



OVR Procedures and Rules for Juniors' Regular-Season Tournaments

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It is the responsibility of each tournament host and director to know the procedures and rules for hosting and conducting a tournament in the Ohio Valley Region (OVR). All necessary information is available on the OVR website, www.ovr.org. "Lack of information or help" is not an excuse for hosting substandard events. The OVR has a history of sanctioning well-managed tournaments and has faith and confidence that local tournament hosts and directors will help maintain this high standard. Your cooperation and commitment are appreciated.

The following OVR procedures and rules supplement USA Volleyball (USAV) rules and are to be used for all OVR-sanctioned juniors' regular-season tournaments during the 2009-2010 USA Volleyball season (September 1, 2009–August 31, 2010). Girls' regular-season tournaments can begin the first weekend in January and end the last weekend in October. Boys' regular-season tournaments can begin the first weekend in November and end the last weekend in August. Tournaments held in large arenas or convention centers and the OVR National Challenges, Regional Challenges, National Bid Qualifier, and Boys' and Girls' Championships may have formats, expenses, and entry fees different from regular-season tournaments.

A copy of this document and the *2009-2010 USA Volleyball Domestic Competition Regulations* are to be available at each tournament site.

For additional assistance, or for questions or requests for interpretation, contact Tom Kohl, OVR Juniors' Tournament Director (937-773-7273, kohl@ovr.org).

1 Pre-Tournament Sanction Application

1.1 Membership

A tournament host must have a completed 2009-2010 membership to apply for a tournament sanction and receive a tournament sanction to host a tournament. Register for the 2009-2010 season at www.ovr.org/register/. Your membership is not complete until your registration fee, signed *OVR Waiver and Release of Liability*, and signed *USA Volleyball Juniors' Club Personnel Code of Ethics* (as needed) are received and processed by Stephen Donahue, OVR Verification Officer (donahue@ovr.org), and your background screen is complete. Please note that background screens take approximately 7 business days to complete.

1.2 Background Check

Each juniors' tournament host and all juniors' tournament staff must be background screened.

1.3 Tournament Facilities

Contracts with facilities should include policy for weather-related cancellations. Connecting courts with common poles are not permitted. Tournament sites having facilities and equipment considered to be unsafe will not receive an OVR tournament sanction. An *Application for Sanction* will not be accepted if a permanent building for the tournament has not been established.

Tournament sites must be of high quality. Minimum requirements for volleyball courts and equipment can be found in the *2009-2010 USA Volleyball Domestic Competition Regulations*. All posts and officials' stands must be padded. Officials' stands should elevate the official's head 18" above the height of the net and be clear of any obstacles. Boxes or ladders are not permitted. Support wires must be either eliminated or clearly marked and padded. There must be sufficient free space around each court. The recommended minimum free zone surrounding a court is 2 meters (6' 6"). Players must be permitted to pursue volleyballs without endangering themselves, other participants, or spectators. The second official should be able to transition freely from one side of the net to the other, positioned outside the net post, without any obstacles. All court lines must be 2" wide and contrast with the floor surface and any other lines. Tournament sites requiring a step-in line will be considered for tournaments on an as-needed basis.

1.4 Certificate of Insurance

Tournament facilities often require proof of insurance. The *Certificate of Insurance* shows that USA Volleyball has liability coverage for every tournament that is sanctioned by the OVR Juniors' Tournament Director, with the approval of the OVR Commissioner. To request the current *Certificate of Insurance*, contact Stephen Donahue (donahue@ovr.org).

If a club is requesting a *Certificate of Insurance*, please include the club name, the club director's full name, and his or her address, city, state, zip code, e-mail address, and telephone number.

If a facility is requesting a *Certificate of Insurance*, please include the sponsoring club's name, the club director's full name, and his or her address, city, state, zip code, e-mail address, and telephone number. In addition, include the name of the facility that wants to be listed as additional insured, the contact person's full name, and his or her address, city, state, zip code, e-mail address, and telephone number.

If a specific individual, business, or organization is requesting a *Certificate of Insurance*, please include the name of the individual, business or organization, the contact person's full name, and his or her address, city, state, zip code, e-mail address, and telephone number. In addition, include the name of the facility that wants to be listed as additional insured, the contact person's full name, and his or her address, city, state, zip code, e-mail address, and telephone number.

1.5 Scrimmage/Tournament classification

Friendship scrimmage: There are three types of friendship scrimmages: professional officials' ratings, junior officials' ratings, and team scrimmages. Be sure to indicate what type of friendship scrimmage is being requested in your application for sanction or in your scrimmage information.

