



Boys Championship Manual

**(The following manual contains information regarding both the National Boys Qualifier and
Boys Junior National Championship)**

Revised: October 2023

2023/2024 Season

USA Volleyball reserves the right to adjust or alter the procedures and policies outlined in the Championship manuals for the 2023/2024 season. To ensure that proper safety measures are taken for all participants and staff, USA Volleyball will adhere to all required local and national guidelines, safety protocols and restrictions,

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INTRODUCTION

GOAL

The goal of USA Volleyball (USAV), which is recognized by the United States Olympic Committee as the National Governing Body for volleyball, and the Junior Assembly of USA Volleyball (JA) is to determine, through competition, the strongest teams in the country while continuing to support the growth and development of the Boys program. A National Qualifier (NQ) structure has been implemented to aid in determining the strong teams—those who will be offered bids into the Open Division of the USA Volleyball Boys Junior National Championship (BJNC), formerly known as the USA Boys Junior Olympic Volleyball Championship (BJOVC). A secondary goal of the bid tournaments is to introduce new divisions to the BJNC, such as the USA Division and American Division.

PURPOSE

The USA Volleyball (USAV) Boys Championship Manual (CM) is intended to be a resource for those organizations currently hosting one of the USA Volleyball Boys National Qualifiers (NQ) and for those organizations whose teams attend the NQs.

The NQs are sanctioned by USAV and must operate under parameters set by USAV. Those parts of the NQs that impact play and, thus, entry into the USA Volleyball Boys Junior National Championships (BJNC) must adhere to standards established in this Manual. The primary purpose of this Manual is to publish the standards established by USA Volleyball through recommendations from the Junior Assembly (JA), USAV Events Department (USAV Events Department) and sanctioned NQ Directors (NQD). The secondary purpose of the Manual is to explain the process of “qualifying” to play at the BJNC.

Note: This Manual only applies to the junior Boys divisions of USAV

CHANGING THE MANUAL

The CM is a USAV corporate document. Only the USAV Events Department may authorize changes, deletions, and additions to this CM and to the qualifying process itself.

Suggestions to change the CM and the qualifying process can come from the USAV Junior Assembly (JA), USAV Commissions, USAV Events Department (Events Department), the National Boys National Qualifier Directors (NQD) or the USAV Regional Volleyball Association Assembly (RVAA). Suggested changes must be submitted to USA Volleyball no later than July 1st to follow a review process in order to be approved; changes that have monetary or legal significance may require a review by the NQDs. Once a suggested change is approved, the implementation may take up to two full seasons.

The Events Department annually updates the CM and distributes an electronic copy of the updated version to each NQD for review. The Events Department will post the updated CM on the USAV website, no later than October 1st of each year.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

American Division: The third-Tier division for 16’s & 18’s only of the BJNCs where Teams must obtain a Bid from their region to participate.

BCC: Boys Competition Committee.

Bid: A Bid is an invitation to a Team to play in the BJNCs through a Boys National Qualifier (NQs) or At-Large bid process. To use the Bid, a Team must meet all entry deadlines and other requirements set by the USAV national office.

At-Large Bid: A BJNC Bid awarded in the Open or USA Division upon the completion of the Qualifier Season by the BJNC Seeding Committee based on performance during that season, in relation to other non-qualified Teams in that age group.

Reallocation Bid: An American Division Bid to the BJNCs that is unused and is returned for reallocation to a Region. Reallocation is performed by the USAV Events Department.

Trickle-Down Bid: A BJNC Bid awarded at a NQ to a Team finishing lower than a usual Bid award position. This happens in some situations when a higher finishing Team has previously accepted a BJNC Bid from another NQ or a Bid is declined.

BJNC: Boys Junior National Championship

NQ: National Qualifier

NQD: NQ Director

CM: Championship Manual

Club: An organization/group of one or more teams of different ages and abilities playing together under the same umbrella organization

Event: Multiple Tournaments or activities associated within the same title, Sanction, and host organization

Frozen Player: A player who is restricted from participating on the roster of another Team. The specifics of the “Frozen Player” are numerous. (Please see [Frozen Player Rule](#)).

JA: Junior Assembly of USA Volleyball

Match: A head-to-head competition between two (2) Teams within a specified round of a Tournament. While typically two (2) sets out of three (3), some Matches may also involve an automatic three (3) sets, or simply one (1) set (used in Tie breaking situations).

Qualifying Match: A Match that “qualifies” a Team for the BJNCs.

Seeding Match: A non-elimination Match meant to place or “seed” Teams into the next round of play.

Open Division: The first-tier division for 14s – 18s of the BJNCs where Teams must obtain a bid to participate

Playing Surface: Area deemed as “playable” by the USAV 2023 – 2025 Domestic Competition Regulations for that court.

Region: One of 40 established member organizations of USAV governing a specific geographical area.

Round of play: A specified segment of a Tournament (typically a pool or playoff bracket). Tie breaker competition is NOT considered a round of play.

Sanction: Recognition and coverage of a given Event, and/or Tournament within an Event, by either a Region of USAV or the National Office.

Second Warm Up Period: Start of receiving Team’s warm-up.

Seeding: The order in which Teams are ranked to begin a Tournament.

Seeding Committee: A committee designated by the USAV Events Department consisting of 4-7 USAV members in good standing. Seeding Committee members are responsible for Seeding of all divisions at the BJNCs, Open Divisions of NQs (if requested by NQs Tournament Director) and selection of At-Large Bids for BJNC.

Team: A minimum of six (6) rostered players and a maximum of fifteen (15), who are members in good standing of USAV and at least one (1) coach who is a member in good standing of USAV, IMPACT certified, SafeSport trained, and has successfully passed a USAV background screen. All additional rostered staff up to five (5) total, must meet the respected requirements to their position.

Tie: When two (2) or more Teams end pool play with identical Match records.

Tie Break: Method by which a Ties after pool play has concluded, are given a ranked order of finish to either advance to the next round of play or be placed into a competitive Tie breaking Match or series of Matches.

Tournament: Competition of a specific group of Teams (i.e. Boys 16s Open Tournament) that could also be known as a “Championship.”

USA Division: The second-tier division for 14s – 18s of the BJNCs where Teams must obtain a bid to participate.

USAV: USA Volleyball

CHANGES/EDITS TO CHAMPIONSHIP MANUAL FOR 2024 SEASON

Page 8- Age Definition Updates

Page 10- Division numbers updated

Page 12- National Qualifier New bid allocation for NQs – See chart and pages for details

Page 17- Updated Rules of Play

Page 20- 5th place Bracket for awarding trickle down bid

Page 23- Updated Tie breaker language- how teams are ranked if 3 teams tied in point percentage

Page 23– Updated Tie breaker rules with forfeits for teams not showing up

Page 27- Safesport wording updated

Page 29- New rule for Player missing from the roster

Page 34- Foreign Team Policy updated



CHAPTER 1: PARTICIPANTS

USA VOLLEYBALL JUNIOR PLAYER AGE DEFINITION

For use during the 2023-2024 Season

Once a player participates (including but not limited to practicing, training, attending workouts and/or competing) in a club or varsity program for any university, college, community college, or junior college, he/she is ineligible to take part in any regional and national programming, which includes but is not limited to national JNC qualifying and championship events.

The Age Definition Policy was most recently revised by the USA Volleyball Board of Directors on June 30, 2020.

The classification cut-off date of July 1 was reviewed by the USAV Junior Assembly and the USA Regional Volleyball Association Assembly prior and research justified the new cut-off date of July 1.

To determine the correct age division, please find the Month of Birth in the left column and then the year of birth in the same row. The heading of the column matching the Year of Birth is the correct age bracket.

	18 & Under ¹	18 & Under ²	17 & Under	16 & Under	15 & Under ³	14 & Under ⁴	13 & Under ⁵	12 & Under	11 & Under	10 & Under	9 & Under	8 & Under
July	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Aug	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Sept	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Oct	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Nov	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Dec	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Jan	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Feb	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Mar	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Apr	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
May	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
June	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016

¹ Players who were born on or after July 1, 2004 and a high school student in the twelfth (12th) grade or below during some part of the current academic year are eligible to compete in 18 & under.

² **Female Only** - Players who were born on or after July 1, 2005, (who are defined as 18 & under by the USAV Age Definition) and are in the 11th grade for the current academic year are waived to compete in 17 & under. (This age waiver is based on recruiting concerns for 11th grade girls previously required to participate in girls 18's qualifiers and the 18's GJNC.)

³ **Male Only** - Players who were born on or after July 1, 2009 OR players who were born on or after July 1, 2008 (15 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the eighth (8th) grade during the current academic year **are eligible to play in the 14 & Under division**. This exception is based on the net height difference of 7'4 1/8" to 7'11 5/8" between the 14 and Under Division to the 15 and Under Division.

⁴ **Male Only** - Players who were born on or after July 1, 2009 (14 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the seventh grade (7th) during the current academic year are eligible for a Region approved waiver to compete in the boys 13's age group.

⁵ **Male Only** - Players who were born on or after July 1, 2010 (13 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the sixth grade (6th) during the current academic year are eligible for a Region approved waiver to compete in the boys 12's age group.

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

WAIVERED PLAYERS

Teams **MAY NOT** use players who have a waiver from their region for age requirements.

Boys 14 and Under Division:

Regionally waived boys' teams in the 12, 13, and 14 and under will be allowed to participate at the USA Junior National Championships using the following age/grade definition:

14 and Under Waiver

- Players who were born on or after July 1, 2009
- OR Players who were born on or after July 1, 2008 (15 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the eighth grade (8th) during the current academic year. (This exception is based on the net height difference of 7'4 1/8" to 7' 11 5/8" between the 14 and Under Division to the 15 and Under Division.)

13 and under Waiver

- Players who were born on or after July 1, 2010
- OR Players who were born on or after July 1, 2009 (14 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the seventh grade (7th) during the current academic year.

12 and Under Waiver

- Players who were born on or after July 1, 2011
- OR Players who were born on or after July 1, 2010 (13 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the sixth grade (6th) during the current academic year. (This exception is based on the net height difference of 7'to 7'4 1/8" to 7'11 5/8" between the 12 and Under Division to the 13 and Under Division.)

BJNC DIVISIONS OF PLAY - OPEN, USA, AMERICAN & CLUB

There are four (4) major divisions of play at BJNC – Open Divisions, USA Divisions, American Divisions, and the Club Divisions.

