

PARENT INFORMATION GUIDE

FLORIDA REGION PARENT INFORMATION GUIDE

I. REGIONAL STRUCTURE

The Florida Region has a board of directors who oversee all of the region's volleyball activity. The officers who serve on the board are from a diverse membership group within the region. This guarantees that every faction of the region's membership has direct, voting representation upon the board.

The Junior Division of the Florida Region is composed of two entities: The Junior Forum (JF) and the Junior Administrative Board (JAB). The JF is a recognized committee of the Florida Region with a direct charge to set forth policy for all junior operations. This body is chaired by the Commissioner. Although the primary decision making body for issues affecting the juniors, the JF does report to the Regional Board on many issues. The JF is comprised of one voting representative of each junior club volleyball program.

The JAB of the JGA is a committee whose main responsibility is to act on emergency issues that take place between normally scheduled meetings. The JAB is comprised of: Indoor Chair (chair), Outdoor Chair, and the four Jr. Admin Board Representatives. The Executive Director serves as an Ad Hoc member of this committee.

Each club organization within the Florida Region is an entity on its own. Every club operates under the auspices of USAV - Florida Region but is not part of its corporation. Through the Florida Region, each club and its members are joined to USA Volleyball. The business structure (corporation, sole proprietorship, etc.) may vary from club to club and has no bearing on the club's status within the region.

Regional Officers you may need or want to contact:

COMMISSIONER (CEO)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (President)

INDOOR CHAIR

OUTDOOR CHAIR

See the website, www.FloridaVolleyball.org for current names of officers and contact information.

II. PRE-SEASON CONTACT AND RECRUITING

The Florida Region has adopted a policy to separate the year into two distinct seasons: The Contract Season and the Recruiting Season. The Contract Season is defined as the date of signing of the Player Commitment Form until the last day of competition of the Girl's Jr. Region Championships (GJRC) or the USA Volleyball Junior National Championships (JNC), whichever one is later. The Recruiting Season begins the day after the last day of competition of the FRC or the JNC's, whichever is later, to the day of signing of the Player Commitment Form. (The Player Commitment Form can be signed by a player starting September 1st of the year in question.)

The Florida Region highly recommends that contact by club directors and coaches, done in the Recruiting Season, be done on a limited and highly professional basis. Club Coaches should be considerate of high school competitions by asking the coach when is the best time, if any, to distribute their literature (See Section III. Literature used for the Recruiting of Players).

No contact is allowed with "signed" players or parents during the Contract Season (no-contact policy). Contact being defined as any form of communication with a player or parent with the intent to recruit that player to participate at any level with a club, in the current or following year, including but not limited to practices, scrimmages and tournaments. If during the Contract Season a "signed" player or parent contacts a director of another club, or any agent of that club, and expresses

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interest to participate with that organization, the director is obligated to report such an incident to the player's current club director, as well as the appropriate Indoor Chair, Executive Director, or the Commissioner. It is recommended that this be done in writing for the purpose of maintaining proper records. The response of the director who was contacted by the player or parent must include and be limited to the following:

1.) An explanation of the no-contact policy as stated above. 2.) An explanation of that director's obligation to report such an incident and to whom. 3.) The recommendation that the player contact their current club director to discuss their concerns and options.

Furthermore, the Florida Region Board of Directors recognizes that outdoor volleyball is attracting more junior players and has defined the start and stop dates for the Indoor and Outdoor seasons.

- Indoor Season (For Junior Girls) - From the Monday after the FHSAA state volleyball championships until which ever date is later for the junior player involved; 1) the last day of the Girl's Junior Regional championships if that is their team's last USAV competition., or 2) the last day of the USA Volleyball Junior National Championships if that is their team's last USAV competition. (Note: If an individual chooses to unaffiliated with an indoor club prior to the end of the Indoor Season it will be treated as a transfer and will follow the Florida Region club transfer guidelines in Section V – TRANSFER POLICY.)
- Outdoor Season (For Junior Girls) - From the day following the last day of the girl's indoor junior season as defined above, until the Monday after the FHSAA state volleyball championships.

The purpose for this season definition is to assist junior players that wish to play on different indoor and outdoor clubs. Since members can only be affiliated with one club at a time, players may switch from an indoor club to an outdoor club (or vice versa) based on the season definitions above.

Unwanted Contact or Harassment of Players:

(See Section III. Literature used for the Recruiting of Players). Any player or parent has the right to stop the recruiting process at any time. The decision to do this does not need to be based on harassment alone. If a player or parent has made the decision to play for a particular club long before the beginning of the season and wishes not to be contacted by other clubs, they should convey that to any person contacting them about joining another club -- preferably in writing. At that time, the party who contacted the player is obligated to cease all contact. If the contact continues, by any agent of the club,, the player or parent should contact the Executive Director or the Commissioner. The Florida Region will gladly step in to protect it's members from unwanted contact or harassment. However, the family or player must come forward with a written, formal complaint on which the region can take action. Verbal complaints are not sufficient to take any punitive action.