Mixed tournaments: Boys' 10-and-under teams can participate in girls' 10-and-under tournaments. Boys' 10-and-Under through 14-and-under teams may participate in specially designated mixed tournaments (11-15 year olds). Boys' teams will be required to play up one age division; e.g. a boys' 12-and-Under team is eligible for a 13 Regional mixed tournament. Mixed tournaments will utilize girls' net heights and competition balls. Points will be awarded as Regional points. This rule is for OVR-sanctioned tournaments only. Mixed tournaments may be requested by either boys' or girls' tournament hosts and apply only to the following ages and divisions: 11U, 12U, 13R, 14R, and 15R.

Boys' Tournaments: Boys' tournaments for all age groups are "and under" type tournaments; i.e. there is no differentiation into National, American, and/or Regional divisions.

Girls' Tournaments: Tournaments for 10s, 11s, and 12s teams are Regional tournaments. Tournaments for 13s-18s can be for "and under", National, American (girls' 14s, 15s, 16s, and 17s only), or Regional, as defined at www.ovr.org/juniors/divisions.php.

"and under" Tournaments: During the months of January and February and the weekends after the OVR Bid tournament, girls' tournament hosts may have tournaments that included National, American, and Regional level teams.

Tournaments designated as National or American are limited to teams with that designation.

A team may play in a higher age group of the same classification; e.g. a 14 Regional team may play in a 15 Regional tournament, and a 17 National team may play in an 18 National tournament.

Exception for 2009-2010:

1. 13 National can play in American tournaments.
2. American teams can participate in next age group or higher Regional tournaments.

Tournament hosts may not host tournaments of like age groups and classification the same weekend as the OVR Championship, National Challenge, and National Bid Qualifier tournaments. Tournament hosts not adhering to the above policies will forfeit their tournament bonds.

1.6 Courts, Pools, and Guarantee of Matches

The maximum number of courts in any division offered by a tournament host is 4. This applies to a tournaments on a given day or weekend.

Tournament hosts may not advertise multiple tournaments in excess of the number of courts available. Tournament hosts cannot combine teams from unfilled tournaments to create a filled tournament unless they have permission from all club directors involved in that combined tournament. Teams electing not to participate will receive a full refund of the entry fee.

Juniors' tournament pools consist of 4 teams each, with 3-team pools permitted only due to entry cancellations. Use of 5-team pools will cause a loss of tournament bond.

A single-day tournament will consist of one round of pool play (guarantee of 3 matches or set equivalent) and a single-elimination tournament. A two-day tournament will consist of at least 2 rounds of pool play (guarantee of 6 matches or set equivalent) and a single-elimination tournament.

1.7 Entry Fees

The maximum entry fee for OVR juniors' regular-season tournaments is \$175 per team per day. A higher entry fee may be requested for multi-day tournaments held in large arenas or convention centers.

2 Tournament Sanction

Beginning with the third Sunday in September (September 20, 2009), the OVR Juniors' Tournament Director will accept online *Applications for Sanction* for OVR regular-season juniors' volleyball tournaments for the upcoming season from potential tournament hosts. Complete the online *Application for Sanction* at www.ovr.org/juniors/sanction/. Send a \$200 tournament bond, a check payable to Ohio Valley Region, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the OVR Juniors' Tournament Director. If a tournament host advertises and/or accepts team entries into a tournament prior to approval of the *Application for Sanction* for that tournament, the *Application for Sanction* will be denied.

2.1 Tournament Sanction Approval

The OVR Juniors' Tournament Director will contact the tournament host by email upon approving a junior tournament application for sanction. Once accepted, all requests for changes to sanctioned tournaments are subject to approval and will be processed as time permits.

2.2 Tournament Information and Advertising

Tournament hosts are responsible for publicizing and filling their tournaments. Tournament hosts may use their own resources (phone, e mail, US mail, their own website, etc.) to contact club directors or advertise after receiving a tournament sanction. Tournament hosts are responsible for the updating of their tournaments' information through the OVR-Kaepa® USA Juniors' Tournament Schedule. To review or update detailed tournament information:

- a. Sign in to the OVR website using your username and password.
- b. Click My Account, then choose List my juniors' tournaments.
- c. To update tournament information, click the Player Info link in the details column. (One can also navigate di-

rectly to the *TD's Info* and *Players' Info* pages directly from the *OVR-Kaepa® USA Juniors' Tournament Schedule*). Review your information, and make any necessary revisions using the Update Tournament Info link.

- d. You can specify numbers of openings for additional teams (or lack thereof), pools, officials, and other information. Under Other Information, you can specify cancellation policy, coaches meeting time, starting time, details of pool play, playoff and officiating procedures, site-specific rules and information, awards, availability of concessions, and any other details that participating teams and officials will find helpful.
- e. If the tournament site is not already supported on the OVR website, contact support@ovr.org with the site's address. Include directions only if they differ significantly from the directions that are available through online mapping systems.

