

Dear Club Directors,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 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. We are still living through a terrible pandemic and the wellbeing of our members is our main priority.

You can apply for tryout sanctions from the links at [www.ovr.org/juniors/tryouts/](http://www.ovr.org/juniors/tryouts/). However, you must register first at Sports Engine for the 2023-2024 OVR Membership Scroll down the registration page at <https://www.ovr.org/register/index.php> and print the file under: Renewing Adult Member Affiliated with a Junior Club. All coaches must be registered and have current USAV background screening to participate in your tryouts. It usually takes a minimum of seven business days to process a background screen. Please have your coaches register sufficiently early to allow time for their background screens to be completed. Coaches also need to have completed Safe Sport certification each season. Coaches need to complete IMPACT certification only once.

If your club applies for an OVR sanction for your tryout, you must ensure that all participants are USA Volleyball members. There is a mandatory \$10 Tryout Membership that players must purchase which will cover them with secondary medical insurance during the tryouts. They can upgrade to a full season junior membership for an additional \$57 when they sign with a club.

The membership registration fee is \$67. (\$42 for the OVR and \$25 for USA Volleyball) for all members of girls' Junior programs except parent chaperones (\$42). Background screens are an additional \$14 annually.

All club directors must have completed the ASEP Sports Club Director course. An individual's ASEP accreditation does not expire. Directors may register for the online course by contacting me [zehler@ovr.org](mailto:zehler@ovr.org). Details concerning the requirement are available at <http://www.ovr.org/juniors/directing/asep.php>

The State of Ohio has mandated that all coaches in the state must have a concussion management certification. This must be renewed every three years. The USA Volleyball SafeSport educational program is available at <https://www.ovr.org/safesport/course.php>. It is also a requirement of all players, parents, and coaches that compete in the state of Ohio, regardless of state of residence, to complete the Sudden Cardiac Arrest (Lindsay's Law) training. The link to this information is at [https://www.ovr.org/safesport/cardiac\\_arrest.php](https://www.ovr.org/safesport/cardiac_arrest.php).

The maximum entry fee for single-day tournaments is **\$235** (permission must be granted if you need to charge more). Tournament directors that charge admission must state this clearly in their pre-tournament information. The recommended maximums for regular season OVR tournaments are \$5/day and \$10 for a two-day event. Anyone under 19 years of age is free. The maximum amount of admission charged to attend an event is \$10/day. Permission must be granted to charge more. The entry fee for the *Ohio Valley Region, Inc. Sport Mizuno 2024 Girls Volleyball Championships* is **\$275** for all teams. There will be an admission fee of \$10/day charged for entry to OVR Junior Championships events.

Fall tryouts for 10s-12s may be conducted on or after Friday, October 20, and for 13s-14s may start on or after Friday October 27. Clubs may host tryouts for high school aged athletes (15s-18s) 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. 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 after the original signing deadline date, must be given forty-eight hours from the time of the offer to accept that opportunity.

Tryouts are limited to one contact per day, 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

[https://www.ovr.org/juniors/registration\\_packet/OVR\\_Recruiting\\_Policy\\_Girls.pdf](https://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.

The OVR will not actively monitor clubs relative to state athletic association rules. Any OVR coach whose 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 is at risk of violating the *USA Volleyball Juniors' Club Personnel Code of Ethics*. Each OVR-registered coach has agreed, by signing the *USA Volleyball Juniors' Club Personnel Code of Ethics* that they "shall not allow, encourage, condone or require any behavior that threatens an athlete's amateur status".

The OHSAA has changed the restriction for middle and high school coaches concerning coaching athletes from their school roster during the non-interscholastic season. Coaches are now permitted to coach up to three athletes that were members of their school roster. The OHSAA has limited the number of athletes from the same member school roster more strictly concerning the 'rule of three'. The roster is now 'fixed' and cannot be a rotating number. If an athlete on the original roster leaves the team, they can be replaced by someone not previously in the club.

