

# **USA VOLLEYBALL NORTH TEXAS REGION**



## **REGION HANDBOOK Juniors Participation/Competition**

**Approved: July 24, 2017**

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Copies of forms, Junior Operational Codes, Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, all Handbooks and other information may be obtained from our web site:  
[www.ntrvolleyball.net](http://www.ntrvolleyball.net)

**I. MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION AND FEES:**

Anyone may become a member of the North Texas Region of USA Volleyball (NTR) by submitting to the requirements of membership. Any membership may be upgraded to a full membership by paying the difference between the cost of the full membership and the original price paid. Anyone who is denied membership may appeal that decision through the appeals process (see VII.).Regular (Junior Member, Adult, Referee)

- 1) Other Adult (Junior Club Personnel)
- 2) Other Youth (11 and Under)
- 3) Other Zero Cost (8 and Under)
- 4) Collegiate Player
- 5) One-Day (Adults Only)
- 6) Outdoor Only
- 7) Recreation/Summer/Outdoor

<b>Memberships</b>	<b>Description – All memberships listed here include sports accident and liability insurance.</b>	<b>Fees</b>
<b>Regular Member</b>	Full membership that allows individuals to participate in all USAV/RVA sanctioned events without restriction. Includes USA Volleyball magazine.	<b>\$45.00</b>
<b>Other Adult</b>	Full membership that allows individuals to participate in nonplaying roles (i.e. Junior Club Administrator, volunteer, parent R2, parent scorer, etc.). Fee includes auditing of officials' clinics.	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>Other Youth</b>	Limited membership that allows junior members who are under 11 years of age (and younger) to participate in NTR sanctioned events. Participants cannot participate in national level events (qualifiers, JNC, National High Performance teams/camps, etc.) This membership type may be upgraded to a full membership.	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Other Zero</b>	Limited FREE membership that allows junior members who are under 8 years of age (and younger) to participate in NTR sanctioned events. Participants cannot participate in national level events (qualifiers, JNC, National High Performance teams/camps, etc.) This membership type may be upgraded to a full membership.	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Collegiate Player</b>	Membership type that allows players attending college full-time to participate in USAV/RVA sanctioned events without limitation. Should a collegiate player choose to coach with a junior club and/or officiate, an upgrade to a full membership will be required. Upon registration, member will be responsible for providing proof of enrollment to a college or university (class schedule, enrollment verification, etc.).	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>One-Day (Adult Only)</b>	One day limited membership that allows an adult player to participate in an NTR sanctioned event. Once event has concluded, further participation will require an upgrade to a FULL membership.	<b>\$8.00</b>
<b>Outdoor Only (Adult/Junior)</b>	Full season membership that allows individuals to participate in all USAV/RVA sanctioned outdoor programming. It does NOT include eligibility for participation in any indoor programming. This membership may be upgraded to a FULL membership.	<b>\$20.00</b>

<b>Tournament Fees</b>		
<b>2 Day Tournament Request Deposit</b>	The Deposit that must accompany any Application for Sanctioning form in order to host a 2-Day Tournament during the Junior indoor season.	<b>\$1000.00</b>
<b>1 Day Tournament Request Deposit</b>	The Deposit that must accompany any Application for Sanctioning form in order to host a 1-Day Tournament during the Junior indoor season.	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>Bid Event Sanction Fees</b>	The per team amount due after a sanctioned tournament is hosted during the Junior indoor season for a Region Bid tournament.	<b>\$20.00</b>
<b>2 Day Tournament Sanction Fees</b>	The per team amount due after a sanctioned tournament is hosted during the Junior indoor season for a 2 day tournament.	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>1 Day Tournament Sanction Fees</b>	The per team amount due after a sanctioned tournament is hosted during the Junior indoor season for a 1 day tournament.	<b>\$7.50</b>
<b>Missed Officiating Fee</b>	The amount listed is per officiating position and per match in which the officiating duties were missed.	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>Late Tournament Registration</b>	Charged to any team registering after a tournament deadline	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>Late Tournament Drop</b>	Charged to any team dropping after the Thursday (at noon) prior to a tournament. Fee is collected by NTR and sent to tournament.	<b>\$150.00</b>
<b>No Show Fee</b>	Any paid team who is not registered as DROPPED and does not show for an event will incur the Late Tournament Drop fee and this fee. This includes teams who do not return after pool play for playoffs. This fee will increase by \$100 for each subsequent offense.	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>Tournaments Without Officials</b>	All of the above fees apply to these tournaments as well.	-

<b>Junior Outdoor</b>		
<b>One Day Event</b>	The per player amount due after a sanctioned outdoor tournament.	<b>\$2.50</b>
<b>One Day Minimum</b>	The minimum amount of sanction fees for an outdoor tournament	<b>\$75.00</b>
<b>Two Day Event</b>	The per player amount due after a sanctioned outdoor tournament.	<b>\$3.50</b>
<b>Two Day Minimum</b>	The minimum amount of sanction fees for an outdoor tournament	<b>\$125.00</b>