The goal of the BJNC **Open Divisions** is to identify, through competition, the best Team in each BJNC age group from among Teams (see chart below) that have earned Bids. The NQ Open Divisions are designed to select those Teams.

- To participate in an Open Division at the BJNC, a Team must earn a bid from participating in an NQ Open Division – either winning the bid outright at a NQ or being selected for an At-Large Bid after competing in a NQ Open Division (see [Open At-Large Bids](#)).

The goal of the BJNC **USA Divisions** is to create more opportunities for teams to play, to provide a second qualification division at the BJNC, and create more manageable field sizes between the Club and Open divisions at the BJNC.

- To participate in a USA Division at the BJNC, a Team must earn a bid from participating in an NQ USA Division – either winning the bid outright at a NQ or being selected for an At-Large Bid after competing in a NQ Open or USA Division (see [USA At-Large Bids](#)).

The goal of the BJNCs **American Division** is to showcase Region Teams and provide the opportunity for more Teams to participate at the BJNCs.

- To participate in an American division at BJNC, a team must earn a bid through their Region's Bid process or earn a bid from their Region through the Re-allocation process.

The goal of the BJNC **Club Divisions** is to allow opportunity for Teams to participate at the BJNC without following the qualification process.

Age Classification, Divisions & Team Entries

Currently, there are BJNC National Qualifiers for each of the following age divisions:

	18 & Under	17 & Under	16 & Under	15 & Under	14 & Under	13 & Under	12 & Under
Open Division	24 Teams	24Teams	24 Teams	24 Teams	24 Teams		
USA Division	36 Teams	36 Teams	36 Teams	36 Teams	36 Teams		
American Division	48 Teams		48 Teams				
Club Division*	64 Teams	48 Teams	64 Teams	32 Teams	32 Teams	24 Teams	16 Teams

*Club Divisions will have a soft cap of the number listed above, but may accept additional teams in a tournament, in multiples of 4 teams, dependent on available court space

Note: Not all National Qualifiers host all age divisions. Some National Qualifiers host competition in age divisions that do not currently have a Junior National Championship (for example, 10 & Under).

STRUCTURE OF THE NATIONAL QUALIFYING PROCESS

The primary purpose of the NQs is to select, through Tournament competition, which teams in various age groups will qualify to play in the *Open and USA Divisions* at the BJNC. Tournament play at the NQs is divided into Open divisions and USA divisions. Teams may qualify for a Bid outside of the NQ process for the American division. Some NQ may opt to offer a non-bid division named Club.

The secondary purposes of the NQs are to:

- Promote inter-regional play.
- Provide a high level of competition for teams at different levels within each age division.
- Showcase junior talent for college recruiters and USAV National Team Development.
- Promote the growth and development of volleyball in a particular geographic area.
- Provide a training ground for officials.

Currently, there are ten (10) National Qualifiers: Boys Atlantic Northeastern Tournament, Mid-Atlantic Boys , Boys Winter Volleyball Championships, Florida Fest, Dennis Lafata Gateway Boys Festival, Molten Can-Am, Mountain Classic, No Dinx/NCVA Boys Bid Tournament, SCVA Junior Boys' Invitational, and the Southwest Boys Classic.

USAV ROLE IN THE NATIONAL QUALIFIER EVENTS

The USAV Events Department, in consultation and coordination with the appropriate committee(s) will develop, standardize, implement, evaluate, and oversee the qualification process for the BJNC.

USAV and the Events Department monitor the qualifying process each season, and with their various committees:

- Determine the process by which Teams are accepted or denied entry into a NQ division.
- Have final approval of all formats used at NQ.
- Approve the NQ schedule grid.
- Have final approval of at-large bids selected for the BJNC, based on the recommendation of the BCC.
- Review and recommend improvements for NQ operations
- Establish and verify individual eligibility requirements for all participants in both Bid and non-Bid divisions

BJNC BID PROCESS

National Qualifier and Bids

Each of the following NQs will be allocated a specific number of bids to award based on the number of teams entered in each age division. To award Open and USA bids, the NQs must offer single age group divisions in all divisions that are offered at the BJNC. In addition, Open and USA bids will only be awarded at bid events in age divisions that are held over a minimum of two days.

NEW: Table 1 explains the total number of bids allocated that a NQ can receive if they hit the threshold listed in table 2 (below), based on total number of teams attending in a field.

***USAV reserves the right to reallocate bids for the 2023/24 season based on the Tournaments registration numbers**

TABLE 1

AGE GROUP	Open Divisions	USA Divisions
	# Of Bids per NQ	# Of Bids per NQ
18	2	3
17	2	3
16	2	3
15	2	3
14	2	3
PU & AH	1 Bid Each	1 Bid Each
*Additional Bids	2	4

*Specifies the number of additional bids that will be awarded to the NQs with the highest number of teams in the respective age division.

PUR and Hawaii given at-large bids to support grassroots and reduce travel for younger teams. Neither territory is considered a sanctioned bid tournament. See Open At-Large criteria for more information

Additional Bids: NQs with the largest registration from the 22/23 season in each respective age division will receive additional bids in that age division. The distribution of additional bids will be decided by the USAV events department based on available bids. NQs will be notified of any additional bid allocations prior to event start.

The number of teams entered in an age division at the entry deadline or the number of teams in an age division at the start of the event, whichever is greater, will be the number used to determine how many bids a NQ will receive up to the maximum allocated to that event, per the following table:

Table 2

Max # of Bids Awarded in Each Division	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Min # of Teams in Field	6	10	14	18	22	26	28	30	32

*Special field size—can only be approved by USAV, otherwise the minimum starts at 6 teams
 The above is subject to annual review and modification by the USA Volleyball Events Department.

Open and USA Division Bids

- In the NQ, Open or USA bids will be offered to the teams that finish the competition in a bid award position. The Bid(s) can trickle-down to the next highest finishing Team, provided the next highest finishing Team finished no lower than 50% of the field size in the Tournament.
- Bids must be accepted or denied at the time the bid is awarded by the tournament director. Tournament Director must provide written proof that the bid was declined. Bids not awarded at the Bid Tournament will revert to the Open or USA At-large pool.
- NQs will determine the timing of written declaration of a bid, this may occur as early as team registration
- If a team finishes in a bid award position and declines the bid, that team will not be eligible for at-large consideration.
- To compete in an Open or USA division at the BJNC, a team must earn a bid at a NQ or be awarded a bid through the at-large process. Please see Open and USA At Large Criteria for more on the At Large Process Criteria
 - At all NQ, the USA Division will be offered for the 14s- 18s age groups.

Should either division fail to receive the minimum number of Six (6) registered teams, the divisions may be combined and will be called the Open Division.

- In order for the combined Open Division to retain (1) Open Bid and (1) USA Bid, the division must have a minimum of ten (10) registered teams. NQs are allowed to only grant (1) Open and (1) USA when combining divisions regardless of number of entries over (10) registered teams,
 - If the combined Open Division has less than Ten (10) registered teams, the NQs will award only one (1) Open bid.

Should either Open or USA divisions in an age group fail to receive the minimum number of Six (6) registered teams, the divisions may be combined and called OPEN-USA. At least 1 Open and 1 USA bid shall be awarded.

*** For the 2023/24 SEASON: USAV Reserves the right to adjust the bid distribution in the event of combining divisions**

Open and USA At-Large Bids Awarded through USA Volleyball

To be considered for an at-large bid to the BJNC, a team must enter the event through the approved USAV online registration system as an Open or USA team, and submit complete and accurate results by all posted deadlines. In the absence of results, a letter of explanation addressing the reason(s) why such results are not available, and reason(s) why the team should be considered for an at-large bid should be submitted. The letter is to be submitted to the USAV Events Department by the entry deadline. Please see the current BJNC Pre-Tournament Manual for deadlines and other information (www.usavolleyball.org). The teams awarded the at-large bids will be selected by the BCC with final approval of the USAV Events Department using the following criteria:

1. Must have competed in at least one (1) bid tournament (in a bid division—Open OR USA)
2. Register your team in the desired At-Large division for the BJNC in AES and send payment and the entry form by the posted deadline (may not register for both Open & USA but if a team is not awarded an Open bid, it will be considered for USA). ***Please note: If previously registered in club division please reach out to BJNC@usav.org to change divisions to the desired At Large division**
3. Strength
4. Record against Qualified teams
5. Record against At Large applicants
6. Past year's BJNC finish of the rostered players
7. Date of entry

The BCC committee and the USAV Events Department will rank all Open At-Large and USA At-Large applicants together regardless of the division entered and assign bids by that agreed upon rank. Teams awarded an At-Large bid have up to three (3) business days to accept or decline the bid. If a team declines a bid, the declining bid will trickle down to the next team in rank order. If a team accepts a bid but does not participate in BJNC, the team is subject to sanctions for not using bids.

The BCC and USAV EVENTS DEPARTMENT reserve the right to accept as many or as few teams applying for an At-Large Bid to round out numbers and create even pool play.

Any team that declines an Open or USA bid at a bid tournament will be ineligible for an at-large bid.

*In the Open Division(s) Hawaii and Puerto Rico will be given one (1) bid for the 14s-18s & underage divisions. Each territory will award those bids to a team in each age division by any means they deem appropriate (i.e. a tournament or via an application process). Any other team wishing to receive a bid for the 14 or 15 & under age divisions must attend a bid tournament and apply for an At-Large bid if necessary. **If Hawaii or Puerto Rico choose to award the allotted bids via a tournament, that tournament is not considered a sanctioned USAV bid tournament and does not count towards the required criteria to be eligible to apply for an at-large bid.**

Announcement of At-large Bids

The USAV Events Department will announce the Teams being awarded the BJNC At-Large Bids no later than the second Tuesday after the last NQ. The Events Department will notify Teams awarded an At-Large Bid by email, sent to the Coach and Club Director at the email addresses provided in the BJNC's Event registration system.

BJNCs Bids Awarded Through a Region

Regions are allocated Bids to the American division at the BJNCs. Regions have the authority to establish their own process for awarding these Bids. Bids awarded through a Region must be accepted in writing at or prior to the time of the Bid being awarded

American Division:

Region may receive one- two (1-2) American Bid to award at their discretion for each of their the 16's & 18's. As there are a total of 48 Bids to be allocated to 40 Regions, the Forty-eight (48) Regions with Bids allocated are determined through a junior boys membership benchmark that is defined in the Bid allocation chart posted on the USAV website.

