responsibility to attract coaches of high moral character, with knowledge of the sport, and with the ability to convey their knowledge to the athletes they train. Coaches must be of good character and emotional stability. It is imperative to check the background of every coach in your program.

#### **5.) Coaches membership**

All coaches assisting with tryouts must be a current member of USA Volleyball. All coaches will be current members of USA Volleyball prior to the first practice. All coaches must have attended the USAV IMPACT course prior to the first practice. Impact beach certification is suggested for coaches but will not be made mandatory until (TBD).

#### **6.) Banned Substances**

Junior participants must be provided an entrance and an exit from the playing facility that does not require them to walk through an area where alcohol is sold or consumed. This entrance and exit needs to be made available during the entire junior practice or event. No alcohol is permitted in the area where the junior event is being held. This includes the playing and spectator area around the courts.

Junior participants must be provided a designated bathroom that allows them to use the restroom without having to enter into an area where alcohol is being sold or consumed. In the event a junior and adult event are being held at the same time, adult participants can consume alcohol in a designated area (deck, patio ect.) That must be roped off and clearly indicated that no junior players are allowed in that area. Tobacco use is prohibited unless 100 feet or more from the playing site.

#### **7) Club Tryouts and Affiliations**

The OVR is suggesting clubs follow a no cut training team format for the 2016 season if court space is available. See Beach Club model at the OVR beach link.

If tryouts are to be held the club must sanction these events to use USA insurance. Apply for a sanction at [www.ovr/juniors/tryouts/](http://www.ovr/juniors/tryouts/). Tryouts are limited to one contact per weekend and not to exceed 2 hours. Any second session or "call back" is also limited to a 2 hour session. No post tryout organizational meetings are to be scheduled prior to expiration of the acceptance deadline.

The girls sand season will officially begin May 9<sup>th</sup> and end August 9<sup>st</sup> . The OVR officially recognizes a player's USAV indoor season to be finished and club contract fulfilled at the completion of the USAV OVR Regional Championships for their age group. If a team is going to participate in the USAV National championships, the players on those teams will not be officially released from their contracts until after that tournament. A clubs director or coach may allow players to compete in sand events or with a sand club at any time during the indoor season. That policy will be at the discretion of each club. A player may belong to an indoor club and a different sand club.

## **8.) Tryout participants**

Tryouts may be open to anyone or by invitation. Each club must act responsibly when trying to attract athletes to their tryouts or club in general. Clubs may advertise through the media and distribute information regarding their tryouts or club to the coaches of area schools.

Membership to an indoor club lasts until the club team member finishes his or her indoor season. This is being defined by the OVR as the Indoor Regional Championships or the USA National Championships for the contracted individual's age group.

Sand club membership can overlap with indoor club membership. They are considered separate sports by the OVR. During any season overlapping, it will be up to the discretion of the club director to allow an athlete under contract to compete in the Sport out of season.

It is considered inappropriate for any member of a club (director, coach, and athlete) to attempt to recruit a player that has already signed a written agreement to participate in another club in the same sport. Again Beach and indoor are not considered the same sport so cross sport recruiting is legal and ethical.

Failure to comply by these regulations will result in sanction by the region.

All club directors and coaches conducting tryouts must be registered members of USA Volleyball. If they are registered for the current indoor season, they are OK for the upcoming/current Sand season. The OVR strongly recommends registering anyone working at your tryouts or with your training teams to cover personal liability for injury of an athlete. The Ohio Valley Region will again sanction all registered tryouts and provide, on request to registered members, a certificate of insurance. The region will provide liability insurance for each athlete for the length of the tryout. Failure to have your tryouts sanctioned through our online application process or by submitting the *Application for Sanctioned of Tryouts* will place all responsibility for injury on the club. Sanctioned tryouts will be posted on the OVR website ([www.ovr.org/juniors/tryouts/](http://www.ovr.org/juniors/tryouts/)).

## 9.) Tryout fee

Any non-refundable tryout fee should not exceed \$10 dollars. Tryouts should be one day only and no more than 2 hours in length. Permission may be granted to charge more with documentation of extraordinary expenses. Written documentation of expenses will have to be provided with your application. Open play and clinics will not be sanctioned as part of a club's tryouts.

## 10.) Player selection

Clubs may offer contracts to athletes at the end of their tryout session. Clubs may not require a commitment on site. Athletes may accept an offer at any time during a one year registration period.