<b>Other Fees</b>		
<b>Recreational League/Youth Organization Fee</b>	For a recreation league or youth organization that wishes to affiliate with USAV and NTR.	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>Returned Check</b>	Fee for returned checks. May also include incurred bank fees.	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>Background Screen Fee</b>	Required for all individuals (18 years and older) associated with Junior activities, such as: CDs, Club Administrators, Coaches, Team Reps, Chaperones, Trainers, Tournament Directors, Site Directors, and Officials.	<b>\$18.00</b>
<b>Age Waiver Request Fee</b>	Non-Refundable fee to process Age Waiver Requests	<b>\$50.00</b>

## II. REGISTRATION OF MEMBERS, TEAMS, AND CLUBS

### A. MEMBER REGISTRATION:

Each member must complete, in full, a Member Registration Form in the national registration system (currently WebPoint) each year. All information is requested for record-keeping purposes and is maintained in the strictest confidence. Forms with incomplete and inaccurate information will be returned or refused. Membership is not active until NTR receives and accepts completed registration material and full payment. Membership is valid for 13 months starting September 1 of the current year. Any registration that is executed after September 1 will be valid through the remainder of the initial 13-month period. Once a registration is accepted, no refunds will be allowed.

An affidavit requesting a lower membership fee due to being financially disadvantaged must be filed along with the NTR Membership Form in order to be eligible for the reduced fee. This request is to be submitted to the Executive Director.

All registered adults (persons that are 18 years old or older and are not currently seniors in High School) who are working with junior volleyball in a sanctioned event (i.e. practice, clinic, tournament, etc.) must submit to a Background Screen and must be SafeSport certified. Background screens and SafeSport training are good for two seasons and must be renewed every other year. Participants requiring a background screen or SafeSport are not eligible to participate in any sanctioned Junior USAV event until they have cleared the procedure and completed the training. However, if a member is sanctioned, the type of sanction may warrant the re-taking of the SafeSport training to be reinstated as current (see sections IV.D and VI).

Any member who turns 18 while participating in any role other than junior player must immediately complete the background screen. A 30 -day grace period shall apply from the date of the 18th birthday in order to allow time for the background screening to be processed. During the 30-day grace period, the same restrictions apply to the individual as are in place for members who are not 18 years old and are acting as coaches (see section III.B.3).

### B. CLUBS:

Clubs are entities that embody one or more teams within the NTR. To start a new club a registered adult must contact the Executive Director and submit the Club Agreement. That member will then choose a club name. The registered adult who signs this request is considered the Club Director (CD) for that club. This person is considered by the NTR to speak for the club and may be held accountable for violations of policy by the club.

Any new CD must attend a New Club Directors Orientation. The CD will then submit \$100 for the initial Club Dues. Once that CD has met all requirements, the Executive Director will add the club into the Region Registration System. All pre -existing clubs must pay a \$50 Club Registration fee to the region by August 1 to maintain their active status.

The NTR reserves the right to deny the application of any club. This decision is at the discretion of the Executive Director. Anyone who is denied application for a club may follow the NTR Due Process to appeal that decision.

All clubs must attend or send a representative to the Annual Junior Club Director meeting. A CD may notify staff of a proxy for this meeting. The proxy must be a registered adult member of that club who is background checked, SafeSport certified, and in good standing with the region. Any club who does not have a representative in attendance will be fined \$250.00 (applied to the upcoming season) and that club will be held as inactive until the fine has been paid.

#### C. TEAM REGISTRATION:

Each junior team must be registered with a junior club on The national registration system. Classification of junior teams is determined by the current age group definitions for USAV.

Each team must have a Coach who is 18 years old or older, a registered member, background checked, SafeSport Certified and Impact Certified, and is present during play and officiating assignments. Each junior, adult, club director, head coach, assistant coach, team representative, and chaperone on the roster must be a NTR members. See section III.B.3 concerning junior players as head coaches.

Any registered member who meets the qualifications for coaching may coach for multiple clubs provided all clubs involved provide written notification of permission to the region office.

#### D. TEAM MEMBERSHIP

Any registered player may join a team within a club by choosing that club in the USAV registration system after the Region Offer Date. The CD will then assign that player to the appropriate team within the club. Transferring membership between clubs will take place according to the Transfer Policy below (see II.G). Each member of a club must register with the NTR and pay all fees for the current season. Players in a club may move to other teams within their club in order to compete provided they do not violate any other USAV or NTR policies.

#### E. OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE PROCEDURE

##### 1. OFFER PROCEDURE:

##### RECRUITS AND RECRUITING

A Recruit is considered to be any Athlete or Athlete's family who is a current member of USA Volleyball that is not a member of your club in the USAV registration system. Clubs and CLUB REPRESENTATIVES (adult members registered with your club) making or discussing offers to join any specific team for the upcoming USAV season with any Recruit before the start of the Evaluation Window is prohibited. A club may discuss specific teams for the upcoming season with current members of their club. Any event that evaluates an athlete(s) for a future USAV team before the Evaluation Window is prohibited. Soliciting potential Recruits to discuss their club program and services by any club representative at USAV sanctioned tournaments before the Evaluation Window is prohibited.

## EVALUATION WINDOW

The Evaluation Window for the upcoming USAV season shall start on the first day after the last day of competition for all age groups at the USAV GJNC. This window lasts until the Acceptance Date.

