



# Letter to Juniors' Club Directors

## August 26, 2009

Dear directors,

Welcome to the 2010 season for girls' volleyball in the Ohio Valley Region. Thank you for providing opportunities for our youth to participate in USAV-sanctioned volleyball programs. We welcome the opportunity to serve your needs for non-interscholastic volleyball participation.

We are excited to announce a new partnership with Kaepa® USA to provide your athletes and coaches with Kaepa gear. Similar to our arrangement with Molten®, the region will be offering the newest uniforms, shoes, and apparel Kaepa has to offer. Our Kaepa store is at [www.ovr.org/store/kaepa/](http://www.ovr.org/store/kaepa/). We also have an e-mail address for questions at [kaepasales@ovr.org](mailto:kaepasales@ovr.org). Our commitment to our members is to offer the best prices and do everything we can to keep your costs low.

You can apply for sanction of your tryouts from the links at the top of [www.ovr.org/juniors/tryouts/](http://www.ovr.org/juniors/tryouts/). However, you must register as a member first at [www.ovr.org/register/](http://www.ovr.org/register/), then follow up with your forms and fees to complete your registration. You must register and have current background screening for all coaches that participate in your tryouts. It usually takes a minimum of 7 business days to process a background screen. Please register your coaches sufficiently early to allow time for their background screens to complete.

There are several important announcements you should be aware of as you plan for the season. The registration fee for membership remains \$50 for full membership for everyone except parent chaperones (\$25) and junior males (\$40). Background screens are \$20 and are required every two seasons. The maximum entry fee for single-day tournaments is \$175. The entry fee for the *Ohio Valley Region, Inc.-Kaepa® USA 2010 Girls' Volleyball Championships* is \$235 for all teams. The Region has kept the cost of this event the same for 2010.

Clubs may host girls' team tryouts for high school age athletes the day after the state championships in their state(s). Athletes from surrounding states are not permitted to attend tryouts in another state until the day after the state tournament has concluded in their states of residence. Tryouts for all other girls' age groups (10s-14s) may begin the last weekend of October (10/30,31, 11/1). Contracts for elementary and junior high athletes may not be signed or accepted until November 1. All families must be given 10 days from the date of their offer to accept membership with a program. Any athlete who is not originally accepted, but who is subsequently offered an opportunity with a club, must be given 4 days from the date of the offer to accept that opportunity.

Tryouts are limited to one contact per weekend, not to exceed 3 consecutive hours. Any second session or "call back" is also limited to 3 consecutive hours. No post-tryout organizational meetings are to be scheduled prior to the expiration of the 10 day acceptance period. You can reference the complete policy on recruiting at [www.ovr.org/juniors/registration\\_packet/OVR\\_Recruiting\\_Policy\\_Girls.pdf](http://www.ovr.org/juniors/registration_packet/OVR_Recruiting_Policy_Girls.pdf).

It is the responsibility of each club and coach to operate appropriately when trying to attract athletes to their programs. Clubs and coaches are reminded to respect each athlete's commitment to their high school program and each high school athlete's agreement to abide by their state athletic association rules.

Clubs may advertise their tryouts through the media (newspapers, web pages, etc.) and distribute information about them to the coaches of the schools in their area. Clubs may also respond to requests for information about their program. Clubs providing clinics prior to tryouts are cautioned to act in accordance with the state athletic association rules for participants. The OVR will not review, sanction, or otherwise pre-approve these club activities.

Each OVR-registered coach has agreed, by signing the *USA Volleyball Juniors' Club Personnel Code of Ethics*, item 5M, that they “shall not allow, encourage, condone or require any behavior that threatens an athlete’s amateur status or Regional, USA Volleyball, school and/or collegiate eligibility.” While the OVR will not actively monitor clubs relative to state athletic association rules, any OVR coach whose participation in clinics, training, tryouts or other related actions results in or contributes to an athlete’s violation of OHSAA Rule 10-3-1, or similar rules in other states, will likely have violated the *USA Volleyball Juniors' Club Personnel Code of Ethics*.

Part of the OVR Mission is to “Promote and develop the sport of volleyball.” A coach who violates the *USA Volleyball Juniors' Club Personnel Code of Ethics* in a manner that leads to an athlete’s ineligibility to play volleyball should, therefore, expect to receive the most severe sanctions from the OVR.

Links to state athletic associations may be found at [www.ovr.org/juniors/eligibility.php](http://www.ovr.org/juniors/eligibility.php).