Before receiving a tournament sanction, all tournament information is to have the above information. By January 15, all participating OVR-based teams are to be listed with their team codes. OVR team names are then displayed automatically, along with additional information on standings and seeding. Teams from other regions should be recorded by club name and team 11-character team codes. Tournament hosts that do not have their tournament information updated will have their tournaments unsanctioned until the information is provided.

2.3 Use of OVR E-mail Lists

Tournament hosts may use OVR mailing lists to announce tournament openings and to contact officials. Such announcements should include tournament date, location, age group and division, number of courts, entry fee, and any other relevant information. Any tournament host abusing this policy will have his or her tournament sanctions denied.

2.4 Tournament Entry: OVR Teams

Pre-tournament entry includes a check in the amount of the entry fee, 11-character team code (assigned at registration), and team contact. Pre-tournament entries must be received by January 15 or 4 weeks prior to the tournament date, whichever is earlier. A team may be denied entry if the above requirements are not met. Later arrangements require mutual agreement between the tournament host and club directors.

2.5 Tournament Entry: Out-of-Region Teams

Out-of-region teams must complete an OVR entry form. When accepting out of region teams for your tournaments, be sure they are of the same classification as your tournament. Other regions' Open teams can only play in OVR National events, and other regions' Club teams can only play in OVR Regional events. Other Regions may have different team designation such as Elite or Travel for their top level teams. Teams from Regions not having specific classifications for their teams can participate in any OVR regular season tournament.

2.6 Tournament Entry: Foreign Teams

For OVR-sanctioned competitions, a foreign team:

1. May participate if accepted by the Regional Volleyball Association (OVR) in compliance with its regulations and is not representing its country in an official capacity.
2. Must purchase foreign player insurance, which will be provided by USA Volleyball. The expense shall be debited to the event at cost and shall be added to the entry fee.
3. A waiver to the foreign player insurance fee shall be granted to Canadians who provide written proof of 24-hour health coverage valid in the United States.

For OVR-sanctioned competitions, each foreign team member shall have in his/her possession, and shall have previously filed with the event director, the following documents:

1. Photo identification (driver's license or comparable government issued document), and
2. A signed copy of the *USA Volleyball Code of Conduct and Waiver and Release of Liability*.

Additionally, for junior-age competitions, each foreign player (or all members of a foreign team) must also possess and have on file with the event director:

1. Copy of birth certificate or government-issued identification with birth date, and
2. USA Volleyball's *Consent for Medical Treatment & Release* form, signed by the player's parent or legal guardian.

2.7 Denial of Entry

Tournament hosts may deny entry when any of the following apply:

- a. the tournament is filled
- b. a club repeatedly exhibits unsportsmanlike behavior or cancellation from events
- c. a club fails to submit payment and/or required tournament entry information by the deadline
- d. improper team designation

3 Tournament Personnel

Tournament hosts are responsible for providing qualified personnel to conduct tournaments and to provide safe and clean facilities. Such personnel can include tournament directors, building/site supervisors, and officials. Coaches and officials cannot act as tournament directors if they are actively participating in the actual tournament. Any person (paid or volunteer) provided by the tournament host that comes in direct contact with junior players must have a completed OVR membership and up-to-date clear background screen as determined by the current USAV policy. Contact the following OVR personnel if you need help in finding qualified personnel.

- Tournament directors: Tom Kohl, OVR Juniors' Tournament Director, (937-773-7273, kohl@ovr.org)
- Officials, head officials, officials' assigners: Brian Hemelgarn, OVR Referees' Chair (hemelgarn@ovr.org)

3.1 Officials

Officials may not officiate at tournaments in which they are acting as coaches for any participating team or acting as the tournament director or site directors for the same tournament.

Within the OVR, officials are classified as International, National, Junior National, Regional, Provisional, and Junior Olympic. Junior Olympic referees, who are relatively new, are restricted to officiating 10s, 12s, 13s, and 14 Regional competitions for girls or boys. Provisional referees may officiate 10s, 12s, 13s, 14 Regional, 14 American, 14 National, 15 Regional, 15 National, 16 Regional, 17 Regional, and 18 Regional competitions. Regional through International officials may work any level of juniors' competition.

Tournament hosts must hire registered, certified USAV officials with completed, clear background screens for their tournaments. For a 1-court tournament, 2 officials are required. For a 2-court tournament, 3 officials are required. For a 3-court tournament, 4 officials are required. For a 4-court tournament, 6 officials are required. Use the OVR website (www.ovr.org/officiating/officials.php) to identify and contact certified officials. Brian Hemelgarn (hemelgarn@ovr.org), OVR Referees' Chair, can also provide assistance and can provide answers and interpretations to any questions regarding officials.

In the event of a shortage of OVR member officials, USAV referees from other regions may be hired with prior notification of Brian Hemelgarn (hemelgarn@ovr.org), OVR Referees' Chair. When non-OVR USAV referees are hired, the names of the referees must be entered in the tournament's Tournament Information.

