



OVR Procedures and Rules for Junior's Indoor Regular-Season Tournaments

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A network version of the 2021-2023 Indoor Rules Book can be found at the link below.

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/f27fc70f-e33f-4e78-b718-67b4ff2af0e0>

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) requirements and rules and are to be used for all OVR-sanctioned juniors' indoor regular-season tournaments during the 2023-2024 USA Volleyball season (September 1, 2023– August 31, 2024).

Tournaments held in large arenas or convention centers, and the various OVR Challenge Tournaments, 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 *2023-2025 USA Volleyball Rules Book* are to be available at each tournament site. (<https://indd.adobe.com/view/f27fc70f-e33f-4e78-b718-67b4ff2af0e0>)

For additional assistance, or for questions or requests for clarification of these OVR procedures, contact Tom Kohl, OVR Indoor Juniors' Tournament Coordinator (ovrjtd@gmail.com).

For questions regarding USA Volleyball playing rules, contact Brian Hemelgarn, OVR Referees' Chair (hemelgarn@ovr.org).

Tournament hosts not adhering to the policies outlined in this document risk forfeiture of their tournament bond and cancellation of their remaining sanctioned tournaments.

Tournament Directors can contact Club Directors about any of their sanctioned tournaments. Additional tournaments will be added as needed.

1 Pre-Tournament Sanction Application

1.1 Membership

The first step is to create an account or update your account on the SportsEngine system. In either case go to https://user.sportngin.com/users/sign_in to login or to create an account. From within your SportsEngine account you will complete the necessary paperwork including SafeSport certification.

Once you have updated or created your SportsEngine account you are required to register for OVR membership at www.ovr.org/register/.

Your membership is not complete until your registration fee is paid and background screen is complete. Please note that background screens take approximately 7 business days to complete.

1.2 Background Screen

Each juniors' tournament host, site director, and all other juniors' tournament staff must have a completed USA Volleyball background screen. Background screens through other agencies do not meet this requirement.

1.3 Certifications

Each juniors' tournament host, site director, and all other juniors' tournament staff must have the following certifications registered with the OVR office: Concussion Management Certification, Safe Sport Certification and Sudden Cardiac Awareness (SCA) Training (see 1.3a, 1.3b and 1.3c below). You can enter your SafeSport, Concussion, and Sudden Cardiac Arrest certifications by completing the following steps

1. Login to the OVR website: <https://www.ovr.org/index.php>
2. OVR login (top right corner)
3. Login to your account: “My account” (top right corner)
4. Select “View my Profile – Update Certifications”
5. Scroll down to “Manage Certifications” and select
6. Here you can enter SafeSport, Concussion and LINDSAY’S LAW / SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST information.
7. Select “Back to My Profile Page” (top left) to verify.

By submitting the information for “LINDSAY’S LAW / SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST”, you are verifying that you and your staff will have viewed the video.

1.3a Concussion Management Certification

Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia require Concussion Management certification for all adults when supervising minors in a physical activity. You need to have your concussion certification ON RECORD with the OVR prior to any involvement with a sanctioned event. Certification can be obtained from the NFHS online class, it is FREE! Instructions on how to complete the online certification can be found at www.nfhslearn.com. A certificate will be made available immediately online after course completion.

1.3b SafeSport Certification

USA Volleyball requires all adults working with Juniors to complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport course every season. The initial “Core” course is three modules. The certification is good for the remainder of the current season and all of the subsequent season. The certification expires on 8/31 at the end of the season. You will then be able to take a refresher course that will be good for another season. There are three Refresher courses before you must take the CORE course again.

Once you have successfully completed the SafeSport training course, be sure to follow the directions at the end of the course to download a copy of your certification. Your results are automatically sent to the region office and added to the OVR database.

1.3c Sudden Cardiac Awareness (SCA) Training

Sudden Cardiac Awareness (SCA) training now required. In Ohio, the law itself is commonly referred to as “Lindsay’s Law.” This law applies to all adults that participate in athletic competitions. This certification is good for one (1) year and currently requires annual renewal.

2 Tournament Facilities and Insurance

2.1 Facilities

The Ohio Valley Region consists of the states of Ohio, West Virginia and the western counties of Pennsylvania (Erie, Crawford, Mercer, Lawrence, Beaver, Washington, Greene) that border Ohio and West Virginia.