During the Evaluation Window, no binding offers may be made and no payment or other consideration for the upcoming USAV club season may be accepted. Clubs may accept payments during this period for Clinics, Leagues, Camps, Lessons, Beach, and Performance Training. All fees for any activities must meet the criteria of being reasonable fees for reasonable items related or unrelated to the upcoming USAV season.

## ACCEPTANCE DATE

Club Directors may make binding offer and may accept any forms of payment on the Acceptance Date.

For 15s, 16s, 17s, & 18s USAV Age Groups, the Acceptance Date shall be no sooner than the third Saturday of July. For all other age groups, the ACCEPTANCE DATE shall be no sooner than the fourth Saturday of July.

The NTR shall supply an Online Commitment System that may be used to ensure the offer and acceptance by both parties. Offers made via this system may only be made using the login of the Club Director of record in the USAV registration system. These offers must then be accepted by the athlete's guardian. Once an offer is accepted, the athlete will need to meet the prerequisites outlined in the offer. After the prerequisites are met the offer is then ACKNOWLEDGED in the Online Commitment System by the Club Director that the Offer and Acceptance process is complete. The athlete will then need to choose their club in the USAV registration system when it opens on September 1st .

It is impermissible for any other CLUB REPRESENTATIVE to approach an athlete about a position in any other club once the Athlete/Family accept an offer (before and after it is ACKNOWLEDGED). It is also a violation for that athlete's family to pursue an offer from a different club. After the athlete/family have accepted an offer, the Club Director has 48 hours to ACKNOWLEDGE the athletes offer in the Online Commitment System.

## Notes:

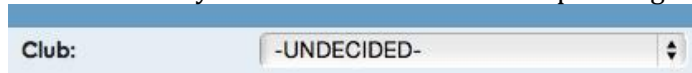
Confirmed violations of the policies as outlined here would result in sanctions that would range from a probationary warning to the entire club not being allowed to participate in the region. Included in the handbook will be a clarification of sanctions upon passing of this policy. It is the intent of this policy to define and curtail some unethical recruiting practices. Should these policies be deliberately or maliciously abused, the offender may be subject to the most severe of sanctions.

## Recognition of Club Affiliation:

A Player must go to the USA Volleyball Membership website and complete the Club Affiliation online, the player is then bound to that club for the entire season. In case of a dispute between a player and a club, the North Texas Region will honor club affiliations using the following criteria.

i. USA Volleyball Membership Registration Website – Club Affiliation:

After accepting an offer from a club, the player is to update their “Club Affiliation” in the USA Volleyball membership website to show the club with which they are to be affiliated for the upcoming season.

A screenshot of a web form showing a dropdown menu for "Club:". The selected option is "-UNDECIDED-". The dropdown arrow is visible on the right side of the menu.

ii. North Texas Region Offer and Acceptance Agreement:

The North Texas Region Offer and Acceptance Agreement will be used as an additional source of proof that a player is affiliated with a club, but not the only source.

If a player signed Offer and Acceptance Agreements with more than one club, the USA Volleyball membership website club affiliation will be used as the deciding affiliation.

If a player selects the wrong club on the USA Volleyball membership website OR selects the club affiliation before the Offer Date, the North Texas Region Offer and Acceptance Agreement can be used to determine the club affiliation.

The Region will not acknowledge any verbal offers and/or offers made prior to the Offer Date.

**F. MEMBER TRANSFER POLICY:**

Any player may transfer between clubs once per season provided that the CD of each club provides written permission to the Executive Director and the player has satisfied their financial responsibility to the original club to the satisfaction of that CD. All USAV rules about transferred players still apply.

Any player may transfer to a different club after the NTR Bid championships provided the player has met their financial obligation to the satisfaction of the original CD and their original team’s season has concluded. CD of each club must provide written permission to the Executive Director. Any such player is ineligible to play in any USAV National Championship Bid Division

Other intra- regional transfers between junior indoor clubs will not be permitted during the current membership year once an athlete has established a club affiliation. An exception may be made for players whose teams have disbanded or other special circumstances. Players, who have been released mid-season by their club, will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the Executive Director.

**G. MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION:**

All members are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the USAV Participant Code of Conduct that they must read and sign when applying for membership.

No junior athlete may register and compete with an adult team.



#### H. BOYS TEAMS:

A boy may participate on a 12-under girls' or younger team with a Boys Waiver. Junior Boy's programs, 14 & Under and younger, may play in Junior Girl events, with the exception of the Regional Championships and any Open or Club Divisions of Regional Bid Events. The level of play for Boy's teams in Junior Girl events may be at the discretion of the Executive Director or Junior Coordinator. 15's & Older teams are allowed to play in Men's Adult Tournaments, provided all junior players guardians have signed the region waiver form acknowledging that the members they may be playing may not be background checked or SafeSport certified.

#### I. WAIVERED PLAYERS:

An age waiver may be granted by the Executive Director to players in special circumstances. There will be a \$50 non-refundable fee to process this request. The \$50 fee does not guaranty approval and will not be refunded if the request is denied. Any team with a waived player(s) must play in the division of the highest classification age player on the team's roster in NTR bid events and regional bid events excluding McChesney. Any team with a player who has received a waiver cannot play in tournaments outside the region without permission of that region.

