

Dear Club Directors,

Welcome to the 2016-2017 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 <https://www.ovr.org>. The Webpoint portion of the 2016-2017 OVR Membership Registration will open September 2, 2016. There is a News article on the OVR Homepage with a link to the Registration page. Scroll down the Registration page and print the file under: Renewing Adult Member Affiliated with a Junior Club, then follow up with your fees to complete your registration. You must register and have current USAV 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 have your coaches register sufficiently early to allow time for their background screens to clear.

If your club applies for an OVR sanction for your tryout, you must ensure that all participants are USA Volleyball members. There is a \$10 Tryout Membership that players must sign up for which will cover them with secondary medical insurance during the tryouts. They can then upgrade to a full junior membership for \$52 when they sign with a club.

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 by contacting me. Details concerning the requirement are available at [www.ovr.org/juniors/directing/asep.php](http://www.ovr.org/juniors/directing/asep.php). The region is no longer offering the course in a classroom setting.

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. USA Volleyball is implementing a SafeSport educational program. This will be required this season (there is no charge). Details are linked through the OVR Home Page.

The registration fee is \$62 for all members of girls' Juniors programs except parent chaperones (\$37). Background screens are still \$20 and are required every two seasons. The maximum entry fee for single-day tournaments is **\$200** (permission must be granted if you need to charge more). Some convention center events may charge more. The entry fee for the *Ohio Valley Region, Inc. Kaepa®-USA 2017 Girls Volleyball Championships* is **\$250** for all teams that participate at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

Clubs may host tryouts for high school aged athletes (15-18s) 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. The last weekend of October (10/28-10/30) is the first weekend that tryouts are permitted for 10s-14s. 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 forty-eight hours from the time 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

[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".

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 also participate on 12-and-Under girls' Regional teams. No more than 3 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 2 meter step in line for Youth competition will be used for 10s, 11s, and 12 Regional competition. It will not be used at 12 American (new this season), 12 and Under tournaments or 12 National events. The VB-Lite will be used for all Youth competition. The net height for 10s is 6' 6" and the net height for 11s and 12s is 7'.

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: "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, the 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, as of their February 2016 meeting. The “solid-colored jersey rule” is no longer in effect.*

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

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 12 National teams may participate in 13 American events). Regional teams can only play in Regional 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. Otherwise, American teams may 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 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 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 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, if the violation occurs after their last playing match of the tournament.

The Greater Columbus Convention Center (GCCC) should host all divisions of the *Ohio Valley Region, Inc. 2017 Girls' Junior Championships* on the weekends of April 29-30, May 6-7, May 13-14, and May 20-21. There is construction going on at the convention center which will adversely affect our event. 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, but it is not very likely that we will be able to use the same format as last season. The entry fee for teams playing in the convention center is \$250.00.

The OVR-Molten National Bid Tournament will take place on April 8 & 9 at the GCCC. The OVR Bid Play-In Tournaments (12 American through 17 American) are projected to be held on the weekend of February 27 & 28 at Game Time Sports Center in Urbana, OH.

Marathon Oil Winterfest                      January 28-29, 2017

OVR 18s National Qualifier                      February 3-5, 2017 Registration on AES starts 10/4/2016

OVR 18s National Bid Tournament      March 5, 2017 (No 18 Regional Bid Play-In )

Have a great season!  
Bill Zehler

OVR Girls' Program Director

[zehler@ovr.org](mailto:zehler@ovr.org)