The hiring of non-USAV officials or suspended officials will cause loss of the tournament bond. Any tournament host who shows a pattern of intentionally hiring an insufficient number of officials will lose their tournament bonds and be ineligible to receive sanction for additional tournaments in the OVR.

If, due to cancellation or other circumstances, a tournament has no hired officials or an insufficient number of officials to cover court assignments, the head coach for each match's assigned work team will serve as the first referee for that match.

3.2 Head Referee at a Local Tournament

A head referee will be designated for each tournament (or each site in the case of multiple venues for a single event). It is recommended that the referee with the highest certification level assume this role. If all referees have the same certification level, the most experienced referee should fulfill this responsibility. Suggested duties and responsibilities:

- Arrive approximately 45 minutes before the scheduled start time to meet with the tournament director to determine playing formats and ground rules.
- Attend the pretournament coaches' meeting (if any) to answer questions about the facility ground rules or *USAV Domestic Competition Regulations*.
- Confirm playing ground rules with all officials for each court to ensure the consistent application of the ground rules by the crew of referees.
- Assist officials with court assignments and the referee rotation scheme, and help to ensure that referees are working match levels appropriate for their certification.
- If appropriate, designate officials for any playoff matches (adults) and the bracket play.
- Serve as the chair of the protest committee and select its members (see below).
- Remain present at the tournament until the final match has concluded. It is highly recommended that at least two referees remain present at the tournament until the conclusion of the final match. They should depart the playing venue together.
- Serve as a liaison between the tournament and the Referees' Chair in the event that any concerns arise related to the playing facilities, officiating performances or conduct of participants or spectators.
- Recommended: Carry a copy of the *Procedures and Rules for Juniors' Tournaments*.
- Recommended: Carry copies of a deciding/non-deciding score sheet, line-up sheet/roster, Libero tracking sheet, *Incident Report*, and *Injury/Property Damage Report* (all forms can be found on the OVR website).
- Tournament directors shall compensate a head referee, in addition to their base pay as referees, at the rate of \$5 per court for 1 or 2 courts and \$15 total for a head referee responsible for 3 or more courts.

3.3 Compensation for Officials

An official hired/contracted to work as officials for juniors' regular-season tournaments will be compensated a minimum of \$165 for 6 or fewer matches per day. Any official working additional matches as first or second official will be paid an additional \$27.50 per match. Officials can be further compensated if they must travel a long distance. An official acting as the head referee shall be compensated at the rate of \$5 per court (1-2 courts) and \$15 total for 3 or more courts. An official unable to complete his or her assignment will be compensated at \$27.50 per completed match. An official who does not fulfill an assignment should be reported to Brian Hemelgarn, OVR Referees' Chair. If there is due to a shortage of officials, a coach acting as an official will be paid \$27.50 per match.

3.4 Releasing Officials

With ample notice, a tournament director can release a referee if the tournament format changes or if the number of courts is reduced. Most referees can accept this if they are given enough notice so that they can find another event to work. As for which referee to cancel, that is the tournament director's decision. Either release the last one hired, or release the most inexperienced (depending on the age level of play).

3.5 Tournament Directors, Building/Site Directors

Tournament and site directors may not officiate during the tournaments they are directing. Coaches for a participating team cannot serve officials, tournament directors, or site directors. In an emergency, a tournament director or site director with a completed OVR membership, clear background screen, and IMPACT or CAP certification can sit the bench for a team that does not have a coach present for a match.

3.6 Compensation for Tournament Personnel

The tournament host should arrange with the tournament personnel a pay rate prior to the tournament date. The generally accepted practice is to pay a tournament director the same daily rate as an official, \$165.00.

4 Pre-Tournament

4.1 Pool Play and Tournament Formats

Formats and other instructions for conducting OVR juniors' tournaments of 4 through 16 teams are detailed in the OVR Juniors' Tournament Packet (www.ovr.org/juniors/tournament_packet/).

4.2 Alternate Playing Formats

Tournament hosts wishing to develop and use alternative pool play or playoff formats must obtain permission from the OVR Juniors' Tournament Director prior to the tournament date. Tournament directors may not change the pool play or tournament format previously described in tournament mailings or coaches' meetings unless all coaches agree prior to the start of the first match in pool play or playoffs.

4.3 Playing Rule Modifications

- a. 12 & Under Service Step-in Line: For developmental purposes in 10s, 11s, and 12s' competitions, the back edge of the service line is drawn at two meters (6'6") from the back edge of the end line. A continuous line, 5cm (2") wide, must be laid across the width of the court to denote this service step-in line. After the service, the line is ignored and becomes part of the court.
- b. Service contact: underhand serving without ball release prior to contact will be permitted.