### III. REGION TOURNAMENTS

#### A. TOURNAMENT SANCTIONING:

##### 1. JUNIOR INDOOR SEASON:

The sanctioned junior indoor season begins with the first scheduled Region Offer Date and ends at the conclusion of the USA Volleyball Junior National Championships. During this period, all tournaments hosted by NTR clubs must be sanctioned by the NTR and conducted in accordance with region tournament guidelines and USAV rules and policies.

##### 2. SANCTIONING TOURNAMENTS:

Request to host sanctioned tournaments may be presented by any club registered within the NTR. The request must come from a CD. The CD is ultimately responsible for any financial obligations and rule compliance. Any penalties associated with a sanctioned event shall be issued to the CD. Only a CD in good standing and currently having teams participating in the NTR shall be eligible to host sanctioned tournaments.

CDs must submit the Application for Sanction form to the Region by the third Tuesday of August. All applications will be accepted if the hosting club meets all region requirements to run a tournament and is not under any sanctions that might limit the number of tournaments they are allowed to run.

A deposit must accompany sanction requests for multiple day tournaments and one-day tournaments scheduled for Saturdays. The deposit is applied towards the sanction fees owed after each event. The deposit is not refundable, even if the sanction fees associated with the event are less than the deposit. Tournaments without officials are not subject to the Sanction Application deadline.

TD will make a written request to the Executive Director for Tournament Format Variance and/or Sanction Fee Variance. This request should contain enough detail that would fully explain the entire process. The Competition Committee will review Tournament Format Variance request. The Executive Director will review the Sanction Fee Variance Request.

Should two or more tournaments decide to merge they must submit the Tournament Merger Form to the Executive Director no later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the merged event. Only a single sanction fee would carry over to the merged events. No refunds will be issued.

### 3. TOURNAMENT ROLES:

Tournaments are run by individuals in different roles. All of the members of a Tournament staff must be registered USAV members.

Each tournament shall designate a Tournament Director (TD). The TD is an employee/contractor of the club who is responsible for the scheduling and running of the event. This may be multiple people, but ultimately one person shall have the designation. It is the responsibility of the TD to secure all playing sites and to ensure that they are sanctioned competition sites for the NTR. It is also their responsibility to ensure that the event has all of the items needed for competition, that all information is publicly available in a timely fashion, and that all NTR policies are being followed. Any TD for any event in the NTR must be a certified TD within the NTR. A list of certified TDs can be found on the region website.

Each tournament location shall designate a Site Director (SD). The SD is an employee/contractor of the club who is responsible for scheduling officials, adjusting pools and playoffs as needed during the event, and supplying the logistical items for running a tournament site within the guidelines of NTR policies. Each playing site must have a certified SD at the site during competition. There may be multiple SD for any site within an event. No SD is allowed to coach or officiate at any time while they are serving as the SD. Any SD for any event in NTR must be a certified SD within the NTR. A list of certified SD can be found on the region website.

A Head Referee may be scheduled for all or any playing sites of a tournament. The Head Referee will be in charge of handling referee scheduling, protests, and will help get contact information for the TD from the officials to help coordinate payments.

### 4. FEES:

Tournament fees for junior indoor events will be set by the TD. The recommended tournament entry fee for one-day tournaments is \$205 (for guaranteed six sets) or \$230.00 (for guaranteed eight sets). The recommended tournament entry fee for a two -day event is \$335.00 (for guaranteed eight sets) or \$370.00 (for guaranteed 10 sets).

### 5. ALLOCATION OF OFFICIALS:

Allocation of officials will be the responsibility of the NTR Staff. Staff will communicate with the Officials Coordinator to ensure that all sanctioned tournaments have qualified officials. The region staff will have the authority to restrict the number of courts allowed on any particular weekend based on the estimated availability of officials. This restriction will be in place at the tournament sanction deadline. In the event that staff foresees a potential for a

shortage of officials on a given weekend at the time of tournament sanction deadline, then all tournaments on that weekend will be allotted a number of officials consistent with the historical attendance of those events.

If additional officials become available and those events request more officials, then the NTR staff may allocate available officials to the event that is the largest at that point. The region will be expected to provide officials for all courts even if officials are required from outside of the region. Travel expenses will be the responsibility of the tournaments.

If the region should get into a situation where there are not enough referees to cover all the competition courts for one weekend, the region will guarantee a certain number of courts per event but may not be able to guarantee more than that should more be required.

## B. TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION:

### 1. REGISTRATION:

Registration for junior indoor tournaments is done on the NTR tournament registration site (currently [www.ntr.vstarvolleyball.com](http://www.ntr.vstarvolleyball.com)). This site is used to view the Junior indoor schedule, view information about the events, register to enter the event, print entry forms, monitor registration status, and (in some cases) pay for events.

Indoor tournament registrations will not be accepted for any team until their team has been properly registered and at least six individuals from their roster are legally registered. When a CD has registered for the event and paid, then the TD may change the team status to "Accepted." In the event that more entries are received than space is available, acceptance is at the discretion of the TD. A TD has the right to refuse entries and cancel/combine classifications with less than four entries at any time after the entry deadline.

The entry deadline for a junior indoor tournament is twenty-one days prior to the event. An entry received after this date will be accepted at the discretion of the TD. A \$25 late entry fee shall be paid by any team that enters a tournament after the deadline. All late fees will be handled by the tournament and the team directly. A TD has the right to refuse participation in their event unless the event is a Regional Bid event.