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 Regional girls' tournaments on coed or boys' teams. There is no limit to the number of boys on a team. Boys may also participate on 12-and-Under girls' Regional teams. No more than three boys may be on the court for a team at one time. Regular USA Volleyball rules for Youth teams will be used with accepted region modification. The two-meter step in line for Youth competition will be used for 10s, 11 Regional,

11 Select, and 11 & Under, 12 Regional, 12 Select, and 12 & Under events. It will not be used at 11 National, 11 American, 12 American, or 12 National events. The VB-Lite will be used for all Youth (12 or younger) competition. The net height for 10s is 6' 6" and the net height for 11s and 12s is 7'.

When ordering uniforms, the numbers (from 1 to 99) 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: "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. Also, USAV 4.3.3.2 states "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, USAV has clarified the uniform requirement for the Libero. "The Libero player(s) must wear a uniform (jersey or top) which has a different dominant color from any color of the rest of the team. The uniform must clearly contrast with the rest of the team. The Libero uniforms must be numbered like the rest of the team. Also, see the NOTE in 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." *This means the Libero shall wear a uniform top that is immediately recognized from all angles as being in clear contrast to and distinct from the other members of the team. NOTE: The rule requiring the Libero and his/her teammates to wear a solid colored uniform top has been RESCINDED by the USAV Volleyball Rules Commission.*

*Please refer to the link on the OVR Home Page, "USAV Uniform Guide for Clubs."*

Rules defining rosters and their restrictions are detailed at [www.ovr.org/juniors/divisions.php](http://www.ovr.org/juniors/divisions.php). The age definition for athletes is now based on 7/1 of the year of birth.

Other restrictions 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, Elite and "and Under" events within the OVR (with the exception that 11 National teams may participate in 12 American events and 12 National teams may participate in 13 American events). Regional teams can only play in Regional, Select, or "and Under" 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 in American, Elite, Select, or "and Under" tournaments but not participate in Regional tournaments (with the exception of 17 American can play in 18 Regional events).
3. Grade-level Regional and American teams must play at the age-appropriate level of their oldest player when participating in tournaments outside the OVR, Keystone, and Pioneer Regions (other regions and events may honor these waivers as well).
4. A National player may not play/sub on any Regional or American team regardless of age. An American or Regional player may be moved to a National roster 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 player movements from team to team; e.g., shifting of complete teams or multiple players from a Regional, American, or National team moving to the another team to permit playing in both competition divisions and/or attending OVR Bid tournaments.

7. A club may not alter any registered team roster by more than three 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 (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 personal use of electronic devices by the officiating support 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 the first set of their next match that day. There is a financial penalty assessed, payable by the club (\$100) if the violation occurs after their last playing match of the tournament.

**The penalty for teams that are late to their officiating assignment.**

By the start of the second 4-minute segment (the receiving team's use of the full court), the entire work team, including the coach, must be present. It is recommended that the second referee be present for the pre-match coin toss.

A penalty of one point per minute, up to 10 points, will be assessed until the work team is complete. If the work team is still incomplete, they will forfeit the first set of their next match. If they do not have any more matches that day, their club will be fined \$100.

The Greater Columbus Convention Center (GCCC), Spooky Nook, and Cedar Point Sports Complex will host the *Ohio Valley Region, Inc. 2024 Girls' Mizuno Junior Championships in April and May*. <https://www.ovr.org/girls/championships/index.php>. The entry fee is \$275.00/team. American and Regional teams must participate in at least 3 OVR tournaments to be eligible. A national team must participate in at least 2 OVR tournaments with a third tournament being either an additional OVR tournament or a USAV sanctioned tournament (National Qualifier).

The 17s -12s OVR-Molten National Bid Tournament will take place April 12-13-14, 2024 at the GCCC. The 18s National Bid Tournament will be on March 11-12 at the Lucas County Rec Center. The 11s Bid Tournament will be on Saturday, April 13 at Game Time Sports Center.

Have a great season!  
Bill Zehler  
OVR Girls' Program Coordinator

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