Recruiting Guidelines & Penalties:

1. Definition of Recruiting – To solicit players for the purpose of persuading them to tryout or play for a junior volleyball club. Solicitation can be performed by any of the following individuals: club directors, coaches, or **anyone** acting on behalf of a junior volleyball club.
 - a. Acceptable Recruiting Methods – The following methods are acceptable if initiated by a club representative: flyers, bulk e-mails, press releases, newspaper ads, or any printed material that is distributed to the masses. The following methods are acceptable if initiated by the player or parent/guardian: telephone calls or private meetings to discuss the clubs programs and offerings. Documentation should be kept on file by the club representative denoting all player-initiated contact in the event a recruiting violation is filed with the Region Office.
 - b. Unacceptable Recruiting Methods – Telephone calls or private meetings (either in-person or electronically) initiated by a club representative. In-person visits initiated by a club representative at a FHSAA sanctioned practice or event other than to distribute written materials. Any one-on-one meetings between a club representative and a player. Verbal or written promises made by club representatives with regard to positions available or team placement. Verbal or written offers for full or partial scholarships to influence the decision making process.
2. Penalties – The following penalties will be imposed on any club representative that is found guilty (by an Incident Review Committee) of violating the recruiting guidelines above.
 - c. 1st Offense – \$500 fine and 1 year probation from the date of the offense.
 - d. 2nd Offense – \$1,000 fine and 1 year suspension of membership from the date of the offense.

- e. 3rd Offense – Life time ban of membership with the Florida Region and notification to the National Office of USA Volleyball.

III. LITERATURE USED FOR THE RECRUITING OF PLAYERS

All literature developed to advertise a club or recruit athletes that will be distributed in a direct manner must include the following disclaimer in a minimum of 8 pt. type, set aside from the body of text:

“We are a member club of the Florida Region of USA Volleyball. As a player you may stop any unwanted contact from a club representative by simply asking (either verbally or in writing) that all contact cease. Any player believing a club representative of any Florida Region volleyball club has been intimidating, harassing, or acted inappropriately in any manner of contact or recruiting should contact the Florida Region office at (352) 742-0080.”

Direct distribution includes but is not limited to; mailings to specific players or parents or hand distribution to players and parents.

IV. TRY-OUTS AND REGISTRATION

All players are encouraged to investigate more than one club to determine which organization suites them best. Not all club organizations have try-outs. Some may simply have a registration procedure to follow in order to “join” that club. Parents and players are encouraged to seek out the organization that can best service the athlete. Many factors such as club goals and philosophies, practice and competition schedules, time commitments required, and financial commitments required are a few of the issues that need to be researched. Parents should request the club literature of many clubs and evaluate them to decide whether to attend a try-out session. **PLAYERS CAN TRY-OUT FOR AS MANY CLUBS AS THEY WOULD LIKE.**

Reminder: Players must register in advance of attending a USAV sanctioned tryout and must pay the full membership fee. Also, be aware that some clubs may have a try-out fee separate from that of the USAV registration fee. The amount of the try-out fee may differ from club to club.

To “join” a club volleyball program in the Florida Region, players must register online and must complete the Medical Release Form. These are the only forms required by the Florida Region. Individual clubs may have additional informational questionnaires, uniform contracts or agreements and financial contracts or agreements. These documents are strictly between the family and the club and will not be governed by the Florida Region. Any financial disputes between parties will need to be handled by proper legal authorities. Parents need to make sure to read all documents prior to signing, and understand the ramifications within. The forms required by the Florida Region have the following conditions attached:

- All players must have completed the online registration process and have signed the Waiver & Release of Liability Form before participating in any try-outs, practices or competitions.
- All players must have submitted the full registration fee with the Waiver & Release of Liability Form.
- The Medical Release Form is required to be notarized and should also be handed in at the first site of participation, as well as other sites if you are trying out for more than one club.
- The Parents Information Guide should be handed out with the respective club’s information and is required reading of all parents.

V. TRANSFER POLICY

There are no transfers allowed in the Florida Region without extenuating circumstances. A player can represent only one organization during the Season. A change in geographical location of the family due to a change in job, military, scholastic or inner-collegiate status may receive special consideration. No player may participate in different Qualifying events with different teams/clubs.