### 2. TOURNAMENT REFUND POLICY

Requests for a full refund of a junior indoor tournament entry fee will be honored if received by noon on the Monday three weeks prior to the event (19 Days). Any team that drops from a junior tournament after Monday at noon three weeks (19 days) prior to the event and prior to Monday at noon two weeks (12 days) prior to the event will be entitled to a 50% refund. Any team that drops from a junior tournament after noon on Monday two weeks (12 days) prior to the event will not be entitled to a refund.

Any team that drops from a tournament after Thursday at noon the week of the event will be assessed a \$150.00 fee. Any team that does not show up for the event and has not officially dropped in the region registration system by midnight the day before will be assessed a \$200 fee. This fee will be in addition to the late drop fee. Each subsequent offense will increase the no-show fee by \$100. The fine must be paid within fourteen (14) days or the club cannot participate in any other region-sanctioned event. The fine is to be paid to the region and the region will reallocate the funds to the tournament host club.

### 3. REGISTERED ADULTS AND COACHES:

A registered adult who is IMPACT and SafeSport certified must accompany every junior team during all tournaments as a rostered coach. Persons who are not USAV members may not be on the roster or team bench.

If a Junior member who is under the age of 18 is listed on the roster as the coach for a team, then that team must also have on the roster and on the bench at all times a registered member who has cleared the background screen procedure, taken Impact Certification course, and completed the SafeSport online training.

### 4. OFFICIATING RESPONSIBILITIES:

Teams failing to honor their officiating or other commitment for a tournament will be fined \$25.00 per position per match. The TD or Head Referee shall report the violation promptly to the Region Executive Director or staff. The fine must be paid within 14 days or the club cannot participate in any other region-sanctioned event.

Failure to honor officiating commitments is defined as failing to meet the following requirements:

- i. The officiating team must provide a certified second referee, a certified scorer, a libero tracker, and two line judges.
- ii. Only certified referees and scorers, or In-Process referees and scorer candidates, may officiate in sanctioned tournaments. Junior referees and scorers may officiate in junior events if they become qualified by attending an NTR officiating clinic each year.
- iii. The second referee provided by a team for their officiating duties shall be a certified second referee who is a USAV member on the roster of the officiating team as a coach or is an adult on the roster. All members of a "work team" must be on the roster or be registered members of USAV and the NTR who, if 18 years or older, are background checked and have completed the SafeSport certification.

Any registered member may become a certified second referee or certified scorer by attending a referee or scorer certification class provided by the region or provided by USAV.

## C. TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT:

### 1. PARTICIPANTS:

Only registered USAV members may participate in tournaments. Only facilities sanctioned by the region for competition may be used for the event. A list of sanctioned facilities and details concerning them can be found on the NTR website. Teams may only participate in Divisions that match their team classification or higher division. Approved equipment, score sheets, libero tracking sheets, and lineup sheets must be used. (These can be downloaded from the NTR website)

### 2. TOURNAMENT FORMAT:

Only Pool-to-Bracket (with the exception of 3 team playoffs on the final day which shall be placed in pools of 3) formats are permitted for sanctioned tournaments in the NTR. When pool play is scheduled, three and four team pools are preferred; five team pools are acceptable in certain circumstances.

Pool play may be either two sets or two out of three sets to 25 points, with the deciding set to 15 pts. Three team pools may play three sets to 25 points.

Power Pool format is an acceptable format for Bid Events only. This format is discussed in Section III.D.2.iii.

Unless otherwise approved, the top half of teams in each pool will advance to the top playoff. Tournaments must post and use an approved pool play and officiating schedule. These schedules are available in the USAV Guide.

A minimum of three matches (or six sets) must be guaranteed for a one -day events and a minimum of four matches (or eight sets) must be guaranteed for

a two-day event. A TD does have the option to guarantee 8 sets for a one-day event or 10 sets for a two-day event. A "bye" in a bracket constitutes two sets towards the set minimum provided that 2/3 of the teams in that bracket do not have a bye (with the exception of 3 team brackets which should be re-pooled).

Matches will not be scheduled on a time basis after the first two matches of pool play. Matches must be started as soon as possible after completion of the preceding match. Teams must be ready to play or officiate when their assigned matches are sequentially scheduled.

Tournament Directors for 1 Day Tournaments will only schedule a maximum of 1 Pool per court if they are guaranteeing playoffs.

One of the two Region Tiebreaking Procedures must be posted at each site.

Each site must use the same tie breaking procedure. Both methods and the postings associated with them can be found on the NTR website.

Junior events must use the official Region Rankings to seed teams but the TD is allowed to adjust for pool conflicts. The top half of the field shall not be adjusted for pool conflicts. The third quarter of the field (usually the 3 seeds) shall not be adjusted such that they are moved out of the third quarter of the field.

Bracket or Playoff seeding in tournaments should be done such that teams that played against each other in pool play do not play each other again until necessary. The team finishing lower in pool play should be the team whose seed is adjusted to accommodate this format. In cases where more than two teams from a pool make the same playoff, the top two teams from the pool should be the teams that are separated.

