



To: Juniors' Tournament Hosts

From: Tom Kohl, Indoor Juniors' Tournament Coordinator, Ohio Valley Region, USA Volleyball

Dear Tournament Host,

Thank you for your interest in hosting juniors' tournaments in the Ohio Valley Region. A tournament host must have a completed 2022-2023 OVR/USA V membership to apply for a tournament sanction. Beginning September 1, register for the 2023-2024 season at <https://www.ovr.org/register/register.php>.

Your membership is not complete until your registration fee, Concussion Management, Sudden Cardiac Awareness (SCA) Training and SafeSport certifications, online signed *OVR Waiver and Release of Liability*, online signed *Juniors' Coaches' Code of Ethics* (as needed), and online signed *Consent and Waiver for Background Screening* form are received by USA Volleyball (SportsEngine).

Beginning July 1, apply for tournament sanction at <http://www.ovr.org/juniors/sanction>. Your requested tournament can be sanctioned only when I receive your tournament bond with a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Tournament Facilities

Contracts with facilities should address weather-related cancellations. Adjacent courts may not share a common net post; each court must have its own complete set of equipment. Tournament sites having facilities and equipment considered to be unsafe will not receive an OVR tournament sanction. Tournament sites that have less than the required minimum two meters behind the end line for the service zone will not be considered for tournaments.

An *Application for Sanction* will not be accepted if a permanent building for the tournament has not been designated.

Tournament sites must be of high quality. Minimum requirements for volleyball courts and equipment can be found in the *2023-2025 USA Volleyball Rule Book*. All posts and referees' stands must be padded. Referees' stands are required and should elevate the referee's head approximately 18" above the height of the net and be clear of any obstacles. Jump boxes, ladders, or other similar equipment that is not specifically designed as a referee stand is not permitted. Support wires must be either eliminated or clearly marked and padded.

There must be sufficient free space around each court. The minimum free zone surrounding a court is 2 meters (6'6-3/4"). Players must be permitted to pursue volleyballs without endangering themselves, other participants, or spectators. The second referee should be able to transition freely from one side of the net to the other, positioned outside the net post, without any obstacles. All court lines must be 2" wide and contrast with the floor surface and any other lines.

If courts are adjacent, they may share this two-meter free zone. In other words, each court does not have to have its own two-meter free zone. The distance between two courts can be exactly two meters, and the rule requirements are considered to have been met. In the situation when adjacent courts share a common two-meter free zone, coaches, substitutes and team benches are not permitted in the area.

between the courts. If the adjacent courts have team benches back to back in the shared free zone, and each court still maintains at least two meters of free zone excluding those bench areas, this may be permitted.

Tournament hosts, site directors, or facility managers may not establish local ground rules or modify USAV playing rules, particularly if those ground rules do not take into consideration the safety issues they may present. Referees will establish the ground rules for each court according to *USA Volleyball Rule Book*.

Please follow USA Volleyball rules and regional guidelines.

All the forms you need to conduct your tournament can be found at https://www.ovr.org/juniors/tournament_packet/index.php. Other forms that may be necessary throughout the season can be found at <https://www.ovr.org/forms/index.php>. The *Certificate of Insurance*, available to OVR members by request, shows that USA Volleyball has liability coverage for every tournament site that is sanctioned by the OVR Juniors' Tournament Director with the approval of the OVR Commissioner. The facility you are using may require this coverage. If you require a *Certificate of Insurance*, send your name and contact information and the name and address of the facility to Steve Donahue (donahue@ovr.org).

Rules and guidelines for conducting OVR-sanctioned tournaments are found in the *Procedures and Rules for Juniors' Regular-Season Tournaments*:

https://www.ovr.org/juniors/tournament_packet/JTP_Procedures_and_Rules.pdf

Thank you for contributing to volleyball in the Ohio Valley Region.