4.4 Tournament Changes and Cancellations

The OVR Juniors' Tournament Director will cancel tournaments having less than four teams entered within one month of the tournament date. If, for other reasons, a tournament is cancelled, contact the OVR Juniors' Tournament Director immediately. Notify all teams entered and assigned officials by phone and through the OVR website and issue a refund within 72 hours of the cancellation. If a tournament needs to be altered, the tournament director must notify all club directors and officials both by phone and through the OVR website. Officials hired/contracted to work as officials who are not notified but still arrive at the match site will be compensated the minimum of one match fee (\$27.50).

Due to circumstances beyond a tournament director's control, changes may be necessary for starting time, pool play or tournament formats, and occasionally tournament sites. Tournament directors are still responsible for providing information in sufficient time for club directors and their teams to plan accordingly. Use the OVR website to post all tournament information.

4.5 Team Cancellation

A team canceling after the entry deadline, 14 days prior to the tournament date, will forfeit its entry fee. A team canceling prior to the entry deadline does not forfeit its full entry fee if a replacement is found. Phone or other expenses incurred to find a replacement may be deducted from the entry fee refund. A team canceling from one tournament to enter a different tournament will forfeit its entry fee. If a team requests and receives entry into a tournament but does not pay its entry fee, the teams' club will be fined the amount of the entry fee.

4.6 Weather

The OVR position on tournament locations affected by weather conditions is as follows:

- a. Tournament directors should make a timely decision and notify club directors, coaches, and officials of any change to a tournament's status.
- b. If a tournament site is in a location where the local authorities have issued a "no travel" order, the tournament director shall honor that request and cancel the tournament.
- c. A team which originates in a county of a "no travel" order and not in attendance at a tournament with no travel restrictions will be given a full refund of its entry fee.

4.7 Pre-Tournament Information

Tuesday, the week of the tournament, send the pools according to the format specified for the number of teams entered. Through the TD's Info page, e-mail the club directors, coaches and officials with a link to the tournament information or e-mail the following information:

- a. directions to the tournament site
- b. time of coaches meeting
- c. starting time of the first match and officiating assignments (all OVR juniors' tournaments will start at or before 9:00AM)
- d. pool play format with the schedule of playing order
- e. tournament format
- f. availability of concessions

5 Tournament

5.1 Banned Substances

Use of tobacco products and alcoholic beverages is prohibited at USA Volleyball events. This includes gyms, locker rooms, and facilities.

5.2 Forms

Necessary forms for hosting a tournament are in the Juniors' Tournament Packet, which is available at www.ovr.org/juniors/tournament_packet/.

5.3 Eligibility

All participating coaches, players, and teams must be registered and eligible for participation. Every adult and coach on the team bench must be IMPACT or USAV CAP (current or expired) certified. Check the TD's Info section of your tournament information for the current membership status of teams, players, coaches and officials participating in your tournament. Prior to the tournament, contact the club directors or officials with incomplete membership or coaches lacking IMPACT or USAV CAP (current or expired) certification. Also check individual player and team designation to be sure individual player and teams are entered in the tournament by correct age group and classification. Tournament hosts or tournament directors permitting teams with coaches or players with incomplete OVR membership or coaches without IMPACT or USAV CAP (current or expired) certification to participate will lose the tournament bond. Tournament hosts or tournament directors permitting teams with an incorrect team classification to participate in a tournament will lose the tournament bond.

5.4 Official Volleyballs

Molten® volleyballs must be used for all OVR tournaments. Molten® Super-Touch™ balls are to be used for girls' 13s'-18s' divisions, and Molten® Volley-Lite™ balls are to be used for girls' 10s'-12s' divisions. Molten® Pro-Touch™ balls are to be used for boys' tournaments. These and other volleyballs, as well as volleyball carts, are available at discount prices to OVR members. Molten® volleyballs can be drop-shipped to any address. Visit www.ovr.org/store/ for complete details, and contact Ron Wyzynski (wyzynski@ovr.org) to place an order or for pickup in the Kent, Ohio, area. Alternatively, contact Bob Price (price@ovr.org), or Bill Zehler (zehler@ovr.org) for pickup near Columbus and Dayton/Cincinnati, respectively.