Reallocation Bids

When a Bid is returned, the USAV Events Department distributes Reallocation Bids to the Regions in an order determined by the number of junior boys' members and the proximity of that number to certain benchmark membership numbers. When a Team earns a higher-ranking Bid, the vacated Bid will stay with the Region (see Rules for Priority of Bid Use).

Rules of Priorities of Bid Use

Some Teams participate in more than one qualifying process in a season, either through their Region, by attending NQs, by applying for an At-Large Bid, or by some combination of these processes. If the Team earns more than one (1) Bid, the following rules apply as to which Bid the Team must use, and what happens to the other Bid(s).

The priority of Bid use is as follows:

1. Open
2. USA
3. American (16s & 18s Only)

Open bids supersede USA bids. A team earning and accepting an Open bid may not accept a USA bid at another event. If a Team previously accepted a USA Bid from NQ, the Team must use the Open Bid. A team earning and accepting a USA bid may apply for Open At-Large if all criteria has been met and **must notify** USAV Events at (BJNC@usav.org) to be considered for an Open At-Large. **Teams in any division may decline bids.**

When an Open Bid is the second Bid a Team earns and accepts, from either a NQ or the At-Large Bid process:

- If a Team previously accepted a USA bid, the Team must use the Open Bid. The USA Bid will remain in the Region of the Team that originally accepted the USA Bid. If the Region is unable to allocate this Bid, the Bid will go into the At-Large Bid process.
- If a Team previously accepted an American Bid (16s & 18s only), the Team must use the Open Bid. The American Bid will remain in the Region of the Team that originally accepted the Bid. If the Region is unable to allocate this Bid, the Bid will be reallocated to the next Region in line.

When a USA Bid is the second Bid a Team earns and accepts:

- If a Team accepts a reallocated USA Bid through a Region Bid process and then earns a USA Bid at a NQ, the NQ USA Bid will supersede the Region reallocated USA Bid. The vacated USA Bid will revert to the Region of origin for reallocation. If the Region is unable to allocate this USA Bid, it reverts to the At-Large Bid process.
- If a Team previously accepted an American from a Region (16s & 18s Only), the Team must use the USA Bid. The American Bid will remain in the Region of the Team that originally accepted the Bid. If the Region is unable to allocate this Bid, the Bid will be reallocated to the next Region in line.

Eligibility

For a team to be eligible for any bid, that team must have completed all entry requirements for the BJNC. If a team has not met the BJNC entry requirements by the deadline date and has previously accepted the bid, that team is no longer eligible for entry and may be subject to additional penalties. **No leniency will be given on the JNC entry deadlines! Missed entry deadlines will result in the loss of the bid.** Please refer to the BJNC Pre Tournament Manual for specific deadlines and information.

PENALTIES

To ensure the integrity of BJNCs and to promote fair play, it may be necessary for USAV to impose penalties. USAV will convene an Event committee to review each case and impose a proper penalty(ies) if warranted.

Factors that will be considered for establishing penalties:

- Compliancy with deadlines and requirements
- Time of notification from the start of BJNCs
- Previous club/member behavior
- Level of play (Open vs American)
- Where Bid is earned and accepted (NQ vs. Regional)
- Severity of offense
- Age and Experience
- Region Input

Penalties for Not Using a Bid

It is disruptive to the quality of the Event when Bids are returned after being accepted. There are financial consequences, administrative challenges, and logistical delays for Teams, Region administrators and USAV personnel. Inevitably this takes opportunities away from other Teams participating in the qualification process.

A Team that does not use a BJNCs Open, USA, or American bid which it has earned and accepted may be subject to the following penalties:

- Financial Penalties
 - Payment of entry fee (if a team returns a bid at least 30 days prior to the start of BJNC) OR entry fee plus \$1,000 fine (if a team returns a bid within 30 days of the start of BJNC).
 - If the payment is not received for the BJNC Event Entry Fee and/or fines, the club director(s), coaches affiliated with official qualification roster will be prohibited from participating in NQ and BJNC until the fee is paid in full. Further legal actions may be taken to ensure payment is received.
- Suspension of Participation:
 - Club Director suspended from participation in all-NQ and/or Regional Qualification Events and BJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
 - Head Coach listed on the official qualification roster suspended from participation in all NQ and/or Regional Qualification Events and BJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
 - All members listed on the official qualification roster suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and BJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.

- Specific age group from club suspended from participation in all NQs and/or Regional Qualification Events and BJNC for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- Club or specific team suspended from participation in all NQ and/or Regional Qualification Events and BJNC for the remainder of the season and the following season.
- All suspensions will be published and updated on the USAV website.

Additional Penalties:

- USAV reserves the right to impose additional penalties as deemed necessary.

Regions reserve the right to impose additional penalties to Clubs and/or Teams within their Region.

Penalties for Illegal Use of Bid

If a Team is deemed ineligible or have ineligible participants (age falsification, frozen player, foreign participation, ethics/eligibility, SafeSport violations etc.) the following penalties may be applied:

- Financial Penalties:
 - Loss of entry fee and a \$2,500 fine.
 - If the payment is not received for the BJNC Event entry fee and/or fines, the club director(s), coaches affiliated with official qualification roster will be prohibited from participating in NQs and BJNC until the fee is paid in full. Further legal actions may be taken to ensure payment is received.
- Suspension of Participation:
 - Club Director suspended from participation in all NQ and/or Regional Qualification Events and BJNC for the remainder of the season and the following season.
 - Head Coach listed on the official qualification roster suspended from participation in all NQ and/or Regional Qualification Events and BJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
 - All members listed on the official qualification roster suspended from participation in NQ and/or Regional Qualification Events and BJNC for the remainder of the season and the following season.
 - Specific age group from club suspended from participation in all NQ and/or Regional Qualification Events and BJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
 - Club or specific team suspended from participation in all-NQ and/or Regional Qualification Events and BJNCs for the remainder of the season and the following season.
 - Suspended membership or probation.
 - All suspensions will be published and updated on the USAV website.
- Additional Penalties:
 - Revocation of past awards, winnings and titles.
 - USAV reserves the right to impose additional penalties as deemed necessary (see [USAV Age Definition Policy](#))

Regions reserve the right to impose additional penalties to Clubs and/or Teams within their Region.

Appeals

When a penalty(ies) is imposed on a club/Team/individual by USAV, they may file for an appeal. Appeals may be filed with the USAV Ethics and Eligibility Committee by sending all relevant documentation to the USAV Staff Attorney by deadlines

outlined in the initial Sanction letter. All appeals shall be accompanied by a non-refundable \$100 fee made payable to USA Volleyball.

BID TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

All NQs must adhere to the same competitive format standards when conducting their events. The information in this section of the Championship manual applies to *all* NQs.

RULES OF PLAY

The rules of play are as prescribed in the USA Volleyball Rules Book. Below are key editorial corrections, clarifications and new rules pertaining to the 2023/2024 season

- USAV 4.3.3.1a: Uniform numbers must be clearly visible and centered side to side on the front and back of the jersey
- USAV 5.1.2.1: Judgment decisions are not subject to protest. A protest related to a judgment decision may result in a penalty (red card) being assessed to the coach.
- USAV 12.4.4 and USAV 12.4.4a: For 14-and-under age groups, the server must hit the ball within 8 seconds after the 1st referee whistles for service. If the server tosses the ball and then catches it or allows it to fall to the floor, this is considered a service tossing error, including a ball that touches the server as it falls.
- Rule 14.3: In blocking, the player may place his/her hands and arms beyond the net, provided that this action does not interfere with the opponent's play. Thus, it is not permitted to touch the ball beyond the net before an opponent has executed an attack hit.
- USAV 18.2.1: The default protocol is for each team to remain on their respective side of the court throughout the match, including the deciding set. The event organizer determines there is a clear disadvantage on only one side of the court.

Artificial Noise Makers and Portable Music Devices

Due to their disruptive nature, artificial noise makers are prohibited at NQ and BJNC. In addition, teams may not use portable music devices courtside, including during warmups.

Match Formats

All matches, including bid playoff matches, will be the best 2-out-of-3 sets. The first two sets will be played to 25 points using rally scoring, with one team winning by two points and no point cap. If a third game is necessary, the third game will be played to 15 points using rally scoring, with one team winning by two points and no point cap. USAV rules apply. (Note: Round 1 3-team pools may play 3 sets to 25.)

Tournament Formats

The Tournament format determines the number of pools in a division, the number of teams in each pool and the sequence of play, from pool play through playoffs. A Tournament "flow chart" illustrates the sequence of the format components. The USAV Events Department with input from the BCC will approve the Tournament formats and flow charts for National qualifier Tournaments according to the number of teams in a division. The ideal format is to create pools of four teams but depending on the number of teams in a division, may create pools of three or five.

A final pool finish will be determined first by match results and then followed by game percentage. A "round" is one complete pool for a division

For a 2-day event, five (5) matches or the equivalent number of sets are guaranteed, and a 3-day event will guarantee seven (7) matches or the equivalent number of sets.

Division Formats

- If additional playoff matches are necessary to award a trickle-down bid(s), teams will hold their earned playoff bracket seed going into the new playoff bracket. More information on playoffs under the Bid Playoffs section of manual.