## 11.) Registration of teams and add-ons

Divisions offered for the 2016 Girls Season will be as follows:

- U12 Club (OVR "Grade Level" Definition)
- U12 Open (Traditional USAV Definition...Sept 1<sup>st</sup> cut-off)
- U14 Club (OVR "Grade Level" Definition)
- U14 Open (Traditional USAV Definition...Sept 1<sup>st</sup> cut-off)
- U16 Club (OVR "Grade Level" Definition)
- U16 Open (Traditional USAV Definition...Sept 1<sup>st</sup> cut-off)
- U18 Club (OVR "Grade Level" Definition)
- U18 Open (Traditional USAV Definition...Sept 1<sup>st</sup> cut-off)

Divisions offered for the 2016 Boys Season will be as follows:

- U12 Club (OVR "Grade Level" Definition)
- U14 Club (OVR "Grade Level" Definition)
- U16 Club (OVR "Grade Level" Definition)
- U18 Club (OVR "Grade Level" Definition)

Go to link to see detailed definitions: <https://www.ovr.org/juniors/divisions.php>

The higher skilled sand players should compete in "Open" division while the beginner to middle ranged players should compete play in the club division. Players may choose which "level" (open or club) they wish to compete. They DO NOT have to compete in the same level in all tournaments. The purpose for the division split is to create competitive fun tournaments for all of our youth members to enjoy no matter what level they play. Points will be awarded within the age group divisions using the [USA Juniors Beach Tour Ranking System](#) and be tracked separately on the OVR Beach web page.

## 12. Tournament entry

All OVR tournaments can/will be entered using the OVR Beach Tournament page. Club Directors and non-club affiliates can contact tournament directors at any time to inquire about and enter tournaments. Individuals who do not have any club affiliation will have the responsibility of determining their own participation schedule.

In OVR Summer Sand Series events, please keep the OVR policy in mind should you choose to cancel from a tournament at a later date (you will need to do so within 14 Days of that event). *If a tournament director has proof of your acceptance into a tournament, which is considered to be a contract and you will be held responsible for the entry fee. Proof can be in the form of a written acceptance, e-mail or a check.*

U12 Boys will be eligible to participate in girls sanctioned events if they partner with a girl. 12 and under sanctioned events will be listed as triple's tournaments. A team can play as a doubles team if they wish. Triples teams can be any combination of girls and boys.

### Entry fee and entry procedures

- a. Must be a current OVR member (a valid OVR/Webpoint # will be required upon entry)
- b. Payments/Fees are to be paid to the Tournament Director (via check or online payment...Tournament directors choice)
- c. Tournament directors MUST DISPLAY ENTERED TEAMS (either on the OVR website OR their own website)
- d. Players must choose age and division and level their team will compete in.

Do not write checks if there are insufficient funds to cover the check. The entry fee for any Sanctioned Sand doubles tournament **cannot exceed \$60 per team** without special permission from the Beach/Outdoor Director. The USA/OVR National qualifier event may have a higher fee. Tournament entry will be accepted up to **7 DAYS BEFORE THE EVENT.** Any entry after the cut-off date will be at the Tournament Director's discretion. Because of court availability registration is on a first come first serve basis, "Paid registration" will hold your spot. If you choose to cancel it must be 14 Days prior to the event or you will be responsible for the entry fee. Entrance into any other sanctioned sand tournament will be denied until the past fee is collected.

### **13.) Tournament Sanction (Tournament Directors)**

- a. Must be a current OVR Member and have passed the Background screen (thru SSCI)
  - b. Complete the Application for Sanction at:  
<https://www.ovr.org/juniors/sanction/index.php>
  - c. Send a \$200 tournament bond (check payable to Ohio Valley Region) and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the OVR Juniors' Tournament Director. If a tournament host advertises and/or accepts team entries into a tournament prior to approval of the Application for Sanction for that tournament, the Application for Sanction will be denied.
  - d. The OVR Juniors' Tournament Director will contact the tournament host by e-mail upon approving a juniors' tournament application for sanction. Once accepted, all requests for changes to sanctioned tournaments are subject to approval and will be processed as time permits.
  - e. Tournament Directors may NOT apply for sanction for age divisions in conflict with OVR Championships (Indoor). Below are the "earliest possible" 2014 dates to host a tournament per age division.
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1. Applications for sanction of "one-court" age divisions "WILL NOT BE SANCTIONED". MUST apply for "at least" a 2 court per age division tournament.
  2. Directors wanting to apply for sanction of a "large/Open" event (like the Columbus Open) must be able to offer "at least" 6 Courts of play per age division. (example 4 courts of 14C and 2 Courts of 14O = 6 courts of U14 age division)
  3. Tournaments directors wishing to run "waves of play" per age division will be subject to the following formats.
    - A. 2 Waves of play can be run using "ANY" of the current OVR Beach Formats (5 team maximum per court)
    - B. 3 Waves of play IS NOT PERMITTED

### **14.) Denial of entry**

Tournament directors may deny entry when the tournament is filled, or when a club, team or individual exhibits a habit of unsportsmanlike behavior or cancellation from events after the 14 Day pre tournament time period. A team may also be denied entry if they owe fee's from a prior entry cancelation.