5.5 Team Rosters

It is the responsibility of the club director to provide complete and correct rosters prior to the tournament or during the coaches' meeting. Rosters are available to tournament directors through the TD's Info pages linked from the OVR-Kaepa® USA Juniors' Tournament Schedule. If any roster information is missing or incomplete, the tournament host must contact the club director. In the absence of current online rosters, an up-to-date entry form must be submitted at the coaches' meeting, prior to the start of pool play. Entry forms should be available at each tournament site. All team entry information should include the following:

- club name/team name (e.g. Exemplar VBC – 14 Titans)
- 11-character team code (e.g. FJ4-EXEMP1-OV)
- team registration number (e.g. OV-FJ-1234)
- registration numbers for all participating players and coaches
- uniform numbers for all participating players

5.6 Coaches' Meeting

There will be a loss of tournament bond if the coaches' meeting is not held and team rosters are not signed. Prior to the start of pool play, the tournament director and a designated head official will conduct a coaches' meeting. During this meeting, any needed entry forms should be collected, any member registrations must be completed, and team rosters must be corrected to reflect any player or coaching changes or other team entry information. During the coaches' meeting or prior to the start of pool play, each coach will verify his or her team's roster with a printed name and signature. During the coaches' meeting, the tournament director should review pool play, tournament formats and remind coaches of the OVR policy on electrical devices at the scorekeeper's table and OVR protocol for support officials. Any changes or alternate formats should be explained at this time. Tournament directors will advise all coaches of the February 15 deadline for each boys' team and April 1 deadline for each girls' team to have an OVR-

certified junior scorekeeper and junior second official as support officials. The head official will discuss tournament ground rules and clarify any rule or procedure changes. Any questions coaches pose should be answered. Those attending the coaches' meeting should be reminded that all team members, coaches, spectators, and officials must conduct themselves in a professional, sporting, and ethical manner.

5.7 Late Arrivals

A team arriving late for its first match has a 10-minute grace period after the warm-up before forfeiting its first set. This is followed by another 10-minute period before that team forfeits its second set. However, the match is not delayed if six players from that team are present at any time during this delay period.

5.8 Awards

First-place team awards for coaches and players are required for tournaments of 8 or fewer teams. First- and second-place team awards for coaches and players are required for tournaments with 9 or more teams. There is no minimum or maximum cost for prizes. The recommended price range is \$3-5 per award and must be age-appropriate. Awards are required only for the Gold division. Awards are recommended for all division champions below Gold.

6 Pool Play and Tournament

6.1 Pool Play and Tournament Information Display

Pool play, tournament playoff schedule, and order of matches should be posted at a common location at the beginning of the day for viewing by coaches, players, and spectators. The tournament director or site manager should regularly update pool play results and tournament schedules for the benefit of coaches, players, and spectators.

6.2 Warm-ups

The mandatory warm-up time between all matches is 10 minutes, consisting of 2 minutes of shared ball handling on-court, 4 minutes full-court for the serving team, and 4 minutes full-court for the receiving team. During each team's full-court warm-up segment, the opposing team may practice with balls in the free zone surrounding the court and may not interfere with team using the court. Teams that wish to practice serving during the warm-ups may ask to be informed when they have one minute (or more/less) remaining in their 4-minute period. Shared serving between the two teams is not permitted. This applies to all matches. The time between sets is 3 minutes. Teams may warm up with balls on their respective courts or free zone during the 3-minute set intervals. Spiking at the net is not permitted. Balls may not be used for warm-ups during time-outs.

6.3 Support Officials: Pool Play and Tournament

A coach must be courtside if their team is acting as the support team. For pool play and tournament, teams are required to supply the following support officials for pool play and for the playoffs: one second referee, two line judges, one scorer, one assistant scorer/Libero tracker, and one scoreboard operator. Support officials are to report to their court's referee as follows: The R2 and Scorekeeper should report to the court official at the coin toss. If they are not present by the beginning of the first timed warm-up then one point will be given to their next opponent, and one point will continue to be given for every minute that they are late. The rest of the support crew (line judges, scoreboard operator and libero tracker) must report to the court official no later than the beginning of the second timed warmup or a point will be given to their next opponent. An additional point will be given for every minute that the work crew is incomplete for their officiating duties. If no additional matches are to be played in that tournament, the tournament director shall file an incident report with the OVR commissioner and a \$50 fine shall be imposed.

By February 15 each boys' team must have an OVR-certified junior scorekeeper and junior second referee to serve as support officials. By April 1, each girls' team must have an OVR-certified junior scorekeeper and junior second referee to serve as support officials. After these deadlines, coaches assume the responsibility as scorekeeper and second referee if their teams do not have the OVR-certified second referee or scorer available at the tournament.

6.4 Support Officials: Playoffs

The lowest-seeded team in each division that is not playing the first round of the playoffs will officiate the first playoff match. After the first round of the playoffs, all losing teams must stay to provide support officials for the next match. A tournament director may permit the first-round losing team to leave and have the winning team provide the next match's support officials. This must be explained at the pre-tournament coaches' meeting. When semifinal rounds are played simultaneously on two different courts, the last losing team in the semifinals will stay to provide support for the final match. If the semifinal matches end at the same time or nearly the same time, the losing team that is closest to the tournament site will stay to provide support for the final match. This is a matter of courtesy and should be stated at the coaches' meeting prior to the beginning of pool play, and again prior to the beginning of tournament play. If both teams are equidistant from the site, then the team to lose last should stay. Failure of any team to fulfill these officiating duties will be reported to the OVR Commissioner with an Incident Report. That team will be fined \$100.