### 3. TOURNAMENT CURFEW:

The latest match of a tournament on Friday or Saturday shall be scheduled to start no later than 9:00p. The latest match of a tournament on Sunday through Thursday shall be scheduled to start no later than 8:00p.

4. PRE-TOURNAMENT DISCLOSURE:

Information about potential playing sites, host clubs, entry fees, special formats, and teams entered must be submitted when the tournament is added to the registration website. The TD must make public the pool assignments, pool start times, and pool playing sites no later than the Tuesday (five days) prior to the event. This information may change due to weather, dropped teams, or other unforeseen circumstances. However, unjustified changes may cause the TD and CD to be subject to sanctions. A TD who is deciding to cancel an event or division within an event must cancel that event or division no later than the Tuesday (five days) prior to the event.

5. TOURNAMENT EQUIPMENT OBLIGATIONS:

- i. One suitable game ball per court
- ii. Properly marked courts
- iii. Official and current USAV scoresheets
- iv. Clearly displayed schedules for pool play and playoffs with officiating assignments and posted Tie Breaking procedures
- v. Properly padded equipment designed for volleyball use; including net supports, cables and a referee platform
- vi. Appropriate awards

6. NTR ALCOHOL POLICY:

Any tournament in which one of the playing sites has a venue that sells alcohol must abide by the following guidelines.

- i. The Event facility must have its own liquor license and insurance, which should be properly posted.
- ii. Junior Participants must be provided an entrance and exit from the playing facility that does not require them to walk through an area where alcohol is sold and consumed. This entrance and exit needs to be made available throughout the entire event.
- iii. No alcohol is permitted in the area where the event is being held. The area includes the playing and spectator area around the courts.
- iv. 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.
- v. Sites where a Junior Event and Adult Event are being held at the same time must designate, rope off, and clearly indicate areas where Adult participants can consume alcohol (patio, cabana, etc.). No junior players are allowed in that area.

7. POST TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS:

A TD must submit results from a tournament on the region registration website no later than 72 hours after the tournament. Sanction fees are to be paid to the NTR Region office no later than seven days after the event. Junior indoor tournament sanction fees are listed in Section I.

8. BAD WEATHER POLICY:

From time to time, bad weather will interfere with the running of an event in the NTR. When such cases occur, it is recommended that the TD contact the region and follow these guidelines.

The following is a list of conditions that might be considered grounds for cancellation of events or matches and grounds for refusal to participate on the part of vendors and teams: Severe Thunderstorms, Ice Storms, Flash Flooding, Tornado Watches/Warnings, or predicted Icy Conditions. If one of these

situations arises in the county of an event location, it is at the discretion of the TD what course of action to take.

It is not necessary to have a universal policy; each facility should be considered individually for the purposes of making a decision. However, any cancellation at a particular facility should warrant a cancellation of all matches, pools, and brackets at that facility.

In the case of a predictive condition, a tournament may move the start time of a tournament back if it could still run its course and finish before the curfew. In these situations, an email is to be sent out to the participating clubs no later than 12 hours prior to the original start time.

In the case of weather that arises after the tournament has started or weather that is predicted after the event has started, several factors must be taken into account. If it is deemed by the TD that it is unsafe to continue, then it is permissible to cancel any number of matches. If pool play is cancelled before the fourth match of pool play is completed in all pools, then it is recommended that the tournament be cancelled. If the fourth match of pool play has been completed in all pools, then pool play may continue on the next day followed by a truncated single elimination bracket. If any part of bracket play is cancelled, then the tournament will be considered finished and all teams in each tier shall be considered tied for the place represented by the last fully completed tier of the bracket.

A partial refund should be given to all teams based on the number of matches short of the guaranteed match total that team missed. The refunded amount shall be \$15 a match. The only exception to this is teams who submitted in writing that they were not attending the tournament due to weather even though the tournament had not been cancelled. These teams receive no refund. They are not subjected to penalties.

Referees whose match total was reduced due to a cancellation of matches shall be paid for the matches that they did work and shall be awarded a \$5 a match stipend for the number of matches they would have worked based on the schedule created by the head referee/site director.

Referees who chose not to attend an event that was not cancelled are not owed this stipend. Facilities and host clubs should negotiate among themselves what is a fair payout for partial usage due to weather.

Announcement of any cancellations should be submitted in writing by email to all of the Club Directors whose clubs are participating

#### D. SPECIFIC TOURNAMENTS:

##### 1. TOURNAMENTS WITHOUT OFFICIALS:

These tournaments are held to the same guidelines with respect to sanctioning and tournament administration in the NTR with the exception of adhering to the Sanction Application deadline.

All members must be registered and follow guidelines of other region tournaments. These tournaments are not allocated match officials and are not part of the ranking system.

##### 2. REGIONAL BID EVENT TOURNAMENTS:

The NTR will sanction 4 tournaments per year to be designated as Regional Bid Events. These tournaments are different from other sanctioned tournaments in several ways.