(USA Volleyball Official Guide)

Definitions & Guidelines for RVA Sanctioned Regional & Interregional Competition:

D. Eligibility for RVA Sanctioned Competition

2. Representation – A player shall represent no more than one club or team in sanctioned competition during the same season. A family relocation due to a job or military transfer may receive special consideration. The player, or in case of a minor, the parents or guardian, desiring to change will be required to submit a request for transfer to another team or RVA, to the commissioner of the RVA(s) involved. RVAs may establish exceptions to this rule, such as, release and transfers between intra-regional teams. It is recommended that these guidelines be published and distributed.

The Florida Region Policy to release a player from a club they are currently affiliated with is to have the current club director contact the Florida Region via e-mail to registrar@floridavolleyball.org to request the release of the player.

After the 1st jr. national qualifier each season, any player being released from a club will also need an acceptance e-mail from the club they wish to enter. The reason for the acceptance is to make sure the club director is aware of and responsible for the player's eligibility to compete in national events. Please have the new club director send an acceptance e-mail to registrar@floridavolleyball.org

No transfers will be completed without written release and/or acceptance (when applicable) from the club director(s).

VI. "RULE OF TWO" RECRUITING -- BOY'S ONLY

The Rule of Two is a national policy used only in the Boys Club Divisions of the Junior National Volleyball Championships (BJNC) and was developed by the JA (Junior Assembly) and that states the following:

Except for teams competing in the Open Divisions of the BJNC championships, a team may add up to two players to its roster from other USAV teams in its region to play in the BJNC championships, provided the other USAV team(s) have finished their season at the time of the addition and are not competing in the Championships.

Though this policy is not applicable to the GJNC, the Florida Region supports the Rule of Two for those teams participating in post-season tournament, those events held after the Florida Regional Championships within the Florida Region only.

All first contacts concerning Rule of Two recruiting must be initiated from one club director to another club director, not to the player or parent. No contact with a player or parent is permitted until after the conclusion of the age and sex appropriate Florida Regional Championships.

If the transfer of the athlete is agreeable by both parties, the club director of the athlete will contact that player to inform them of the opportunity and give them the name and number of the inquiring director.

If the transfer of the athlete is not agreeable by both parties, the inquiring director has the right to contact the Region Office or the Commissioner to ask for assistance. The regional officer will first contact the other director to investigate the reasons for the disagreement. The respective BoD Chair, the Executive Director, and the Commissioner will then confer on the situation and make a decision whether to allow the possibility of a transfer under the Rule of Two. They will then contact the player or parent to inform them of the inquiry that has been made for that player to participate with another club under the Rule of Two and the regions decision on the transfer. If the ruling of the transfer is favorable, the player or parent will be given the name and number of the inquiring director to be used at their discretion. The inquiring director will not be allowed to initiate contact with the player or parent.

VII. AGE CLASSIFICATIONS

The following age groups shall be in effect for players other than college students who, regardless of age, are not eligible to compete in sanctioned Junior Volleyball events, unless amended by action as specified in Article X, E2,a, (3) of this Operating Code. Athletes need not be currently enrolled in high school.

Please see the forms page of our website for the Age Definitions guidelines.
<http://www.floridavolleyball.org/FormsFP.htm>

Boys 14 and Under Division:

Regionally waived boys teams in the 14 and under age group will be allowed to participate at the USA Junior National Volleyball Championships using the following age/grade definition:

Please see the forms page of our website for the Age Definitions guidelines. <http://www.floridavolleyball.org/FormsFP.htm>

Note: These age definitions are used by domestic club programs and are NOT the same as the age definitions for the International and Domestic High Performance programs.

VIII. COACHES REQUIREMENTS

All coaches are required to be registered members of the USAV - Florida Region. They must also attend an official's clinic (a junior official's clinic at the least) but are not required to take the written test. All coaches must adhere to the **IMPACT certification policy of the Florida Region.

Underage coaches:

The Florida Region requires that all junior coaches be at least 18 years old. The Florida Region Commissioner will grant waivers to this rule for competition under the following conditions:

JR. COACH IN TRAINING

The Florida Region of USA Volleyball now offers a "Jr. Coach Trainee Program" for 16 & 17 year old athletes that are interested in learning to coach. To apply for a waiver, the Club Director must submit a written statement to the Commissioner by using the online form below. The Commissioner may grant waivers to this rule under the following conditions:

1. Must meet all USAVFL standard coaching requirements, and;
2. The applicant is a attending high school, and;
3. The applicant is 16 or 17 years old, and;
4. The applicant is 4 years older than the age group they wish to coach, and;
5. The applicant has attended an IMPACT clinic, and;
6. The Jr. Coach Trainee agrees to wear a Region issued name badge, and;
7. The Director of the club program recommends the applicant.

All adults/coaches affiliated with a junior over the age of 18 must have a current USAV Background Screen. The underage coach cannot be listed as the Head Coach. The region requires that an adult, age 18 or above, be at all practices and competitions to handle emergencies that may arise and to assist in the supervision of the team.