## **15.) Tournament information**

Wednesday prior to the tournament date, you should receive from the tournament director:

- a. The starting time of the first match (if available) coaches and players meeting will always begin at 8:30am promptly.
- b. A copy of the pool play format with the schedule of playing order, including the names of participating teams (if available)
- c. Tournament formats: Tournament directors MUST use OVR Approved formats. ALL OVR Juniors Beach Tournament Formats are available on the OVR Beach Tournament Packet. Due to changes beyond a tournament director's control (weather) it is understood that changes may need to be made to starting times, pool play, have the responsibility of providing information, in sufficient time, for club director's to relay to their teams so those teams can plan accordingly. Make use of the OVR website to post tournament information. If you do not receive your information, contact the tournament director directly. If not satisfied, contact Dave Chapman at ([chapman@ovr.org](mailto:chapman@ovr.org)).

## **16.) Team cancellation**

A team canceling after the entry deadline, 14 Days prior to the tournament date, will forfeit its entry fee. A team canceling prior to the deadline will receive a full refund. If a team requests and receives entry into a tournament but does not pay its entry fee, the team will be fined the entry fee. The two players that make up that team will not be allowed into another event until they have jointly or separately paid their fine.

## **17.) Tournament cancellation**

If, for any reason, a tournament must be canceled or altered, the tournament director must notify the clubs and teams by phone and through the OVR site. All collected entry fees must be returned to club directors and teams within 72 hours of cancelation.

## **18.) Pool Play and Tournament Formats**

The format for Junior Girls and Boys tournaments will be Pool Play format.

5 teams are the max on one court. 5 team pools will play one game to 21. 4 Team Pools will play one game to 25. 3 Team Pools will play 2 sets to 21. All teams will break pool with the top 3 going to a Gold bracket. The remaining teams will play a cross-over set or consolation bracket (Silver Bracket). Teams will be seeded into their brackets/sets per the tournaments formats posted on the OVR Beach website. Ties will be broken in the following manner: head to head first and point differential second.

First and second place in the Championship Bracket will receive an award. Championship Bracket Finals will be match play (2 out of 3) first 2 games to 21 (23 point cap) 3<sup>rd</sup> game to 15 (No Cap). Players, coaches and spectators should post pool play, tournament playoff schedule, and order of matches at a common location at the beginning of the day for viewing. The tournament director or site manager should regularly update pool play results and tournament schedules throughout the day. Tournament director's wishing to deviate from this tournament structure must obtain permission from the OVR Sand/Outdoor Volleyball Director.

#### **19.) Coaches' meeting**

Prior to the start of pool play, the tournament director will conduct a players and coaches meeting. During this meeting, any needed entry forms should be collected and any member registrations must be completed. During this meeting, the tournament director should review pool play and tournament formats, as well as any rule changes or clarifications that may be in question, should be explained at this time. Any questions from players and coaches should be answered as well. All team members, coaches and spectators and officials must conduct themselves in a professional, sporting and ethical manner.

#### **20.) Eligibility**

Coaches, players, and teams must be registered and currently eligible for participation.

#### **21.) Late Arrivals**

A team arriving late for its first game has a 10 minute grace period after the warm -up before the game is forfeited.

#### **22.) Warm-ups**

Only USAV members may be in the playing area to assist with warm-ups.

A 4 minute combined warm up is standard, beginning with a 1 minute period of free ball handling, followed by the coin toss, and then 3 minute shared hitting. If a court is available prior to the game for ball handling, competitors will may use that court.

### **23.) Officials**

Teams are responsible to officiate their own assignments during pool play and the single elimination playoffs. The hiring of Beach Officials will be at the discretion of the Tournament Director. It is required to have a certified OVR beach official on site all day to roam and supervise the tournament officiating. One official per 4 courts. When a team has an officiating responsibility, one player will be responsible for calling the game while the other keeps score on the official score sheet. It is the responsibility of the competitors to educate themselves on the rules of Beach competition (see rules of play PDF on the OVR Beach link and official scoring sheet). If at the end of the first 3 minute timed warm up the officials for the game are not present, then a point will be given to their next opponent and an additional point will continue to be given for each minute that they are late. The use of electronic communication devices (phones, tablets, etc) by an officiating team or individual during an assignment will not be tolerated. A 10-point penalty will be assessed in the next game.

