

Thursday March 19, 2020 USA Volleyball communicated the following to Ohio Valley Region Administration; the announcement can be seen in its entirety on the OVR website.

“USA Volleyball (USAV) is announcing the elimination of sanctions for all USAV activities (including but not limited to events, practices, team activities, individual training sessions or anything covered by USAV insurance) through April 30, 2020 (as of March 31st). USAV is monitoring the situation daily and will continue to provide updates on a regular basis.”

The updates/positions of USAV are subject to change very rapidly. Changes have occurred five times in the past 10 days from the initial ban on activity being March 15, to the latest ban now being April 15. As you can see, the health crisis and the governmental restrictions are forcing updates daily, sometimes hourly! Decisions are being made every day that impact the ability of the OVR to provide the necessary services to our members. We all must address the health crisis as a priority; the safety and well-being of our “volleyball family” is our primary concern!

It is with the best interests of our members in mind that the OVR Board of Directors has made the decision to cancel all OVR-USAV SANCTIONED ACTIVITY (including but not limited to events, practices, in-person team activities or individual training sessions, or anything covered by USAV insurance) for the remainder of the 2019-2020 season or **until a time during this season that USA Volleyball lifts the ban on sanctions and declarations of state emergencies have been rescinded.** There has been much discussion over the past two weeks; all members of the Board have been participating and have played an active role in our decisions. Many factors were considered; the protection and well-being of our members and the economic impact on parents and families have been primary concerns. The operational stability of our clubs is vital; discussions are on-going on how the OVR can provide assistance.

To clarify this announcement, ALL OVR-USAV memberships will remain intact through the end of the of the current USAV membership season. Any OVR club or team wishing to participate in a USAV endorsed activity is eligible to do so. This announcement impacts only those events endorsed by the OVR through August 31, 2020. At this time, ALL USAV Championship events are scheduled to proceed as planned. I want to remain optimistic; however, the future of the 2020 USAV Championships is out of their control. The OVR will actively support the programs and decisions of USA Volleyball during these trying times.

If by some miracle, something we are all praying for, circumstances permit us to get athletes back on the court, the OVR will be ready to reinstate/promote that effort. We must not allow our love of the game or our emotions to interfere with proper, common sense decisions. WHEN permitted, the OVR will do everything possible to create a “back to normal environment” for all our athletes!

There will be many questions; our staff will be making every effort to address your concerns. At this time the OVR will be returning ALL OVR Girls Junior Championship tournament entry fees, in their entirety, to the club directors. I strongly encourage other tournament directors to do the same, as soon as possible. OVR clubs have demonstrated their character by providing the best in instruction, playing opportunities and facilities; continue working closely with your clubs to promote that relationship. All of us are holding onto hope; the goal of the OVR is to create a FUTURE all of us can believe in!

All hotel rooms booked at an OVR preferred hotel (those listed on our website) and in the OVR blocks will automatically be cancelled. If you did not use a preferred hotel or booked outside the block, it will be necessary to cancel your room on your own and deal with any cancellation penalties, if required. Contact OVR Hotel Liaison gillespieovr@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Please continue to access the OVR website for the latest updates from the OVR and USAV.

Stay safe and look out for each other; I want to see all of you on the court very soon!

Bob Price
Commissioner
Ohio Valley Region – USA Volleyball