POOL PLAY SEQUENCES

All pool play will follow the sequence listed below unless otherwise approved by the USAV Events Department:

Round	Four-Team Pools	Three-Team Pools	Five-Team Pools on 2 courts
Match 1	1 vs. 3 (ref 2)	1 vs. 3 (ref 2)	1 vs. 5 and 2 vs. 4 (ref 3)
Match 2	2 vs. 4 (ref 1)	2 vs. 3 (ref 1)	1 vs. 4 and 2 vs. 3 (ref 5)
Match 3	1 vs. 4 (ref 3)	1 vs. 2 (ref 3)	Break
Match 4	2 vs. 3 (ref 1)		1 vs. 3 and 4 vs. 5 (ref 2)
Match 5	3 vs. 4 (ref 2)		2 vs. 5 and 3 vs. 4 (ref 1)
Match 6	1 vs. 2 (ref 4)		1 vs. 2 and 3 vs. 5 (ref 4)

Additional Options:

Two Four-Team Pools (A & B) on 2 Courts		Five-Team Pools on 2 courts
A 1 vs. 3 (ref B3)	A 2 vs. 4 (ref B2)	2 vs. 5 and 1 vs. 4 (ref 3)
B 1 vs. 3 (ref A3)	B 2 vs. 4 (ref A4)	3 vs. 5 and 2 vs. 4 (ref 1)
A 2 vs. 3 (ref B3)	A 1 vs. 4 (ref B4)	30 Minute Break
B 2 vs. 3 (ref A2)	B 1 vs. 4 (ref A4)	1 vs. 3 and 4 vs. 5 (ref 2)
A 1 vs. 2 (ref B4)	A 3 vs. 4 (ref B1)	2 vs. 3 and 1 vs. 5 (ref 4)
B 3 vs. 4 (ref A1)	B 1 vs. 2 (ref A3)	30 Minute Break
		3 vs. 4 and 1 vs. 2 (ref 5)

PLAYING SCHEDULES

- All matches will be scheduled one (1) hour apart. Some pools may play on two days to complete the pool (e.g. begin play one day in the evening and finish the next morning).
- The first match of a pool may not begin before its scheduled time. Within a pool and after the first match, a match may begin up to 15 minutes before the scheduled starting time, provided the two teams competing, the officials, work team and the Tournament staff all agree to it and there is sufficient time for the warm-up protocol.
- The last match of a pool may begin more than 15 minutes ahead of schedule provided the two teams competing, the officials, work team, and the Tournament staff all agree to it and there is sufficient time for the warm-up protocol.
- NQ Directors can allow matches to proceed ahead of the published schedule after the second round in pool play. All teams involved must be present and agree.

5th Place Brackets for Awarding Trickle Down Bids:

Teams that are either declining or have already won and accepted a bid in an equal or higher division will be eliminated and not part of the below scenarios:

# Teams w/out Bid	# Bids Available	
4	3	Two 2 team brackets, bracket winners earn bid AND two losers play bracket of 2 for final bid
4	2	Two 2 team brackets, both bracket winners earn bids
4	1	One Bracket of 4, bracket winner earns bid
3	3	No matches played, all teams earn bids and finish 5 th
3	2	Reverse Bracket of 3 based on current seeds (1v2 then loser plays 3) winner of match 1 and 2 qualifies.
3	1	Bracket of 3 based on current seeds, bracket winner qualifies (2v3 then winner plays 1)
2	2	No matches played, all teams earn bids and finish 5 th
2	1	One Bracket of 2, bracket winner earns bid
1	1	No matches played, team earn bids and finishes 5 th

COURT USE

- A NQ may not schedule more than 13 matches on a court in one day, unless otherwise approved by the USAV Events Department. Tie-breaking sets will not count as scheduled matches.
- Final Matches of the day must be scheduled to begin no later than 9:00 p.m (with an 8:00 a.m. start) or 9:30 p.m. (with an 8:30 a.m. start)
 - For NQs Matches on day 3 of competition, Matches may not be scheduled to begin later than 3:00 p.m. If a division is larger than 64 teams, the first round of playoffs can be scheduled for the second day. Teams must still be given a minimum of one (1) match on the third day.

WARM-UP PROTOCOL

The warm-up schedule (2-4-4) for all matches will consist of:

- Two (2) minutes of shared court time for ball handling;
- Four (4) minutes of exclusive court time for the serving team;
- Four (4) minutes of exclusive court time for the receiving team.
- There will be no shared hitting time.
- By rule, when one team has exclusive use of the court, the other team must be at their bench; they may not use balls or be in spectator areas.

ADDITIONAL TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

- Match scores and pool results (electronic or printed) should be posted in a central, public place as quickly as possible. Spectators and participants usually appreciate postings in additional sites.
- Playing schedules (electronic or printed) should be posted in a central, public place.
- Corrections to any of the printed materials should be posted in a central, public place. Corrections on electronic materials should be noted on the site.

National Qualifier staff should be available to answer questions from attendees and participants.

TIE BREAKERS TO DETERMINE POOL FINISH

For the 2023-2024 season, all Playoff Tie Breaker Sets described in the Championship Manual have been reinstated for all Indoor National Qualifiers and National Championships.

At the conclusion of a pool, the pool finish position of the teams is determined by their pool match records.

If there is a tie in match record among 2 or more teams in the pool, tie(s) are resolved using the Tie Break Rules, even in 3 team pools where all 3 sets are required to be played.

TIE BREAK RULES

Ties in Matches are broken by the following steps:

TWO TEAMS TIE IN MATCHES

Always broken head-to-head. No exceptions.

THREE-OR-MORE TEAMS TIE IN MATCHES

1. Head-to-head results are used to determine pool finishes for teams that are tied in Match Record.
 - a) A team that beats all the other teams with which it is tied in Match Record will finish ahead of the other teams in the pool.

- b) A team that has lost to all the other teams with which it is tied in Match Record is placed behind the other teams in pool finish.
 - c) If there are only two teams tied in matches after steps 1(a) and 1(b) have been applied, the head-to-head winner of those 2 teams earns the higher pool finish.
 - d) If after applying steps 1(a), 1(b) & 1(c), teams remain tied, then the ranking of those remaining teams follows the procedure in step 2.
2. Set percentage is the 2nd level of breaking ties and is used to rank a pool in which teams remain tied after applying the rules in step 1.
- a) Teams with a higher set percentage finish ahead of teams with a lower set percentage.
 - b) If only two teams are tied in both match percentage and set percentage, the team that won head-to-head receives the higher finish in the pool.
 - c) If three teams (or more) are tied in match percentage and set percentage after applying steps 2(a) & 2(b), the tie breaking procedure followed is based on whether a team is eliminated from advancing to the Gold at BJNC/GJNCs or earning the Qualifier Bid to BJNC/GJNCs using Steps 2(d) and 2(e).
 - d) **If no team is eliminated from advancing to the Gold at BJNC/GJNCs or earning a Bid to BJNC/GJNCs,** pool finish among the teams tied in Match percentage and Set percentage is determined by Point percentage. If two teams are still tied in point percentage, the head to head winner finishes higher.
 - e) **If a team would be eliminated from advancing to the Gold at BJNC/GJNCs or earning a Bid to BJNC/GJNCs,** the remaining teams that are tied in match percentage and set percentage have Playoff Tie Breaker Set(s) played as defined in step 3.
3. Playoff Tie Breaker Sets are played if 3 or more teams remain tied after applying steps 1 & 2. Girls National Qualifiers Boys National Qualifiers and the BJNC/GJNCs have different protocols and are defined below.

Girl's National Qualifiers and Boys National Qualifiers:

To determine pool finish position, tied teams are ranked by their point percentage from the pool. If 3 or more tied teams are tied in point percentage, they will be ranked for a playoff based on initial ranking in the pool. Tie Breakers Sets, if required, are played as 1 set to 15. There may be brackets of 2, 3, or 4 teams. Tie Breaker sets are only played for the last spot leading to a Qualifier Bid.

- a) If there is 1 pool position available for a team to advance to play for a bid position, all teams participate in the Tie Breaker Sets. The sequence of play offsets is structured so that the teams with the highest point percentages have the fewest number of Tie Breaker Sets to play.
- b) If there are two pool positions available for a team to advance to play for a bid position, the team with the highest point percentage is ranked the highest and receives one of the advancing positions. remaining teams participate in the Tie Breaker Sets. The sequence of playoff sets is structured so that the teams with the highest point percentages have the fewest number of Tie Breaker Sets to play.
- c) If there are three pool positions available for a team to advance to play for a bid, the two teams with the highest point percentages each receive one of the advancing spots. The remaining teams participate in the Tie Breaker Sets. The sequence of play offsets are structured so that the teams with the highest point percentages have the fewest number of Tie Breaker Sets to play.

Following the rules set out above, it is possible for one or more tied teams to advance without having to play in a Tie Breaker Set, as only the last pool position is played off. It is possible that teams will be eliminated from the GOLD bracket in a National Qualifier as the Tie Breaker is played to determine the chance to play for a Qualifier Bid, NOT for the Gold Bracket.

USAV Girls Jr National CJNCs) and USAV Boys Junior National Championships (BJNC):

Tied teams are ranked by their point percentage from the pool. Tie Breakers Sets are played as 1 set to 15 and may be brackets of 2, 3, or 4 teams. Tie Breaker sets will only be played for the last spot leading to the GOLD Bracket.

The Tie breaking procedure is the same as outlined in the above steps 3(a), 3(b), & 3(c).

It is possible for one or more of the tied teams to advance without having to play in a Tie Breaker Set as only the last spot is played off.

If one or more of the tied teams are not present at the court at the beginning of the timed warm-ups (including the officiating team which may only have officiating responsibilities), the following scenarios should be followed:

- a. If one of the tied teams in the pool is not present, the missing team will be eliminated from the tiebreaker and assigned the lowest position available within the tie.
- b. If two of the tied teams in the pool are not present, the missing teams will be eliminated from the tiebreaker and the one team present will be awarded the highest position available. The other two teams will be set based on head-to-head results in the pool.
- c. If all 3 of the tied teams in the pool are not present, the teams will be set based on points.

BID PLAYOFFS

Due to trickle down situations, declining of bids and initial formats, sometimes additional Bid Playoff matches are required to be added to the format of a division so that all required finishing spots can be resolved, and remaining bids can be awarded (This is not to be confused with any TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES). Adding BID PLAYOFFS to a division will follow the steps below:

Teams Not Eligible:

Teams that do NOT want a bid

Teams that already have a bid

Note: This information should be gathered prior to single elimination bracket play

Format

Single elimination bracket play (best 2-out-of-3 sets; the first two sets will be played to 25 points using rally scoring, with one team winning by two points and no point cap; If a third game is necessary, the third game will be played to 15 points using rally scoring, with one team winning by two points and no point cap).

Seeding

Teams will hold their earned playoff bracket seed going into the new bid playoff bracket.

Procedure

1. Determine how many bids are available
2. Determine number of eligible teams
3. Determine Trickle down (50% of the field)
4. Seed bracket based on earned playoff bracket seed
5. Single elimination bracket play until all bids are awarded or trickle down is exhausted

Possible Scenarios

# of Bids	# of Teams	Format	Notes
1	2 and more	Single Elim Bracket	
2	3	Special Playoff	#1 vs. #2, winner receives bid, loser plays #3
2	4 and more	Single Elim Bracket	
3	4	Single Elim Bracket	#1 vs. #4, #2 vs. #3, winners receive bids, losers play for 3 rd bid
4+	5 and more	Single Elim Bracket	

TEAM AND PLAYER POLICIES

Participation in Multiple Divisions

Each NQ that operates under one name or one USAV Sanction is defined as a single NQ Event, even if the NQ activity is held on multiple weekends or in multiple locations. A player may only be on one (1) Team roster in a single NQ

- Players frozen to rosters may no longer play on a different Team at NQ.
- A Team represented by a specific Team code may participate in no more than one (1) division of a single NQ Event.