Tournament sites and playing area must be of high quality. Minimum requirements for volleyball courts and equipment can be found in the *2023-2025 USA Volleyball Rules Books*, page 18 (<https://indd.adobe.com/view/f27fc70f-e33f-4e78-b718-67b4ff2af0e0>.) The OVR has the right to have greater requirements than the minimum USAV requirements. This includes playing surface and equipment (condition and safety), facilities (lighting, cleanliness and safety), and heating and cooling of playing area.

Each court must have its own complete set of equipment. 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 designated.

All posts and referees' stands must be padded. Referees' stands are required and should elevate the referee's head approximately 18" above the height of the net and be clear of any obstacles. Jump boxes, ladders, or other similar equipment that is not specifically designed as a referee stand is not permitted. Support wires must be either eliminated or clearly marked and padded.

The Free zone is defined as the area surrounding the court along the sidelines and endlines. The recommended minimum free zone surrounding a court is 2 meters (6'6-3/4"). Tournament sites that have less than the required minimum two meters surrounding the court along the sidelines and endlines will not be considered for tournaments. The service zone has a separate requirement to be two meters in depth and that space cannot be shared with another court. If courts are side-by-side, they may share the two-meter free zone along the sidelines. In the situation when side-by-side courts share a common two-meter free zone, coaches, substitutes and team benches are not permitted in the area between the courts.

Players must be permitted to pursue volleyballs without endangering themselves, other participants, or spectators. The second referee 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 hosts, site directors, or facility managers may not establish local ground rules or modify USAV-OVR playing rules, particularly if those ground rules do not take into consideration the safety issues they may present. Referees will establish the ground rules for each court according to *USA Volleyball Rules Book*.

2.2 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, <https://www.ovr.org/forms/CertificateOfInsuranceRequest.pdf>, contact Stephen Donahue (dona-hue@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.

A tournament host/facility conducting a sanctioned OVR/USAV event in conjunction with a non-sanctioned event must assume the liability for any damages to the facility or injuries to participants or spectators. The OVR/USAV Certificate of Insurance applies only to OVR/USAV members participating in an OVR sanctioned event. Participation of nonmembers in the sanctioned event will void all liability coverage provided by OVR/USAV.

3 Scrimmage/Tournament Sanction Request

3.1 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 the type of friendship scrimmage is being requested in your application for sanction or in your scrimmage information.

Grassroots tournament: For ages 10–14. The events are offered as an alternative to normal, regular-season events and are for teams or members of clubs that need to develop their skills and tactical understanding of the game. The emphasis will be on the educational benefits of the participation rather than the results of the competition. For these events, there will be no hired referees. Coaches from each team will be required to officiate (R1), as outlined in the tournament format for the work team. Entry fees cannot exceed \$85.00. The reduced entry fee results from not hiring referees. All participants must meet OVR/USAV membership requirements. Coaches must have current, clear USAV background screens and must be IMPACT-certified. Pool and tournament formats will follow OVR-approved formats. Grassroots tournament results do not count toward OVR seeding points.

Boys' Tournaments: Boys' tournaments for all age groups are “and under” type tournaments, i.e. there are no National, American, or Regional divisions.

Girls' Tournaments: Tournaments for 10U are Regional. Tournaments for 11s-18s can be “and under”, National, American (girls' 11s, 12s, 13s, 14s, 15s, 16s, and 17s only), Elite (National and American teams), Select (Regional and American teams) or Regional, as defined at <https://www.ovr.org/juniors/divisions.php> . **Tournaments designated as National, American, or Regional are limited to teams with that designation.**

Boys' teams may participate in 10-and-Under and 11Regional designated girls' regular season tournaments. Boys may participate on girls 10-and-under, 11 Regional and 12 Regional teams. There is no limit to the number of boys on a team. No more than three boys may be on the court for a team at one time. Regular USA Volleyball rules for Youth teams will be used with accepted region modification.

“And Under” Tournaments: During the months of December, January, February, April and May, girls' tournament hosts may have tournaments that included National, American, and Regional designated teams.

“Elite” Tournaments: Girls' tournaments for National and American teams.