- a. No NTR team may be denied entry to a NTR Bid Event provided they
  - b. enter by the entry deadline and meet all membership requirements.
  - c. No out of region team may be accepted into any NTR Bid Event.
  - d. NTR Bid Events are used to qualify for the NTR Bid Championships.
  - e. No other sanctioned event with officials may be held in the NTR on the
  - f. dates of the Bid Events.
- i. **Schedule:** It is recommended that the first of these Regional Bid Tournaments be the second full weekend of January. Each subsequent Regional Bid Tournament should be scheduled with three full weekends in between Bid Tournaments. The dates of the Bid Tournaments must be assigned such that two of the four do not conflict with National Qualifiers. The Executive Director should take into account the calendar and regionals concerns when deciding the schedule.
  - a. **Bid Process:** The host clubs for the NTR Bid Events are awarded through a bid process. The application for a Bid Event is to be submitted by the first Tuesday in August. A three-person committee of unaffiliated and unbiased individuals including the Executive Director and two others of the Executive Director's choosing shall be formed to evaluate the applicants. The Executive Director will then award the events to the appropriate host clubs. The region bid events will be awarded on a four-year basis. Each year, one event will be up for bid. Should any bid fail to meet the minimum requirements, change tournament director(s), scheduler, club director, or the host club/director be sanctioned, that event will be place up for bid prior to the scheduled date. Such notice of sanction will be given to the bid event within 60 days of the conclusion of the offending bid event.

Any CD in good standing may apply to run a Region Bid Tournament. No (singular) club may be awarded more than one Bid Event in any one season. The criteria used to determine who is awarded these tournaments should be based on several factors. Two factors should be considered to have the most weight: History of Event and History of the TD.

The History of the Event takes into account the performance of the applying club in previously hosting tournaments. The following is a list of items to be considered:

- a. Willingness to work with the region and other clubs
- b. History of rules violations or poor reputation
- c. Success in running multi-day and multi-team events
- d. Ability to secure necessary gym space and equipment



With each application, the host club must name its TD. The reputation and ability of the TD must also be heavily considered.

- a. The quality of events run by this TD
- b. History of rules violations
- c. Knowledge of NTR rules and policies
- d. Ability to adjust to unforeseen circumstances
- e. Ability to work with region members and staff

Other factors that may influence the awarding of the event may include:

- a. Entry fee
- b. Reputation within the region
- c. Commitment to extra items (hospitality rooms, awards, etc.)

- iii. **Format:** The 1<sup>st</sup> Bid Event may not use the Power Pool format. The other three Bid Events have the option of using the Power Pool format. Each tournament should disclose which format they are using at the time of tournament sanctioning each year.

The Power Pool format allows for the top group of teams in each Open (top) division to play in a Power Pool. All teams in this pool advance to the top bracket and are seeded in that bracket based on Power Pool finish. The Power Pools are 2 pools of 4. This format is allowed if the field is 24 teams or greater. The winners of the regular Pools will advance to the top bracket. The teams finishing second in the regular Pools will advance to equal ranked brackets considered to be the second highest ranked brackets.

**Tie-Breaker Procedures for Power Pool tournaments:** There will be No Playoffs in Power Pools. Regular Pools will play-off for both 1st and 2nd places.

Tie breaks for two teams in a regular pool of a Power Pool bid event, in which there are two way ties for first or second place in which the two teams split in pool play will be played off.

### 3. REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS:

The Regional Championships will be hosted by the NTR. The TD will be the Executive Director, or a person appointed by the Executive Director. No other junior tournament shall be allocated officials on the weekends of the Regional Championships, with the exception of the 18 & Under Regional Championship. All teams that wish to enter a Regional Championship will be accepted provided all deadlines and requirements have been met.

- i. **NTR 18 & Under Regional Bid Championship:**  
In order to be eligible to play in this event a team must have played in one Regional Bid Event in the 18 Open or Club division. This event will be scheduled before the regional reporting deadline for the 18 and under divisions that is set by USAV. The date will be chosen by the Junior Board based on a recommendation by the Competition Committee.

- ii. NTR Regional Bid Championship (12-17 Age Groups):  
A team must have played in at least two Regional Bid Events to be eligible to play in the NTR Regional Bid Championship. A team is considered to have met this requirement if they play Open or Club in any Bid event.

In addition, all teams must have met one of the following requirements.

A team must have advanced to the highest playoff or bracket of the Open division of any Regional Bid Event or one of the two highest playoff brackets of any Regional Bid Event using the Power Pool Format.

A team must have finished in the top four of the highest playoff or bracket of the Club division of any Regional Bid Event.

- iii. NTR McChesney Regional Championship:  
No team playing in the NTR McChesney Regional Championship will be allowed to play in any other Regional Bid Championship. This event will take place the weekend prior to the NTR Regional Bid Championship.

- iv. REGION BIDS TO USAV NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS:  
The number of NTR representatives for their respective National Tournaments will be established by USA Volleyball and will be the top finishers at the NTR Regional Bid Championship.

Teams that qualify for the USAV Junior National Championship prior to the NTR Regional Bid Championships cannot participate in any Regional Championship.

The Region reserves the right to forfeit any Regional Championship title and/or withhold authorization for any individual and/or team to participate in any National Championship event if the team or any player on that team is found to have violated NTR or USAV policies. Teams are responsible for any financial losses incurred.

Should a club turn down a bid for the Junior National Championship; no teams in that club will be allowed to participate in the NTR Bid Championships the next year.