Playing up

A Team should play in the division that conforms to the USAV age requirements for the Team's players. The Team's 11 digit code stipulates its proper age division. If a Team desires to play up an age division AND there is space available without denying an entry position to an age-appropriate Team that has met the entry requirements, the Team may play in an upper age division. A Team may play up a maximum of two age divisions (i.e. a 15's Team could only play up to 16's or 17's).

A Team may be moved up at the request of the Tournament, but if this Team is accepted in the proper age group, they must agree to the move. A Team unable to gain access may be offered the opportunity to play up by the Tournament.

TEAM FORFEITURES

A team that intentionally forfeits a match will be excluded from further participation in that NQ

- The forfeit is intentional unless the Team shows good cause for the forfeit, such as illness and emergency circumstances.
 - The Event Arbitrator will determine if good cause exists.
 - The Event or Arbitrator will report any Team that intentionally forfeits a Match to the USAV Events Department.
- Forfeiting Teams may be subject to a fine paid to the Event in the amount not to exceed that as posted by the Event in its pre-Tournament information.
- For all NQs, if a Team intentionally forfeits a Match in a Gold Pool or Gold Bracket in any division Open Division Match the Team's penalty will be:
 - The forfeiting Team is ineligible for participation in that year's BJNCs. ALL Adult Members listed on the verified Event competition roster and the Club Director will be suspended from participating in all BBTs and the BJNCs for the remainder of that season and the following season.

Last Day Forfeits

Teams that enter a NQs are committing to participating in the full Event. Teams have control over their travel plans and those plans should be made so that a Team will not have to forfeit any Matches.

A Team that forfeits a Match for any reason other than illness, injury or emergency is denying another Team a Match. Additionally, in a single elimination format, it is poor sportsmanship to deny a Team the right to move on by beating them and then forfeiting out of the Event. Furthermore, it is even more unacceptable to forfeit and then, as loser of the Match, not to remain and officiate the next Match.

Teams that have no flexibility in their travel plans and know they will need to leave before their division completes play will report to the Tournament Director no later than the end of play on the day prior to the final day of Tournament.

The Event Arbitrator with the input of the Tournament director will decide what forfeitures are needed. Teams forfeiting should recognize that additional penalties may be imposed.

- Teams that forfeit a last day Match are still responsible to officiate the next Match scheduled on their court. If the team is unable to fulfill the officiating duty, monetary penalties will be collected by the tournament to cover match fees. Teams playing the next scheduled Match may not be required to begin play early.

TEAM UNIFORMS

Team players are required to wear uniforms that are in full compliance with the USAV regulations. If two (2) or more sets of uniforms are used, players are required to wear the identical number for each set of shirts.

- The numbers “0” and “00” are not permitted.
- The numbers must be centered.
- Front numbers must be a minimum of 4” and back numbers a minimum of 6”
- All Libero shirts are required to be numbered and must be clearly contrasting with the non-libero uniform shirts.

Team members need to be in proper uniform when warming up. If an individual competes in a position other than Libero as well, his/her number must be the same as their regular uniform.

TEAM OFFICIATING DUTIES

The NQ must publish an officiating assignment schedule for the Teams; the Teams must fulfill all their scheduled officiating assignments.

Teams are responsible for providing an officiating/work crew for matches in which they are not scheduled to play. Those work assignments can be found in the official play schedule. For planning purposes, be prepared to provide the following officials:

- Second Referee (BJNC provides R2s as available)
 - Must be a rostered adult (non-players) for **ALL** age division Matches (with approval from the tournament staff, a rostered adult from another team within the same club may work as second referee)
- Certified Scorer (PENALTIES NOTED BELOW)
- Scoreboard Operator
- Libero Tracker
- 2 Line Judges

Non-rostered personnel may be allowed to work on the officiating Team, with the exception of the R2 position, provided they can provide documentation that they are registered with a Region of USAV to include a current membership, cleared background screening, and SafeSport training, as well as having the appropriate certifications. Appropriate paperwork would need to be provided for Foreign Team personnel.

Missed Officiating Penalties

- A Team's failure to have a complete officiating crew—including a rostered adult from the same club—available and on time for an officiating assignment will result in the Team forfeiting the first set of its next Match.
- For every minute an officiating Team is late to fulfill its assignment, one (1) point will be awarded to that Team's next opponent in the first set of the next Match for up to 25 points. No more than 25 points will be awarded to the Team's next opponent, even if the Team designated to officiate misses the entire Match. The time that determines how many penalty points are assessed begins at the start of the receiving Team's warm-up.
- A Team will forfeit its entire next Match for failing, a second time, to have an officiating crew available on time for an officiating assignment.

ROSTER VERIFICATION AND TEAM CHECK IN

Each Event will publish information about the process and requirements for roster verification and Team check in.

For the BJNC, an adult staff member listed on the roster will need to sign that the club has and abides by a Team travel policy and all other SafeSport policies.

Prior to beginning play an adult staff member (Coach, Club Director or other designated adult) listed on the roster must confirm a Team's presence at the Tournament by signing an Official competition roster (Official Roster). Some NQs may allow another designated adult to check in the Team.

No additions or changes for players or staff on a Team's roster are allowed once a Team has begun match play in the event, except as specifically stipulated elsewhere in this document or outlined in the USAV Rules Book.

The person who signs the Official Roster, whether the Coach, Club Director or other designated adult (Signing Agent), assumes all responsibility for verifying that:

- All of the information contained on the Official Roster is both complete and correct, including that:
 - All rostered positions adhere to the requirements listed under TEAM ROSTERS (Please see [Team Roster](#)) OR have fully completed the necessary process established for Foreign Teams (Please see [Policy on Foreign Individual and Foreign Team Participation](#)).
 - All reported Team competition results are complete and accurate.

If a Team wins an Open Bid, USA Bid at a NQs, the players on the Official Roster, as signed by the Signing Agent, are frozen to that Team.

NQs will send the Official Rosters of the Bid winners, Bid acceptance forms and official results for each division of the NQs to the USAV Events Department at the conclusion of the Event (no later than two days post Event). The Events Department will post the qualified Team rosters and results on the USAV website.

SAFESPORT-

Participation in nationally sanctioned events will require that SafeSport training be completed by all registered adults (note, foreign teams are exempt but we strongly recommend you take the course). Individual regions may set earlier deadlines for their respective regional events.

SAFESPORT TRAINING REQUIREMENT:

SafeSport training is required for adults having frequent contact with or authority over Minor Athletes.

Parental consent is required for minor athletes to register for SafeSport training. Complete the parental consent form before registering.

1. Sign in and go to "[SportsEngine HQ](#)"
2. In the top right-hand corner click the profile photo (or initials icon if there is no photo).
3. Choose My SportsEngine.
4. Click the Household tab on the left-hand navigation menu.
5. Click the desired Profile to view.
6. Find the desired membership and click View Details.
7. Click the "Membership Name" again to open the drop-down information and view the eligibility requirements.
8. Complete the requirement

9. Should you need to return to your coursework at a later time, log in to your USAV account and click on the USAV Boys Championship Manual – October 2023

"Log into USAV" Academy button

10. For technical issues, while completing the course, please visit <http://help.usavolleyballacademy.org>

Adults having frequent contact with or authority over Minor Athletes must read over and adhere to the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy, otherwise known as the MAAPP. A shortened version of the MAAPP is provided below:

MAAPP At-A-Glance Link: [SafeSport MAAPP Policy](#)

All adult participants of USA Volleyball are mandatory reporters of abuse.

The U.S. Center for SafeSport has exclusive jurisdiction over allegations of Sexual Misconduct. To report sexual misconduct, please click on the following link to report directly to the U.S. Center for SafeSport: [Report a Concern | U.S. Center for SafeSport \(uscenterforsafesport.org\)](#)

To report any other form of Misconduct, including Physical and Emotional misconduct (such as bullying, hazing, harassment), retaliation, violations of the MAAPP, or any other violations of the SafeSport Code, you may file a concern with USA Volleyball at the following link: [USAV Incident Reporting Form \(formsite.com\)](#)

In addition, the U.S. Center for SafeSport offers SafeSport training for parents and minor athletes free of charge. These courses can be taken at the following link: [U.S. Center for SafeSport \(safesporttrained.org\)](#)

TEAM ROSTERS

A Team must have a minimum of one (1) head coach and six (6) players. A Team may have a maximum of fifteen (15) players and five (5) additional personnel on their roster, one of which must be listed as the Head Coach. The other four (4) roster positions may be any combination of the following:

1. Assistant Coach
2. 2nd Assistant Coach
3. 3rd Assistant Coach
4. Chaperone
5. Team Representative
6. Team Manager

Rostered Athlete Requirements

All rostered players must be FULL MEMBERS of a Region of USA Volleyball.

Athletes turning 18 during the season, , will be required to take "Core" Center for SafeSport training upon turning 18. To prevent any disruption in play, the center will allow athletes who are 17, turning 18 during the season to take "Core" given parental consent. Once a player turns 18, he or she will not be permitted to continue play until "Core" SafeSport training has been completed.

Player Number on Official Roster

For all Events, each player is required to wear the **same jersey number** as listed on the official roster throughout the entire Event, with limited exceptions as required by emergency or blood rule applications.

If a player is found playing in the wrong numbered jersey the Event Arbitrator, with the input of the Tournament director, will determine the penalty(ies) to be imposed. Penalties should be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Penalties for an incorrect number are listed below:

- If the error is discovered prior to the team's first match, the roster may be adjusted, and the player play once the corrected roster is presented to the referees
- If the error is discovered during the match, the player may not compete for the remainder of the match and the roster may not be adjusted until the conclusion of the match. If the player is on the court at the time of the discovery, 7.3.5.3 as listed in the 2023-2025 indoor Rules Book is applied. If the team at fault is currently serving, all points scored during that term of service are removed, and the lineup is corrected. If the opponent is serving, the lineup is corrected, and no additional penalty or sanction is assessed
- If the error is discovered after the match is completed, the player in question may not play in the following match and the roster may be adjusted prior to the match, but must be noted on the scoresheet that the player is ineligible for that match
- A \$50 fine and a roster change fee will be imposed to the team by the tournament. In order for the player to be eligible for play, the penalty must be paid in full. Teams found with a wrong jersey number should recognize that additional penalties may be imposed.