“Select” Tournaments: Girls' tournaments for American and Regional teams. A designation primarily used by the Juniors Indoor Tournament Coordinator.

Exceptions for 2023-2024:

- American teams may participate in 18 Regional tournaments with the host Tournament Director's permission.
- 11 National teams can play in 12 American tournaments. 12 National teams may participate in 13 American tournaments.
- 10U and 11R tournaments with 3-team pools, instead of a best of five sets, Tournament Directors can choose to use a best of three sets or automatically play three sets in each match. The second pool play match starts when the third match of the 4-team pool starts. The third pool play match should start when the fifth match of the 4-team pool starts.
- 14 & Under competitions, a re-serve rule is in effect. This allows the server a re-serve for EACH service attempt. (This is different than the high school/junior high rule.) Eight seconds are permitted for each serve or re-serve for 14 & Under competition. Server can now catch or touch a tossed ball once per service attempt. Under-hand serving is permitted.

A team may play in a higher age group of the same classification; e.g. a 14 Regional team may play in a higher age group Regional tournament. Same rule applies for American and National teams. Regional teams CAN NOT

play in American designated tournaments nor American teams in Regional designated tournaments (except 18R.) Tournament hosts may not host tournaments of like age groups and classification the same weekend as the OVR Championship, National Challenges, and National Bid Qualifier tournaments.

3.2 Courts, Pools, and Guarantee of Matches for Regular Season Tournaments

The maximum number of courts in any division offered by a tournament host is 4 for any single-day tournament on a given day or weekend.

Tournament hosts may not advertise multiple tournaments more than 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 or lack of team entries. 5-team pools over two courts is permitted. Use of 5-team pools on a single court is not permitted and will result in the 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 or pool.

3.3 Admission Fees

The OVR will permit tournament directors to charge an admission fee. The maximum admission fee for any OVR sanctioned tournament is \$10 per day. This amount will include any fees by an admission collection service or agent. The admission fee is applied to any individual 19 years or older. Once a tournament is sanctioned and made viewable online, the amount of the admission fee cannot be changed or added. Loss of tournament bond if the policy is not followed.

4 Tournament Sanction

Beginning on July 1, the OVR Indoor Juniors' Tournament Coordinator will accept online *Applications for Sanction* for OVR regular-season juniors volleyball tournaments for the upcoming season. Anyone not associated with a Juniors' club requesting a tournament sanction will have their requests evaluated based on the need for additional tournaments that cannot be fulfilled by members associated with a Juniors club.

Complete the online Application for Sanction at <https://www.ovr.org/juniors/sanction/index.php>. Send a tournament bond for each weekend (check payable to Ohio Valley Region) and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the OVR Juniors' Tournament Director (Tom Kohl, 955 East Snodgrass Road Piqua, Ohio 45356.) 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.

4.a Tournament Bond costs

- Up to 8 total courts per weekend: \$500
- 9- 20 total courts per weekend: \$1000
- 21 or more courts per weekend: \$1500

4.1 Tournament Sanction Approval

Prior to receiving a tournament sanction, the Tournament Director must have completed USAV/OVR membership requirements and all certifications. Preference will be given to OVR members associated with a facility that hosts a Juniors' club, allows a Juniors team to practice, or a member of a Juniors' club.

A tournament sanction is only providing an opportunity to host an event. The Person (Tournament Director) requesting a tournament sanction does so knowing the USAV-OVR requirements for hosting a Juniors' tournament. The Tournament Director must be sure the facility hosting the event meets or exceeds USAV-OVR tournament requirements and all local Building, Zoning and Health codes.

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

4.2 Tournament Information and Advertising

Tournament hosts are responsible for publicizing and filling their tournaments. Tournament hosts may use their own resources (phone, e-mail, U.S. 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 Juniors' Tournament Schedule*. To review or update detailed tournament information:

4.2A Update tournament information

- a. Log in to the OVR website.
- b. Click "My Account", then choose "List my juniors' tournaments."
- c. To update tournament information, click the Tournament Details link in the details column. (One can also navigate directly to the TD's Info and Tournament Details pages directly from the *OVR Juniors' Tournament Schedule*). Review your information and make any necessary revisions.
- d. Under "Other Information," you can specify weather or other situation cancellation policy, coaches meeting time, starting time, details of pool play, player and officiating procedures, site-specific rules and information, awards, availability of concessions, and any other details that participating teams and officials will find helpful.

