



From the Office of the Executive Director

**OFFICIAL STATEMENT
(PLAYER AFFILIATIONS, RELEASES, & TRANSFERS FOR INDOOR JUNIOR CLUBS)**

August 27, 2020

The Florida Region of USA Volleyball, incorporated in 1982, has a long history of providing comprehensive training and competition for our members. The mission of the corporation is to provide competitive playing opportunities for players of all ages. Our board of directors and staff work diligently towards this goal with every program offered throughout the region.

From time to time unique situations arise that highlight the need for clarification of Florida Region policies. In light of continuing activities, we are preparing this official statement to highlight the current policies of the Florida Region as they apply to club affiliation, player releases and transfers.

As a policy matter, the Florida Region requires all interested parties to become familiar and abide by the following:

- Club Directors have agreed to abide by the Florida Region Club Director Code of Ethics.
- Coaches have agreed to abide by the USAV Jr. Personnel Code of Ethics.
- Parents/Spectators must abide by the Florida Region Spectator/Parent Code of Conduct when attending any USAV sanctioned event.
- Officials have agreed to abide by the Florida Region Good Standing policy.

The policy and standard practice of the Florida Region regarding player releases and transfers for junior athletes is as follows:

1. Athletes interested in participating in any USAV sanctioned activities in the Florida Region (tryouts, camps, clinics, scrimmages, tournaments, leagues, etc.) must be a current member of the Florida Region. It is recommended that all junior athletes joining or renewing with the Florida Region choose a club only when they are ready to commit to a specific junior club for an entire season.
2. During the tryout process, junior athletes may try out for as many clubs as desired to become familiar with the various playing options available in their respective areas. The Florida Region recommends that junior athletes attend multiple tryouts each season prior to selecting a junior club.

3. Athletes may officially accept a club's digital invitation and commit to a USAV Club in Florida beginning on September 1st of each year.
4. Once a junior athlete has selected the club of their choice, they must do two things. These two things should be done concurrently, but may be done separately:
 - a. Athletes must sign a Florida Region Player Commitment Form on or after September 1st to affirm their club of choice. The form will reside with the club and must be made available within 3 business days upon request by the Florida Region. If form is requested and is not provided within the 3 business days allowed, the Florida Region will release athlete for failure to respond. Note: Only current year player commitment forms issued by the Florida Region will be considered valid. Prior year forms will be invalid. (Note: Athletes do not have to sign this form prior to attending a tryout and should only sign this form once they have made a final decision about club affiliation. Once this form is executed, an athlete may only be released and transfer to another club by written release from the Club Director.)
 - b. Accept a digital club invitation in the member management system (Once an athlete accepts a digital club invitation, they will only be able to transfer to another USAV club after obtaining a written release from the club they wish to depart. Athlete's not committed via a Florida Region player commitment form, will be transferred without the requirement of a written release)
5. In addition to the two items listed above in item 4, athletes and their families may be required by the junior club to also execute a player/parent agreement to join a specific club. This is not a requirement of the Florida Region, but it is recommended to assist the club and family with outlining the rights and responsibilities of both parties. (Note: The Florida Region cautions families to carefully review any agreements presented by a club prior to affixing their signature. Additionally, in any matter that may be unclear, the Florida Region suggests that the family in question seek legal counsel prior to executing said agreement. Finally, the Florida Region highly recommends that each family request and receive a copy of the executed agreement for their personal records.)
6. In the event that a athlete/family decides to depart a junior club during the respective season, the following steps must take place:
 - a. Transfer policy: There are no transfers allowed in the Florida Region without extenuating circumstances. A player can represent only one club during the Season. A change in geographical location of the family due to a change in job, military, scholastic or inner-collegiate status may receive special consideration. No player may participate in different Qualifying events with different clubs/teams.

- b. Release Policy: The athlete/family in question must submit a written request for release to the Club Director (at the club's email address) and to the Florida Region at membership@FloridaVolleyball.org stating the reason for the request. (Note: Club Directors will be required to respond to the Florida Region office within 3 business days of the date that the original request for release was received by the Florida Region office to indicate the club's intention. Failure to respond in the time allotted will allow the athlete in question to be released in the USAV Membership Management System registration system and the Florida Region will be absolved of any liability for releasing the athlete. Any outstanding financial obligations between the family and the club must be resolved between the related parties.)
- It is important to note that all junior clubs in the Florida Region are required to have a written Club Release Policy on file with the Florida Region office to address what steps are required by each club to facilitate a club release once the season begins.
- c. No releases will be completed without written release from the current club director(s) of the club that is listed on the athlete's USAV membership card. The Florida Region will not release or transfer a junior athlete until the written release is received by the Florida Region office.
- Note 1: In the event that a club elects not to release an athlete, but is unable to provide proof of any of the following: a. A spot on an age appropriate team with at least 6 athletes and a qualified coach b. A team that is accepted into at least two USAV sanctioned tournaments c. A team that holds active practices for the team, the athlete will be released without the requirement of a written release from the USAV club so that they may get the full benefits of their USAV membership. Note: Clubs must provide verifiable proof to the Florida Region office within 3 business days of the request. Note: All personal business/legal commitments made between the club and the family will remain the responsibility of the related parties. The Florida Region will not be responsible for enforcing private agreements.
 - Note 2: Additionally, in the event that a junior athlete relocates outside of their respective District or outside of the Florida Region during the season in question, the Florida Region may release and transfer a junior athlete without following the two steps listed above in "a" and "b". Proof of residency must be provided by the family at the time of the release/transfer request with the Florida Region.
 - Note 3: In the event that a junior athlete signs two (or more) Jr. Player Commitment forms within the same season, the form signed with the earliest date and time will prevail. All involved clubs will be required to provide the Florida Region with a copy of the signed documents to assist with determining which signature was executed first. Any club that fails to provide the requested document(s) within the time allotted will forfeit their claim of club affiliation for the junior athlete in question.

- d. Current memberships may not be cancelled to bypass the player commitment form and or release requirements.
 - e. Once an athlete has participated in a National Qualifier Event (Regional or NQ) they may not be released for the rest of the season to another club.
7. Once a written release is received by the Florida Region, the junior athlete in question will be removed from the previous club in the member management system and the athlete may then accept a new digital club invitation from the club of their choice for the remainder of the season.
8. If a family elects to breach their agreement with a USAV club, the family will be responsible for any/all legal action initiated by the club regarding the matter. The Florida Region cannot get involved other than to provide any supporting documentation requested by the attorney(s) of the interested parties. Additionally, without a formal written release the junior athlete will be prohibited from being rostered with another USAV team during the same season, unless the junior athlete relocates outside of the District or the Florida Region.

It is the desire of the Florida Region for all interested parties involved in a player release and transfer situation to arrive at a mutually beneficial resolution. In the event that a timely resolution cannot be reached, the Florida Region will consistently enforce the policies and standard practices listed above. The Florida Region cannot legally interfere with a private business agreement between a family and a club once executed. If a dispute arises by virtue of a non-release situation, the Florida Region may provide assistance to the degree that it is agreeable by both parties. Once the process stalls, it is advisable for both parties to seek legal counsel to arrive at a resolution of the matter.

We stand available to assist all members of the Florida Region. Our hope is that this Official Statement will educate and offer guidance to all Florida Region members regarding player affiliations, releases, and transfers.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Bishop". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Bishop" clearly distinguishable.

Steve Bishop
Executive Director/President