Player Missing on Official Roster

For all Events, each player is required to be listed on the official roster throughout the entire event. If a player is found participating and is not on the official roster, the following penalties will be imposed

- If the missing player is discovered **prior** to the team's first match of the tournament, the player may be added to the roster and may play once the corrected roster is presented to the referees.
- If the missing player is discovered **during** the match, the player may not compete for the remainder of the match and Rule 7.3.5.4 as listed in the *2023-2025 Indoor Rules Book* is applied: **7.3.5.4: Where a player is found to be on court but he/she is not registered on the team roster, the opponent's points remain valid, and in addition they gain a point and service. The team at fault will lose all points and/or sets (0:25, if necessary) gained from the moment the non-registered player entered the court and will have to submit a revised line-up sheet and send a new registered player into the court, in the position of the non-registered player. The team may add the player to the roster after the conclusion of the match, but before the next match, but only after paying a \$250 penalty, as well as any additional roster change fees imposed by tournament**
- If the missing player is discovered after the **completion** of the match, The player in question may not play in the following match, and the player may only be added to the roster after confirming the player is eligible, and the team pays a \$250 penalty as well as any additional roster change fees imposed by the tournament.
- No penalty is assessed on the previous round or matches where the non-rostered player may have played.

***The addition of staff to an official roster is not allowed once a Team has begun Match play in the Event.**

Rostered Staff Requirements

All rostered personnel (non-players) must;

- Be FULL MEMBERS of a Region of USA Volleyball
- Be SafeSport trained, and
- Have a current, approved background check if applicable.

Junior level members under the age of 18 do not need to be background screened and can only serve as a manager on the roster.

Junior members 18 years old and above, serving in non-player capacity on a junior Team, must have submitted, and cleared a background screening within 30 days of their 18th Birthday and must be SafeSport trained.

In order to be listed as a coach, serve in a coaching capacity, , one must possess a minimum coaching certification level of IMPACT (Entry Level).

An IMPACT certified person, listed on the roster, must be present and on the bench at all times. It is strongly recommended that Teams have more than one IMPACT certified person on their roster. In the Event an IMPACT certified person is not present (late, sick, ejected or disqualified), the Team must have another IMPACT certified person on their roster and on the Team bench for play to begin or continue without forfeit. No additional time will be allowed to comply with the IMPACT certified person requirement to continue play except for unused time outs and/or time allowed between sets.

The Head Coach listed on the Official competition roster must have no other head coach designation with any other Team concurrently within the same Event, **with the exception** being a single NQ tournament taking place over two weekends.

IMPACT certification rating may be met by successfully completing one of the following programs:

- USA Coaching Accreditation Program (CAP), Levels I, II or III
- RVA IMPACT course (Region or National Office verification required)
- Canadian Volleyball Associations Levels 1-4
- FIVB International Courses Levels 1-3
- ACEP “Principles of Coaching” course with proof of purchase of the USAV IMPACT Manual
- USA Volleyball IMPACT In Person
- USA Volleyball IMPACT On Demand
- USA Volleyball CAP or BCAP I, II, or III
- NFHS Fundamentals of Volleyball
- NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching
- ASEP Coaching Principles
- NCCP Level 1 Community Coach workshop (minimum).
- FIVB Level 1 course (minimum)
- University or college approved “introduction to coaching” course.

The Team Manager position is primarily reserved for, but not restricted to, junior level members (members who are registered in a junior level membership category or are under the age of 18) participating with a junior Team in a non-player capacity. These members cannot be placed in any Team staff position other than "Team Manager". Junior level staff members must be at least 10 years of age. USA Volleyball, the Event arbitrators, and the NQ tournament designee reserve the right to conduct random ID checks on any staff person listed on the roster at any time.

Individual participation eligibility requirements (membership, background screening, IMPACT, minimum age, SafeSport trained etc.) are subject to verification by USAV, including use of random ID checks by the Event Arbitrator and/or the Bid tournament or JNCs designee.

If a person that is not listed on the official roster for a team and is found present on a team's bench **during a match**, a roster violation has occurred, and the individual is deemed an Illegal participant for that teams. The following penalties will be enforced:

- The Illegal Participant will be asked to leave the bench and the team will receive a penalty fine that is at the Tournament Director's discretion. All events must post their fine they are imposing on their tournament information page.

If the same individual is caught a second time and verified during the match, then they will be removed from the event and the team will forfeit the current set they are in

*** The addition of staff to an official roster is not allowed once a Team has begun Match play in the Event.**

GENDER COMPETITION POLICY

To receive the complete USAV Gender Competition Policy, a gender ruling or ask any questions, please contact the USAV Gender Committee at ChairGenderCom@usav.org.

For more information please refer to the USAV website at <https://usavolleyball.org/about/gender-guidelines/>.

Frozen Player Rules

Once a junior player has participated in a BJNC National Qualifier, he may not be on the Official Roster of, or participate in, another BJNC qualifying event with a different club. Example: a player plays on a club in a NQ in an attempt to qualify. The player's Team does not qualify. That player may not transfer to another club to attempt to qualify.

Earning and accepting an Open or USA Bid or accepting any At-Large Bid defines the Team as "qualified" for the BJNC. Once a Team is deemed qualified, the players on the qualified Team's Official Roster are frozen to that Team. The players on the Team's Official Roster are subject to the following restrictions:

All teams and players must maintain eligibility compliance within their region and adhere to regional transfer policies when applicable. Violations of the Frozen Player Rule will result in sanctions being imposed on the already qualified team, its club, and/or the individual(s) involved, including the player, the coach and the club director. The USAV Event Department will determine sanctions for violations of the Frozen Player Rule.

Exception: If a team disbands, and there is no other opportunity for the player to play within the club, the player may request a club transfer with permission from the region. (Note: please be aware that not all regions allow transfers. USAV will uphold the region's policies).

Frozen Player Rule –

Accepting a bid defines a team as Qualified. All players listed on the roster of a team are "frozen" to that roster at the time the team earns or accepts a bid. Players from a Qualified team cannot be added to any other team roster submitted for NQ, or the BJNC. This includes teams from within the same club. There are no restrictions on additions to the roster of new players or players from non-qualified teams—up to the limit of fifteen (15) players. All teams and players must maintain eligibility compliance within their region. Violations of the Frozen Player Rule will result in sanctions being imposed on the already qualified team, its club, and/or the individual(s) involved, including the player, the coach and the club director. The USAV Event Department will determine sanctions for violations of the Frozen Player Rule. For a first offense, the sanctions may be a warning, probation, suspension or expulsion.

Frozen Player Rule – At-Large

All players listed on the roster of a team are "frozen" to that team at the time the team applies for an At-Large bid to the BJNC. Applying for an At-Large bid is defined as registering for the BJNC in AES and submitting an entry form and payment to USAV. Accepting a bid defines a team as Qualified. Players from a Qualified team cannot be added to any other team roster submitted for NQ or the BJNC. This includes teams from within the same club. There are no restrictions on additions to the roster of new players or players from non-qualified teams—up to the limit of fifteen (15) players. If a team does NOT earn an At-Large bid and chooses to accept the Club Division invitation, the roster is still frozen. If a team does not earn an at-large bid and decides not to attend the Championship, all players shall be considered released and shall be permitted to be added to another team's roster from within the same Member Organization (refer to the BJNC Tournament Manual, Chapter 2, Player Eligibility for transfer and release policies for purposes of attending JNCs). HOWEVER, the released player(s) are required to have a signed release from the original team coach, club representative, new team coach AND Member Organization commissioner/designated representative, if eligible.

Frozen Player Rule – Club

The Players on the roster shall be considered frozen upon submittal of the Entry Form AND payment to USAV. NO player listed on this roster may participate with any other CLUB TEAM for the purpose of these Championships. If this team decides not to attend the Championship, all players shall be considered released and shall be permitted to be added to another team's roster from within the same Member Organization (refer to Player Eligibility for transfer and release policies for purposes of attending JNCs). HOWEVER, the released player(s) are required to have a signed release from the original team coach, club representative, new team coach AND Member Organization commissioner/designated representative. All teams and players must maintain eligibility compliance within their region and adhere to regional transfer policies when applicable.

POLICY ON FOREIGN PLAYER AND FOREIGN TEAM PARTICIPATION

Purpose:

The purpose of the Foreign Junior Player Participation policy is to provide definitions of what is a foreign player and foreign team and to provide guidance on when a foreign player or foreign team may participate in USA Volleyball (“USAV”) and/or one of its 40 Regional Volleyball Associations (“RVA”) events.

Definitions:

I. Resident Player Foreign Player A Resident Junior Foreign Participant is someone residing legally in the United States per the requirements of legal residence and is attending a United States high school.

II. Non-Resident Junior Foreign Player. A Non-Resident Foreign Participant is an individual who does not meet the requirements of legal residence in the United States.

III. Foreign Team – A team of Non-Resident Foreign Participants seeking to participate in a USAV-sanctioned event

Policy Statement:

I. Individual Foreign Participation: Subject to the above Definitions, a Resident Foreign Player may participate in all USAV and RVA events if:

- a. She/He is a duly registered member of a USAV RVA; and,
- b. Follows all event participation policies and registration procedures.

Exception: A Resident Foreign Participant, who has competed in international competition representing his/her country/federation of origin (i.e. Youth National Team, Junior National Team, Senior National Team, or other "elite" team that has represented that country in international competition) is required to have a written release from that volleyball federation of origin before he/she can become a registered member of a USAV/RVA. Note, once this release is granted and applied to allow for membership with USAV/RVA, this waiver will apply for the remainder of that volleyball season and the Resident Foreign Participant will not be permitted to rejoin their original volleyball federation until the volleyball season has ended on August 31st of each calendar year. This would not apply to a Resident Foreign Participant who has been in continuous legal residence in the United States and unaffiliated with a foreign national volleyball federation for greater than two (2) years.

II. Foreign Team Participation (this only includes U.S. Territories for qualification divisions of Girls National Qualifiers and GJNC) for National Junior Competitions (e.g., USA Volleyball Girls Junior National Championship, USA Volleyball Boys Junior National Championship, National Qualifiers, and other qualifying events):

- a. A Foreign Team (registered with its National Volleyball Federation) may participate if it duly applies for and is accepted in compliance with the Event's regulations, is not representing its country in an official capacity, and the federation of origin grants permission for participation.