There will be 3 new divisions of play this season. In addition to the National and Regional designation, we will include an “American” division for teams that are more competitive than Regional teams, but do not wish to compete at the National level in 14s, 15s, 16s, and 17s. We will offer several local one-day tournaments, Power Challenges, and championships in these divisions. Tournaments hosted during the months of January and February may also be classified as age specific (“and Under” events).

Boys may participate in 10-and-under girls’ tournaments on coed or gender-specific (all boys) teams. There is no limit to the number of boys on a 10-and-under team. Boys may not participate on 12-and-under girls’ teams. Regular USA Volleyball rules for youth teams will be used with accepted region modification.

To provide more playing opportunities for younger boys’ teams, the OVR will allow 11-, 12-, 13-, and 14-and-under boys’ teams to participate in specially designated girls’ tournaments of the next higher age. Specifically:

- 10-and-under boys’ teams can play in 10-and-under girls’ tournaments
- 11-and-under boys’ teams can play in 12-and-under girls’ tournaments
- 12-and-under boys’ teams can play in 13-and-under girls’ tournaments
- 13-and-under boys’ teams can play in 14-and-under girls’ tournaments
- 14-and-under boys’ teams can play in 15-and-under girls’ tournaments

Combined tournaments will use girls’ net height and ball (Molten® SuperTouch). Girls’ teams should be aware of this designation when entering events.

When ordering uniforms, the numbers on jerseys are required to be centered on the front and the back of the jersey. The actual rule is USAV 4.3.3.1a, Page 16:

**USAV 4.3.3.1a:** Uniform numbers must be clearly visible and centered on the chest and back. Each jersey must use the same color and number height for all players except the Libero. The height of the number is a minimum of 4” on the front, and 6” on the back. It is recommended that numbers are 6” on the front and 8” on the back. The line forming the numbers should be at least  $\frac{3}{4}$ ” wide.

Additionally, there is new verbiage concerning the color of the Libero jersey:

**USAV 19.2a:** The Libero’s jersey must contrast in color with that of the predominant color(s) of the jerseys of the other team members. Color combinations such as purple/black, dark green/black, navy/maroon, and white/light yellow are not distinctive enough to comply with the rules.

New this season are rules defining rosters and their restrictions. They are found at [www.ovr.org/juniors/divisions.php](http://www.ovr.org/juniors/divisions.php).

Restrictions on teams’ divisions and rosters to promote fair competition are as follows:

1. Only players registered on National teams are eligible for regular season National events.

2. National teams can only play in National events within the OVR. Regional teams can only play in Regional events within the OVR.

*Example:* Teams may play up in age; e.g., a 16 Regional team may enter a 17 Regional tournament. American teams may play up in the next age level of Regional tournaments.

3. Grade-level Regional and American teams must play at the age-appropriate level of their oldest player outside the OVR, Keystone, and Pioneer Regions.
4. A National player may not play on any Regional or American team regardless of age. An American or Regional player may be moved to a National team with the permission of the respective OVR Girls' or Boys' Program Director.
5. Players may not be on the roster of multiple teams within the same tournament.
6. Clubs may not register phantom or shell teams to provide a vehicle to aid in organizing player movements from team to team, e.g. shifting of complete teams or multiple players from a Regional, American, or National team to the other to permit playing in both competition divisions and/or attending OVR Bid tournaments.
7. A club may not alter any registered team roster by more than two players for major OVR tournaments e.g. (bids and championships) without special written consideration from the respective OVR Girls' or Boys' Program Director.
8. Any division of players (National, American, or Regional) may participate in age specific ("and Under" or "U") tournaments.
9. Any club or team found violating the competition policies will be sanctioned as if an age violation had occurred following the *USA Volleyball Age Falsification Policy* (Adopted By USA Volleyball Board of Directors, January 19, 2002).

The use of electronic devices by the support officiating crews at our tournaments will not be tolerated. Work teams and their coaches are not permitted to use cell phones or other devices while line judging, keeping score, etc. Teams in violation of this regulation will be assessed a 10-point penalty in their next set that day. There is a financial penalty assessed, payable by the club, if the violation occurs after their last match of the tournament.

The Greater Columbus Convention Center will host all divisions of the *Ohio Valley Region, Inc.-Kaepa® USA 2010 Girls' Volleyball Championships* on the weekends of May 8-9, May 15-16, and May 22-23. We will use up to 48 courts on all 3 weekends. We will look at the numbers of teams that participated last season and try to anticipate the divisions that may grow. Note that the divisions and their dates of play are tentative until the numbers of teams that are entered is known, which does not occur until the tournament entry deadline (April 1).

Have a great season!

Bill Zehler