#### **IV. PROTESTS, APPEALS, COMPLAINTS, SANCTIONS, AND GENERAL POWERS**

##### **A. TOURNAMENTS:**

Protests arising with respect to rules interpretation by officials during sanctioned competition must be decided by the head referee assigned to the site of the competition. If no head referee is assigned to the site, a Tournament Protest Committee will be appointed by the TD. This committee will be composed of 2-3 members, one of which will be a certified official.

Complaints concerning tournament administration must be received in writing within two weeks after completion of the event. NTR reserves the right not to take action on any complaints filed after that time.

#### B. NTR POLICIES:

Participants and organizations desiring to participate in NTR sanctioned events must abide by the rules, policies and guidelines of the NTR and USAV, and as set forth in the NTR Junior Operating Codes, NTR Officials Operating Codes, and Bylaws of NTR.

Complaints concerning the adherence to NTR policies must be verifiable and received in writing. Such complaints should be submitted to the Commissioner, Junior Coordinator, Executive Director, or Staff in a timely manner.

Policy initiatives or changes to policy should be submitted to a member of the Junior Board of Directors. That Director will then bring the item to the Junior Board of Directors for discussion. Policy items may also be added to the agenda of any Junior Board Meeting when the call for agenda items is sent out prior to each meeting. All Junior Board Meetings are open to all members.

#### C. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERCEDEENCE:

The Executive Director, Commissioner, and Junior Coordinator are authorized to make all decisions and promulgate all policies that are in this handbook and that are not specifically covered in this handbook.

Questions and/or concerns in regards to transgender applications or participation would fall under these guidelines.

#### D. STANDING AND REGION SANCTIONS:

Every member of the NTR is in Good Standing provided he or she has no outstanding dues or fines and is compliant with all requirements of the NTR for membership. A member can lose their Good Standing due to lack of payment of dues or fines or a lapse in membership requirements.

Good Standing can also be lost if a member is assigned a Region Sanction. A Region Sanction is a penalty levied against a member of the NTR for violations of region policy. Region Sanctions can be applied to members associated with Juniors by the Commissioner, Junior Coordinator, and the Executive Director. The following is a list of possible sanctions. This list is not all-inclusive and other types of sanctions may be more appropriate for some situation.

- Probation - The member is warned of behavior and is placed on probationary status for a designated amount of time. The member is still considered to be in Good Standing with the region.
- General Sanctions - The member is placed under General Sanctions for a designated amount of time. The member is still considered to be in Good Standing with the region but may lose the ability to participate in certain aspects of the NTR.
- Removal of Good Standing Status - This penalty removes the Good Standing of the member for a designated amount of time and possibly causes them to lose the ability to participate in certain aspects of the NTR.

- Monetary Fines – The member is fined a monetary sum for violation of a policy. This type of sanction is usually reserved for multiple violations of the same policy. It is also usually associated with a compensation for extra work or special arrangements that have to be made to correct the violation.
- Recertification – The member must retake the necessary courses associated with training the NTR members in the policies that were violated. The member may have to retake a certification class like IMPACT or Safe Sport, or they may have to attain certification of completion of a non-USAV or NTR course.
- Suspension – The member is suspended from the NTR for a designated amount of time.
- Expulsion – The member is expelled from the NTR indefinitely.

Sanctions may be applied in combination. A member may incur more than one type of sanction for each offense. Each infraction shall be handled on a case-by-case basis. Some offenses are more egregious than others are and while sanctions should be consistent in nature, some will require more strictness or leniency.

#### E. APPEALS:

Any member may appeal any sanction or denial in which they are involved by following the Due Process Policy adopted by the NTR Board of Directors.

#### F. HANDBOOK:

This Handbook is the operating policy for the NTR. At the discretion of the Executive Director with the approval of the NTR Board of Directors, he/she may alter the guidelines established herein.

### **V. ETHICS AND CONDUCT**

Members and teams are prohibited from using, without permission, words or symbols associated with the United States Olympic Committee, the International Olympic Committee, or Olympic Games. Members and teams may not use the name or symbols of the Corporation, such as USAV, USA Volleyball, USA Team, USA National Team, United States National Championship, or any combination thereof.

## **VI. NORTH TEXAS REGION SAFESPORT POLICY/HANDBOOK**

[https://ntrvolleyball.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/2017\\_USAV\\_SafeSport\\_Handbook.pdf](https://ntrvolleyball.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/2017_USAV_SafeSport_Handbook.pdf)

## **VII. NORTH TEXAS REGION TRYOUT PROCESS**

[Tryout Policy Explanation](#)

[Tryout Offer and Acceptance Policy](#)

## **VIII. NORTH TEXAS REGION DUE PROCESS**

<http://ntrvolleyball.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/DueProcess-20152.pdf>

## **IX. NORTH TEXAS REGION GOVERNANCE LINKS**

<http://ntrvolleyball.net/junior-board/>

<http://ntrvolleyball.net/board-of-directors/>

<http://ntrvolleyball.net/governing-documents/>

## **X. NORTH TEXAS REGION TIE-BREAKER PROCEDRES**

[NO PLAYOFF TIE-BREAKER](#)

[REGIONAL TIE-BREAK PROCEDURES](#)

**POWER POOL TIE-BREAK PROCEDURES**