- i. Only Foreign Teams from U.S. Territories with their own national volleyball federation (Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam) AND Canadian teams are allowed to participate in bid-winning divisions of Boys National Qualifiers and the Boys Junior National Championship.
- ii. Only Foreign Teams from U.S. Territories with their own national volleyball federation (Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam) are allowed to participate in bid-winning divisions of Girls National Qualifiers and the Girls Junior National Championship.
- b. Foreign Teams must complete the Foreign Team application process with USA Volleyball, including purchasing Foreign Team Participant Insurance (\$100)
- c. Each member of a Foreign Team shall have in his/her possession(s) the following documents:
 - i. Photo identification (Driver's license, passport or comparable government issued document); and
 - ii. Copy of birth certificate or Government Issue Identification with birth date for those under 18

Prohibited Actions:

- I. A Non-Resident Foreign Junior Player shall not be eligible to participate in any USAV or RVA events.
- II. Concurrent registration with more than one National Volleyball Federation is prohibited.

Contact: membership@usav.org

TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS

Officials

- All pool play and playoff bracket matches will have a USAV-certified official as the first referee. It is highly recommended that these officials have National, Junior National or Regional certification.
- For all third pool matches in Open divisions, Gold brackets in Open divisions, and semifinal and final matches of Gold Level USA divisions, it is recommended that USAV-certified first referee. It is recommended to provide second referees as available

Note: It is recommended that first and second referees be provided for Gold Level quarterfinals in USA or American divisions.

Awards

It is the obligation of the head coach to be aware of his/her individual State High School Association rules regarding the acceptance of awards. If necessary, present the properly signed papers as required by your State High School Activities Association.

All Events will, at a minimum provide the following awards:

- A Team plaque or trophy to each first, second, and third place Teams in the gold level of each Open, USA, and Club Division that is hosted by the Event.
- Individual awards of minimal value (non-merchandise such as a plaque, trophy or medal) to each player on each first, second, and third place Teams in the gold level of each Open, USA, and Club (BJNC only) Division that is hosted by the Event. Playing out a third place match is not mandatory but NQ Directors will need to give individual

and team awards to both third place teams.

- NQs will not select or give awards for All-Tournament Teams.
- For the BJNC, All-Tournament and Most Valuable Player (MVP) awards will be given in the following age divisions: 18, 17, 16 and 15 Open, USA, and American Divisions.

Athletic Trainers

Each National Qualifier will provide athletic trainers during all hours of competition and for at least 45 minutes prior to the beginning of competition each day. All trainers are required to be SafeSport trained and successfully pass a USAV background check.

Protest Committee

Each Event must have an on-site Protest Committee consisting of one (1) to three (3) members, one of which will be the Head Official or Head Scorer depending on the nature of the protest. Other members may consist of the Tournament director or his/her designee, and another qualified person to rule on protests lodged by Teams regarding officiating.

- No Protest Committee member can coach a Team in the Tournament.
 - All rulings of this committee are final and not subject to appeal.
 - All protests will be settled at the time they are lodged.
 - No Match will be allowed to proceed until the protest is settled.
 - Protests can be related ONLY to the rules of play. Judgement calls are NOT subject to protest
 - Misinterpretation of a playing rule
 - Failure of the first referee to apply the correct rule to a given situation
 - Failure to charge the correct penalty-Sanction for a given fault.
 - NEW for 2023-2024 A protest related to a judgment decision may result in a penalty (red card) being assessed to the coach.

ETHICS AND ELIGIBILITY

All Junior National Championship Events offer participants the ability to access normal due process channels should their eligibility to participate be in question. Procedures, including appeal options, are outlined above in this manual.

Event Arbitrators

Event Arbitrators are appointed by USAV and are present for NQs and BJNC. They are the first level for hearing and resolving ethics and eligibility issues at a specific USA Volleyball Event. Teams or individuals accused of committing violations of rules and regulations at a NQs or BJNC must meet with the Event Arbitrator(s) for resolution.

The authority for the Event Arbitrator begins with the arrival of a Team and individual participants in the Event's city or 48 hours prior to the first day of competition, whichever is earlier, and shall continue through the duration of the Event, through 30 minutes after the conclusion of the final Match of the Event.

Decisions of the Event Arbitrator shall be conveyed immediately to the affected parties and may be appealed to the Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee appointed for each Event of USA Volleyball.

Event Appeals Committee Duties

The committee must meet as promptly as possible following the filing of an appeal or after an arbitrator's recommendation of a sanction which would continue beyond the term of the event. The committee must conduct a full, fair, and objective hearing. Upon completion of the hearing, the committee should confer and render one of the following four decisions:

Uphold the decision of the arbitrator(s).

Rescind the decision of the arbitrator(s).

- **Modify or amend the decision** of the arbitrator(s). The amendment can be more or less restrictive than the arbitrator's decision.
- Rescind the decision of the arbitrator(s) *and render a new judgment.*

The decisions of the Event Appeals Committee are final with respect to eligibility or privileges at the event; no further appeal is available at the event.

Event Appeals Committee Members

For all USAV Championship events, the committee consists of three individuals (age 21 or older), as follows:

- ☐ A person appointed by the Event Director.
- ☐ A person who is or has been an elected or appointed USAV layleader.
- ☐ A person who meets the definition of a domestic athlete.

For all qualifier and bid events, the committee consists of three members (age 21 or older), as follows:

- ☐ A committee chair appointed by the Event Director.
- ☐ Two other persons (one a domestic athlete) who have no connection to the persons involved in the incident. All coaches on the event roster are ineligible to serve on this committee.

USA Volleyball Age and Identity Falsification Policy (BOD Approved 01/2004)

For all USAV corporation events, any person who alters any document that certifies the age or identity of a participant, or falsifies any statement that lists the age or identity of a participant, will be sanctioned as follows:

- Any team representative, coach, program director or responsible adult found to be party to such action shall be:
 1. Immediately suspended from registration with USAV and barred from further participation in the event; and
 2. Barred from participation in any USAV events in any capacity for a minimum of two (2) years; and
 3. Placed on a minimum probation of one additional year, to run consecutively with the suspension.
- A junior player who knowingly plays in a lower age classification than he or she is actually eligible for, or an adult player who knowingly plays in a higher age classification than he or she is actually eligible for, or any player who knowingly misrepresents his or her identity shall be:
 1. Immediately suspended from registration with the USAV and barred from further participation in the event; and
 2. Barred from participation in any USAV events in any capacity, for a minimum of two (2) years; and
 3. Placed on a minimum probation of one additional year, to run consecutively with the suspension.

When age or identity falsification is discovered and confirmed during an event, these penalties shall be the required minimum penalty imposed by the Event Arbitrator or the Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee.

Note: Any player in question must provide proof of identity and age eligibility if requested.

The Event Arbitrator or the Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee shall file a report of any age or identity violation, along with a recommendation, with the USAV Events Department and with the registering Member Organization.



CHAPTER 2: NATIONAL QUALIFIER DIRECTORS

PREPARING FOR NATIONAL QUALIFIERS

NQ Entry Information Requirements

NQ entry materials provided to interested parties must include:

- NQ policies.
- Tournament information.
- Selection criteria if there are more applicants than the NQ can accommodate.

Note: Emailed attachments or downloadable excel files from the NQ web sites for all pre-tournament and post-tournament requirements are acceptable.

National Qualifier Policies

- Include the following graphically emphasized statement at the beginning of all Ethics and Eligibility statements:
“This event is part of the USA Volleyball Junior National Championships. Participants, individual or team, may access normal Due Process channels should their eligibility to participate be in question. Procedures including appeal options are outlined in the Bylaws of USA Volleyball in Article XI. Bylaws can be found in the current issue of the *USAV Official Guidebook*. The *Guidebook* is available through Regional Commissioners, from the USA Volleyball national office, at the event Championship Desk, and on the USAV website at <https://usavolleyball.org>.”
- BJNC qualification procedures and bid numbers.
- Penalties for rejecting a bid (i.e. not being able to apply for At-Large) & illegal use of Bids
- ALL individuals listed on the roster MUST have a current USAV membership
- ALL coaches listed on the Event Roster (Head and/or Assistant(s)) will possess a minimum coaching certification level of IMPACT (Entry Level). An IMPACT certified coach (head coach, assistant or other adult) listed on the Event Roster must be present and on the bench at all times.
- All staff listed on the roster MUST have a current, cleared background screening
- All staff listed on the roster MUST have completed SafeSport training
- Statement that no roster additions (players or coaches) may be made at a Bid Tournament once a team has commenced match play in that event.
- NQ are considered one event, even if held on multiple weekends and in multiple locations.
- Regarding Foreign Teams: If any foreign teams attend your tournament, please collect all the required paperwork and insurance checks. You will then forward the paperwork and insurance checks to the USAV office Attention: Events Department. Foreign teams are required to complete the paperwork and pay the insurance fee only once during the season.

Tournament Information

- Deadlines for submitting Tournament entry, seeding and other information. The USAV Events Department recommends that the entry deadline date for NQ be no earlier than December 15th of the current year and four (4) weeks prior to the tournament date.
- Requirement for submitting complete and accurate results via the online system used by the NQ . Failure to do so could affect their entry into the event, as well as their seeding within the event. In the absence of such results, a letter of explanation addressing the reason(s) why such results are not available.
- The number of teams that will be accepted for all age divisions in the current season’s NQ event, including totals for both last year’s accepted teams by age division and the number of teams denied entry at last year’s event by age division.
- Team registration information.
- General Tournament format description.
- Check-in procedures.
- Coaches’ meeting information, including procedures for teams arriving late.

Division Selection Criteria

NQ will accept applications from all teams until the published deadline date. All entries received prior to the deadline date will be considered for entry. In the event the number of entry applications in a division exceeds the space available, teams will be admitted into the Tournament based on date of entry. Other criteria that may be used by tournament directors could include:

1. Strength – determined by competition results information. A listing of all match results, opponents, and scores will be used to determine the strongest teams.
2. Previous year's BJNC finish of the rostered players

A team's entry is not considered complete without comprehensive, accurate and current competition results or, in the absence of such results, accompanied by a letter of explanation that addresses the reason(s) why such results are not available. Failure to do so could affect their entry into the event, as well as their seeding within the event.

Foreign Teams should provide the results from any U.S. tournaments they've attended for the current season. In the absence of such results, the team should submit a letter explaining the team's strength and current record in their federation.