6.5 Unforeseen Circumstances for Tournaments in Progress

When a tournament in progress is altered or cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances such as weather or building/equipment-related concerns, the tournament host will determine the number of matches played by each team. Teams that played a minimum of four matches will not receive a refund. The tournament director will pay each official a minimum of \$27.50 or \$27.50 per officiated match (whichever is greater). Teams that played less than four matches will receive a refund of their entry fee (minus any officiating expenses), prorated by number of matches played.

6.6 Protest Committee and Handling Protests

Should a protest occur during a local OVR-sanctioned tournament, the following procedure should be applied:

- Only valid protests based upon rule 5.1.2.1 of the *USAV Domestic Competition Regulations* (DCR) will be accepted.
- The first referee must stop the match and go to the scorer's table to consult the DCR. If it is determined that the referee's decision was in error, the correct ruling will be implemented. In some cases, this may result in a replay.
- If the protest cannot be resolved by consulting the DCR, the head referee for the tournament should be consulted, and the tournament protest committee convened. (The committee shall consist of the head official and tournament director.)
- If the protest still cannot be resolved by the protest committee, the head referee and/or responsible referee should contact Brian Hemelgarn, OVR Referees' Chair, at 419-410-2291.
- If the OVR Referees' Chair cannot be reached, and the protest cannot be resolved, the match shall resume from the point of protest with the first referee's original decision. At the conclusion of the match, copies of all match score sheets and line-up sheets (including rosters) must be submitted to the OVR Referees' Chair along with a detailed description of the protest. The complete name of the team, protesting captain and/or coach must be included along with the name of the opposing coach/team.
- The associated referees and coaches will be notified of the outcome. If the protesting team subsequently wins the set in which the protest was lodged, the protest will be considered null and void. If the protesting team subsequently loses the set in which the protest was lodged but wins the match, the protest will be considered null and void. In any case, a replay of the protested set will not take place after the conclusion of the tournament.

The OVR Girls' or Boys' Program Director will make any determinations with regard to match or tournament results and the related seeding points.

- A protest committee, at minimum, should include the head referee, the tournament director, and a designated referee or coach not involved in the match.

6.7 Tournament Tie-Breaking Procedure

Two teams from same pool having the same match record at the conclusion of pool play: Head-to-head match results will be used to break the tie.

Two teams from different pools having the same match record at conclusion of pool play (11- and 12-team formats; best third place and/or second-best third place): Set percentage is the first criteria for breaking ties. If any teams are still tied, then points will be the second criteria used to break the tie. If any teams are still tied after set percentage and points, then a coin toss will be used to break the tie.

Three teams from the same pool having the same match record at the conclusion of pool play: Head-to-head results can not be used at any time to break ties. Set percentage is the first criteria for breaking ties. If any teams are still tied, then points will be the second criteria used to break the tie. If any teams are still tied after set percentage and points, then a coin toss will be used to break the tie.

Three teams from different pools having the same match record at conclusion of pool play (11- and 12-team formats; best third place and/or second-best third place): Set percentage is the first criteria for breaking ties. If any teams are still tied, then points will be the second criteria used to break the tie. If any teams are still tied after set percentage and points, then a coin toss will be used to break the tie.

Coin toss procedures for breaking ties involving two teams: The tournament director will have a meeting with one coach from each team. The tournament director will give a quarter (any same coin can be used) to each coach. The tournament director will call "heads" or "tails". The coaches will flip the coins into the air at same time and let them fall to the ground. The coach with the coin with the predetermined "heads" or "tails" will have the higher finish. If both coins land with the predetermined "heads" or "tails", then the coaches will toss their coins again until the tie is broken.

Coin toss procedures for breaking ties involving three teams: The tournament director will have a meeting with one coach from each team. The tournament director will give a quarter (any same coin can be used) to each coach. The coaches will flip the coins into the air at same time and let them fall to the ground. The coach with the single "heads" or "tails" will have the highest finish. For the remaining places, the tournament director will call "heads" or "tails". The coaches will flip the coins into the air and let them fall to the ground. The coach with the coin with the predetermined "heads" or "tails" will have the higher finish. If both coins land with the predetermined "heads" or "tails", then the coaches will toss their coins again until the tie is broken.

7 Post-Tournament

Failure to do the following will result in loss of the tournament bond and any remaining sanctioned tournaments will be unsanctioned. Retain copies of all tournament results until the end of the OVR Championships.

7.1 Post-Tournament Procedures

- a. Monday, after the tournament, post the tournament results, www.ovr.org/juniors/results.php.
- b. Tuesday, after the tournament, mail, e-mail or fax a *Report of Event*, all team rosters, pool play and play-off brackets to the OVR Juniors' Tournament Director (Tom Kohl, 955 East Snodgrass Road, Piqua, OH 45356, kohl@ovr.org, 937-773-7273).