If a coach turns 18 during the season, the club director still needs to apply for an "underage coach" waiver since there will be a period of time in which the applicant will be underage. If an applicant was granted a waiver the previous year and is still under the age of 18, the director must reapply for a new waiver for the current year. The waiver is good only for the year in which it is granted. Applicants must meet all other coaching requirements.

Coaches Code of Ethics:

All coaches and directors are required to sign and adhere to a Coaches Code of Ethics. This form was derived from the United States Olympic Committee's Code of Conduct and Ethics and maintains specific moral and professional practices.

IX. DIRECTORS REQUIREMENTS

All directors are required to be registered members of the USAV - Florida Region. They must also attend an officials clinic, a juniors clinic at the least, but are not required to take the written test. All directors must adhere to the IMPACT certification policy of the Florida Region. All directors must attend a Jr. Forum meeting or send a designated Club Director.

** IMPACT certification is a coaches training course for the "Increased Mastery and Professional Application of Coaching Theory". It is required by the Florida Region and USA Volleyball of all junior club coaches.

X. PARENTS EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Parents are encouraged to learn the sport of volleyball from a spectator's, as well as a player's, point of view. There are junior officiating clinics that every club must attend. There are also adult clinics where more in depth officiating certification occurs. You are welcome to attend one of these clinics to learn more about the official rules of the sport. There may be a fee attached to some of the clinics.

XI. INSURANCE

USA VOLLEYBALL REGIONAL ASSOCIATION INSURANCE PROGRAM

EFFECTIVE DATES: 9/1/XX – 8/31/XX

POLICY FORM: Occurrence Form

NAMED INSURED: United States Volleyball Association, Inc. aka USA Volleyball; its Regional Associations & Commissioners, Clubs, Coaches, Trainers, Official Sponsors, Committee Members, Officials, Volunteers, and Registered Participants in the business of United States Volleyball Association, Inc. functioning on behalf of United States Volleyball Association, Inc. or performing in a “sanctioned or approved event”.

Definition: “Sanctioned or Approved” Event: An event for which the First Named Insured or its Regional Association Commissioner has approved or sanctioned as an USA Volleyball event. Events shall include, but may not be limited to, team competition, practices, sports clinics, or fundraisers conducted or attended as a part of a sanctioned event.

ADDITIONAL INSUREDS: As requested and as those certificates on file with the company.

LIMITS OF INSURANCE:

Each Occurrence:	\$1,000,000
Personal Injury and Advertising Injury:	\$1,000,000
Products - Aggregate Limit:	\$1,000,000
General Aggregate	\$5,000,000
Premises Damage Legal Liability:	\$1,000,000

DEFINITION OF PARTICIPANT: Athletes, coaches, trainers, volunteers, committee members, officials and any other persons who are functioning on behalf of and/or while participating in any event sanctioned or approved by USA Volleyball.

DEFINITION OF PARTICIPATING: Participating includes pre-event and post event activities which are officially approved or sanctioned events. Pre-event activities can include, but are not limited to, clinics, event dinners and pre-event practicing. Post event activities can include, but are not limited to, award banquets, award ceremonies and clinics that occur within one day after the event.

NOTABLE EXCLUSIONS WITHIN THE POLICY: Nuclear Exclusions, Asbestos, Pollution, Employment Related Practices (Including Sexual Harassment), Bodily Injury to Employees, and Player vs. Player claims.

USA Volleyball administers a medical and liability insurance program customized specifically for the sport of volleyball. It is one of the most comprehensive policies available and is designed to respond specifically to the inherent hazards of the sport. Offered as part of the sanctioning program, it is one of the least expensive programs available.

GENERAL LIABILITY COVERAGE

The general liability plan includes spectator and participant liability and host liquor liability coverage. A \$2,000,000 limit of liability for bodily injury and property damage loss is provided with additional limits available on an excess basis. Coverage is provided for officials, volunteers, coaches, trainers, sponsors, and registered participants. The policy covers liability from pre-event setup, the event itself, and post-event activities at sanctioned events. The policy will respond to claims from spectators, participants, and the public in general. The USA Volleyball membership requirement is a condition of the liability policy and a common practice among sports federations.

Chaperones:

It is important to understand that while providing your services as a chaperone and a member of the Florida Region (one event or more) you are also covered by USAV insurance. However, if you are transporting athletes, supplies, etc. in your privately owned vehicle, in relation to a sanctioned event, the general liability that covers you should an accident occur is that of your own policy, not USAV.

Parent Responsibility:

Please remember that your athlete needs to be in the supervision of an adult at all times. If you arrive for practice and there is no adult on the premises, do not leave them. Also, be considerate when picking up your athlete. Make sure you are on time or have made prior arrangements with the coach or director to supervise your athlete until you can arrive.