Seeding Criteria

1. Final Finish at Multi-Day Events (most recent events taking priority over previous events)
2. Head to head results
3. Record against the field
4. Prior BJNC finishes
5. Regional rankings
6. Overall record

FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

Currently, a NQ must have, at a minimum, enough courts for:

- 24 teams in each of the age divisions;
- It is strongly recommended that courts 85 feet in length be provided for the 16 & under, 17 & under, and 18 & under divisions.
- Competition conducted in four-team pools, with no more than two (2) pools or thirteen (13) matches scheduled on one court in one day.

All facilities must conform to the safety guidelines in the current USAV Official Rule Book.

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

All courts must meet minimum court quality and size standards as stated in the current USAV Official Rule Book. Officials will enforce USAV national rules and ground rules.

ONLINE REPORTING AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Online Team entry registration systems used by NQs will have the same fields as specified by the USAV Events Department. Fields required: division, final finishes, club name, team name, and team code. A head-to-head report maybe requested by the USAV Events department. All Team participant data and competition results, regardless of division, must be able to be exported in a sequence determined by the USAV Events Department to allow for seamless importing. Required fields and reporting sequence of these fields will be communicated to the NQTD by December 31st of the year leading into the current Qualifier season.

- Registration records need to be made available two (2) weeks prior to the start of the Event (or two (2) weeks prior to the start of the respective weekends if Event is held over multiple weekends), and again after the conclusion of the Event.

- Reported results used for Seeding will be made accessible to USAV, all Coaches, Club Directors or Club Representatives upon request.

Final Event competition results must be made available to USAV in a format requested by the USAV Events Department no later than two (2) days upon completion of the Event.

ACCEPTANCE OF TEAM ENTRIES

The USAV Events Department, with input from the BCC and NQTD, will determine the maximum number of teams a NQ may host in each Open Division. Currently, a NQ may host a maximum of 72 teams in each Open division.

A team may register in an older age division at a BJNC event provided acceptance of such a team does not prevent an “in-age-division” team from being accepted.

A team may compete in only one age division at a given NQ.

Tournament Directors of bid events will submit team lists with preliminary seeding, with USAV team ID numbers (and proposed formats) two weeks prior to the event start date. Last minute seeding changes (within 72 hours of the event) do not have to be submitted for approval by the USAV Events Department. However, notification of the changes must be submitted to USAV Events Department.

REFUND AND WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Each NQ will set its own refund policy and **clearly** state the policy in its entry information. These policies apply to all NQ:

- A team that applies by the deadline date and is denied entry—either because there are too many teams for a division, or because there are too few teams for a division and the division is being eliminated—will receive a full refund of its entry fee.
- If the division a team applies to is combined with applicants in one or more other divisions to make a division different from the one the team applied for, that team will have the option to play in the new division or withdraw from the NQ with a full refund of its entry fee.
- The NQ will notify any teams affected by an elimination or combination of divisions within 24 hours of the entry deadline.

TOURNAMENT PUBLICATIONS

Most NQs publish a Tournament Program listing team rosters and a Tournament Schedule that shows playing time, teams competing, referee assignments and court location for each match for the entire NQ. If you produce these documents, one copy of each of these documents will be free to each participating team. Additional copies may be produced for sale to interested parties (usually parents) at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

If the Tournament Schedule is published and accessible through a web site, then any changes that occur to the schedule within 72 hours of the event must be provided in hard copy form and given at check-in, the coaches meeting and/or at the time of the changes being made.

NQ may publish a Recruiting Guide for sale to college coaches that includes names and addresses of players.

Minimum Content

The following information is recommended to be included in the Tournament Program and/or the Tournament Schedule, and in the Recruiting Guide:

- Information on Tournament procedures:
 - Format description.
 - Provide paper copy of schedules if changes occur.
 - Round-to-round advancement (flow chart).
 - Statement of warm-up procedures.
 - Statement of tie-breaking procedures.
 - Statement of protest procedures.

- Statement of missed officiating assignment sanctions.
- Definition of a qualified team's "frozen players."
- Statement of sanctions for violating the frozen player rule.

Additional Content

In addition, the following information is of interest to most Tournament participants and attendees:

- Statement of BJNC qualification procedures and bid numbers for various divisions at NQ.
- Statement of penalties for not using a bid.
- Statement of entry selection criteria for Bid Tournaments.

OFFICIALS

- All pool play and playoff bracket matches will have a USAV-certified official as the first referee. It is highly recommended that these officials have National, Junior National or Regional certification.
- For all third pool matches in Bid divisions, Gold brackets in Bid divisions, and semifinal and final matches of Gold Level Bid divisions, it is recommended that USAV-certified first and second referees be provided.
- It is recommended that first and second referees be provided for Gold Level quarterfinals in USA divisions.
- Participating teams will provide second referees for all matches not requiring a certified official as second referee, as well as line judges, a scorer (scorekeeper), and an assistant scorer (visual scorer and libero tracker) according to a published referee assignment schedule. A rostered adult must fill the position of second referee.
- Non-rostered personnel may be allowed to work on the officiating team, with the exception of the R2 position, provided they can provide documentation that they are registered with a region of USAV to include a current membership, cleared background screening, and taken SafeSport, as well as have the appropriate certifications.
- The NQ will appoint a head official for the Tournament, who will be part of the Protest Committee. The head official will instruct all officials to enforce the Coaching Standards outlined in the USAV Rule Book.

EVENT STAFF MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

All adults contracted by the QD as onsite NQ Event staff within the NQ Event must be verified by the QD as having a current, cleared USAV-approved membership, a cleared background screen and be SafeSport trained. All Event Staff should receive a copy of the [MAAPP Policy](#).

ATHLETIC TRAINERS

All NQ are required to provide certified athletic trainers during the course of the event. It is recommended that one trainer be assigned to each facility if more than one facility is used to conduct the tournament. Trainers must provide proof of liability insurance coverage to the Tournament Director. It is recommended that the trainers also provide proof of their current certifications. It is also required that trainers be SafeSport trained and successfully pass a USAV background check.

Please provide each trainer with copies of the Incident Report Form. They must be filled out and sent to USAV at the conclusion of the event.

ARBITRATOR

USAV may appoint up to one Arbitrator per city per weekend to perform duties specified solely by USAV during the JQ Event.

- The NQ Director will provide, at no cost to USAV, single occupancy housing at an Event hotel and local transportation for one Arbitrator appointed by USAV for the JQ Event.
 - If the JQ Event uses multiple sites, the NQ Director will provide local transportation for the Arbitrator to each site used.
 - If multiple weekends are used for the JQ Event or if the JQ Event is conducted in different cities over the same or different weekends, NQ Director will provide housing and local transportation for one Arbitrator on each weekend and / or in each city.

- The NQ Director will provide access to a cell phone and internet connection for the Arbitrator at the JQ Event main playing site, provided such access is used solely for the purpose of resolving any arbitration issues arising during the JQ Event.
- NQ Director will cooperate with the Arbitrator in preparation of a summary and evaluative report on the JQ Event.
- USAV will pay all expenses for the Arbitrator except those specified above.

USAV EVALUATOR

USAV may appoint up to one (1) person of their choice to perform evaluation duties (Evaluator) specified solely by USAV during the NQ. NQ will cooperate with the Arbitrator in preparation of a summary and evaluative report on the NQ Event.

The QD will be responsible for the following:

- Providing, at no cost, credentials for the Evaluator to all venues and meeting space involved with the NQ.
- Providing, at no cost, parking passes for the Evaluator at all venues if needed.
- Providing, at no cost, internet access for the Evaluator in the main venue during the hours of competition.
- Providing assistance to USAV in arranging a hotel room for the Evaluator at a property in as close proximity to the main venue, such room cost to be at the expense of USAV.

All other expenses of the Evaluator shall be the responsibility of USAV.

The USAV Director of Events will provide a copy of the evaluation and recommendations to the QD and the USAV CEO within 90 days after the conclusion of the Bid Tournament.

USAV BRANDING

As a nationally Sanctioned Event, each NQ has the responsibility to, in cooperation with USAV, promote the USAV brand within, and in relation to, the Event.

USAV will provide a high-resolution logo and brand guidelines to the NQs each year, or as required due to a change in the logo. All use of the USAV logo requires prior written approval, which will not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. Proofs and requests for approval should be submitted to creativeservices@usav.org. USA Volleyball-branded apparel can be purchased through the USA Volleyball wholesale apparel online store and sold along with event-specific merchandise at the event. For more information on how to purchase USA Volleyball apparel please contact creativeservices@usav.org to request access. Note that no apparel may be produced or sold including USA Volleyball logos or marks outside of the wholesale program other than by approved USA Volleyball partners or licensees.

The NQ will provide USAV a high-resolution Event logo and brand guidelines for use by July 1st of each year preceding the event, or as required due to a change in the logo.

The following are branding and marketing requirements for each NQ:

- Place the USAV logo prominently on the NQ web site
- Include the USAV logo in any digital communication or marketing of the event including but not limited to email, social media, mobile applications, etc.
- Prominently display any USAV-provided banners or signage promoting USA Volleyball programs, events, or other activities. The mentioned materials shall be provided to the NQ in advance of each event as available.
- Display the USAV logo on signage and banners in the venue, including the NQ entry unit

Note that the USAV logo may not be displayed in close proximity or adjacent to any logos or marks for brands other than those who are official partners of USA Volleyball. The current list of official partners of USAV is available on the USAV website, at the bottom of the home page: usavolleyball.org. All usage of USAV logos and other marks must be approved in writing prior to the start of the event.

- Each NQ will also provide USAV, at no cost to USAV, prominent exhibit space of no less than the equivalent of a single booth space and accessories offered to other exhibitors in a location that is mutually agreed upon within the Event exhibit area,
 - USAV will confirm at least thirty (30) days in advance of the NQ Event its use, or not, of the display/exhibit space

No sponsor specific materials will be distributed or displayed by USAV that conflict with a NQ event sponsor

USAV SANCTION REQUIREMENTS

All Events Sanctioned by USAV must adhere to the rules and regulations as contained in the 2023-2025 USAV Indoor Rules Book and other standards printed in the NQ and National Event Pre-Tournament Manuals.

All volleyball Team competition included in a NQ must be approved by USAV. A license fee will apply to all volleyball Team entry fees as specified by the NQ License Agreement, including Team competition in non-Bid award divisions and exhibitions.