- c. *Incident Reports* should be mailed to the OVR Commissioner (address on form). Any concerns regarding officials should be reported to Brian Hemelgarn (hemelgarn@ovr.org), OVR Referees' Chair, and to Bob Price (price@ovr.org), OVR Commissioner and President.
- d. Mail *Injury or Property Damage Reports* to the address on the form.

A tournament site found to be unsafe or not meeting minimum standards after a completed tournament will forfeit the tournament bond and will not be permitted to host further OVR tournaments until all conditions are corrected.

7.2 Return of Tournament Bonds

By June 15, tournament bonds will be returned by U.S. mail to those tournament directors who included a stamped, self-addressed envelope with their Applications for Sanction. All other tournament bonds will be shredded.

8 Miscellaneous

8.1 Food and Coolers

Tournament hosts can determine whether outside food and drink is permitted or not permitted inside a tournament site. Tournament hosts that provide a concession should provide food choices that are fresh and healthy. Tournament hosts are not responsible to feed officials. Tournament hosts permitting outside food must abide by the following OVR rules.

- a. Coolers are prohibited in and outside facilities hosting OVR-sanctioned events.
- b. Setting up tables and/or cooking by teams or their support staff, fans, coaches, or parents are prohibited at OVR-sanctioned events.

Tournament directors and site managers do not have the discretion to grant permission to the above rules. If a club does not comply amicably with a tournament director's or site director's request, an *Incident Report* will be sent to Bob Price, OVR Commissioner, resulting in up to a \$250 fine and a team/club suspension.

8.2 Vandalism

The Ohio Valley Region promotes a high standard of conduct among its athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators. This includes respect for the playing facilities throughout the OVR. Players, coaches, and spectators are expected to support the participants and officials in a positive manner, and adhere to all facility regulations. Any coach, player, or spectator that demonstrates a continued disregard for facility usage rules at an event will result in removal from the competition site. Any acts of vandalism will result in an *Incident Report* being filed with the OVR office and a warning being issued by the OVR Commissioner. The local police will be contacted. All known individuals responsible for the acts of vandalism will be expelled from the tournament and competition site after they have been reported to the local police if the local police have not detained the individuals. This can include the removal of an entire team from the tournament. Teams that fail to follow facility guidelines and rules as set forth by the site and tournament director will be sanctioned accordingly. A pattern of facility abuse will result in \$250 fine/sanction to the associated club or team.

8.3 Sportsmanship

Tournament directors are expected to support officials, coaches, players and other tournament personnel during an event. The Ohio Valley Region promotes a high standard of sporting conduct ("sportsmanship") among its athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators. Taunting, offensive cheers or gestures, profanity, racial or sexist comments, or other intimidating words or actions directed at officials, athletes, coaches, or team representatives will not be tolerated. Any unsporting actions, including but not limited to those mentioned above, will result in an Incident Report being filed

with the OVR office, and a warning being issued by the OVR Commissioner. Subsequent unsporting behavior by the same individual or team at the same event will result in removal from the competition site. A pattern of unsporting behavior will result in \$250 fine/sanction to the associated club or team.

8.4 Video Recording, Photography, and Other Electronic Devices

Flash photography is prohibited during play. Use of video recorders and cameras is limited to the team with which the person using the device is directly associated. Use of phones, musical devices, and other electronic devices (excluding medical devices) is strictly prohibited by support officials. If anyone from the support team is found using one of these devices, their team shall give up ten points to their next opponent. This is to be administered by the tournament director. If no additional matches are to be played in that tournament, the tournament director shall file an incident report with the OVR commissioner and a \$50 fine shall be imposed.

8.5 Violations

Any regular-season tournament not in compliance with USAV and OVR rules and procedures stated within in this document will cause a loss of tournament bond and any remaining sanctioned tournaments will be unsanctioned.

- **First Violation:** *Incident Report* filed and tournament bond will be sent to the OVR Commissioner to be cashed. Any remaining tournaments sponsored by that tournament host or organization will be unsanctioned until a \$400 tournament bond is received by the OVR Juniors' Tournament Director. In addition, that tournament host must describe, in writing, the measures that will be taken to assure that such mistakes will not be repeated.
- **Second Violation:** *Incident Report* filed and tournament bond will be sent to the OVR Commissioner to be cashed. Any remaining tournaments sponsored by that tournament director or organization will be unsanctioned for the remainder of the current season. Tournament hosts or organizations that have two violations within one season will not be granted tournament sanctions for the following season. Tournament hosts or organizations that show a habit of being late in their responsibilities will not be granted tournament sanctions for the following season.

A tournament director may appeal to Bob Price, OVR Commissioner (614-882-2468, price@ovr.org).