### **24.) Officials for playoffs**

The lowest seeded teams in each division that is not playing the first round of the playoffs will officiate the first playoff game. After the first round of the playoffs, all the losing teams must stay to officiate the next game on the court. The tournament director may permit the first round losing team to leave and have the winning team officiate the next game, if the losing team has a longer trip home. This is a courtesy that is appreciated by any team having traveled a long way to compete.

### **25.) Awards**

First place awards are required for tournaments of 8 or fewer teams. First and second place awards are required for tournaments with 9 or more teams. There is not a minimum or maximum cost for prizes. Awards must be age- appropriate. Awards are only required for the Championship Bracket.

### **26.) After the tournament**

It is the tournament director's responsibility to post/send tournament results (By the Monday AFTER) on the OVR website ([www.ovr.org/juniors/results.php](http://www.ovr.org/juniors/results.php)). Club directors and coaches can check the website for correctness. If the posted tournament results are incorrect, contact the tournament director first through the e-mail link on the results page or by phone. If not satisfied, contact Dave Chapman ([chapman@ovr.org](mailto:chapman@ovr.org)). Player points will only be awarded for all events on the OVR Summer Schedule (using the USA Junior Beach Tour Ranking System).

### **27.) Unpaid fines, entry fees, etc.**

Clubs, teams or individuals that have unpaid fines or entry fees due the region or tournament director will not be permitted to participate in any OVR sanctioned tournaments or programs until all financial responsibilities are resolved. If fees are not paid by season's end, the club, team or individual will not be permitted to register for the following season until all financial responsibilities have been resolved.

### **28.) Sportsmanship and vandalism of property**

The Ohio Valley Region of USA Volleyball promotes a high standard of good sporting conduct (sportsmanship) among it's athletes, coaches, officials and spectators. This includes respect for the playing facilities throughout the Ohio Valley Region. We request your cooperation by supporting the participants and officials in a positive manner, and by adhering to all facilities regulations. Taunting, offensive cheers or gestures, profanity, racial or sexist comments, or other intimidating words or actions directed at officials, athletes, coaches, spectators or team representatives will not be tolerated. Failure to follow facility guidelines and rules as set forth by the site and tournament director will be sanctioned accordingly. Any actions, including but not limited to those mentioned above, will result in an incident report being filed with the OVR office, and a warning or penalty being issued by the OVR Commissioner.

Subsequent unsporting behavior by the same individual at the same event will result in removal from the competition site. Likewise, after being instructed to correct the problem, any continued disregard for facility usage rules at the same event, will also result in removal from the competition site. A pattern of unsporting or facility neglect behavior will result in a \$250 fine/sanction to the facility, club or team.

Any acts of vandalism will result in an incident report being filed with the OVR office, and a warning being issued by the OVR Commissioner. The local police will be contacted. All known individuals responsible for the acts of vandalism will be expelled from the tournament and competition site after they have been reported to the local police if the police have decided not to detain the individuals.

### **29.) Food**

**The Ohio Valley Region is restricting the set- up of tables or the cooking of food by teams or their support staff, fans, coaches, or parents at Ohio Valley Sanctioned Sand Events.**

**Tournament directors and site managers do not have the discretion to grant special permission. If a club does not comply amicably with a site directors or tournament directors request to correct a violation of our policy, an incident report is to be submitted to the Ohio Valley Region Commissioner. Violation of this directive will result in a \$250.00, fine and a team/club, individual suspension.**

### **30.) Uniforms**

The OVR Sand Volleyball rules for uniforms:

#### **GIRLS UNIFORMS (players uniforms must match)**

- a. A uniform consists of two components- Shorts or briefs, and a top. A one-piece body suit is acceptable as a combination of the two components. Any outer garment I.E. sweat pants, tights, becomes the official uniform when worn.
- b. The uniform bottoms must be "FULL COVERAGE" shorts, spandex, or briefs. NO BIKINI BOTTOMS are permitted during competition.
- c. The uniform top can be a tank top, t-shirt, or a "FULL COVERAGE" sports bra. NO BIKINI TOPS are acceptable during competition.
- d. During competition each teams will display a 1 and a 2 for scorer identification purpose.

#### **BOYS UNIFORMS (players uniforms must match)**

- a. The uniform bottoms must be shorts or boardshorts.
- b. The uniform top can be a tank top or t-shirt (may play without a shirt/tank as well)
- c. During competition each teams will display a 1 and a 2 for scorer identification purpose.

### **31.) Equipment**

**The Official OVR/USA Game ball is the Molten BV5000, BV5000-3, or BV5000-SB**

**Any/All OVR Beach events must use this ball. Any tournament director that does not use this ball will run the risk of losing their tournament bond or lose any/all future events.**