4.2B Add a Site Director or Officials Assigner

- e. To add a Site Director or Officials Assigner
 1. Log in to the OVR website.
 2. Upper right corner, click "My Account"
 3. Click "Update my juniors tournaments"
 4. Look to the right "Edit sd/oa" Click the link

4.2C Manage your juniors' tournaments

- f. To manage your juniors' tournaments
 1. Login as a Tournament Director.
 2. Go to "My Account"; "Juniors"; "Manage my Juniors' Tournaments."
 3. The Manage My Juniors Tournaments page shows a list of tournaments; click on the name of a tournament to see a list of teams registered in each division of the tournament.

4. Tournament Directors may edit information on the teams regarding registration status and payments by clicking on the “Edit” button next to the team’s name.
 5. Tournament Directors have the ability to update team openings only on this page in the “Team openings” box.
 6. Tournament Directors may add in-region and out-of-region teams to the tournament/division by clicking on the “Add Team to This Division” link.
- g. Please note: Out-of-Region teams are only able to register for a tournament by contacting the Tournament Director and only the Tournament Director may add an out-of-region team to the tournament. If the out-of-region team is not listed on the pull-down screen, the Tournament Director may add an out-of-region team by clicking on the “Add Out-of-Region Team” link. Please Note: the USAV code is not to be used as the team’s name.
 - h. If the out-of-region club is not listed on the pull-down screen, the Tournament Director must email the OVR Webmaster (bielby@ovr.org) with the name of the club, its region, and the applicable team code in order to add the club. Then the Tournament Director will be able to add an out-of-region team from that club.
 - i. If the tournament site is not already supported on the OVR website, contact the Indoor Juniors Tournament Coordinator (ovrjtd@gmail.com) with the site’s address. Include directions only if they differ significantly from the directions that are available through online mapping systems.

4.3 Use of OVR E-mail Lists

Tournament hosts may use OVR mailing lists to announce tournament openings and to contact referees. 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.

4.4 ACCEPTABLE USE policy for use of OVR membership information

The submission of and/or granting of a request for tournament sanction, the person applying for tournament sanction (ie. Tournament Director) and any tournament staff (paid/unpaid) used by the Tournament Director agree to use OVR member information only for communications intended to support the business purposes of the OVR sanctioned tournament. At no time is an OVR member to use OVR resources to provide information or promote activities in a competing organization.

Any Tournament Director or tournament staff found in violation of the above ACCEPTABLE USE policy will be fined by the OVR Commissioner. Any remaining tournament requests and sanctioned tournaments associated with said person will be deleted/cancelled. The individual will be barred from hosting/working USAV/OVR sanctioned events within the OVR.

5 Tournament Entry

5.1 Tournament Entry Procedure

The tournament entry process is completed by the Tournament Director and a Club/Team representative. Pre-tournament entry should include a completed contract, a check in the amount of the entry fee, current OVR team identification number, and team contact. The Tournament Director and a Club/Team representative can make other arrangements.

5.2 Tournament Entry Team Fees

The maximum entry fee for OVR juniors’ regular-season single day tournaments is \$235 per team. The maximum

entry fee for OVR juniors' regular-season two-day tournaments is \$470 per team. A higher entry fee may be requested for multi-day tournaments held in large arenas or convention centers.

5.3 Tournament Entry: OVR Teams

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.

5.4 Tournament Entry: Out-of-Region Teams

Teams from other regions should be recorded by club name and team 11-character team codes.

Out-of-region teams should complete an OVR tournament entry form. A neighboring region's tournament entry form with the same information is acceptable. 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, Elite or "and under" events. Other regions' Club teams can only play in OVR Regional, American, Select or "and under" 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.

5.5 Tournament Entry: Foreign Teams

For OVR-sanctioned competitions, a foreign team:

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. 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:

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

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

- a. Copy of birth certificate or government-issued identification with birth date.
- b. *USAV Youth & Junior Volleyball Player Medical Release*, signed by the player's parent or legal guardian.

5.6 Too Many Team Entries

If a tournament director has accepted more team entries than the tournament can accommodate, the following should occur:

1. Add court(s) as needed. (Not to exceed four for a regular-season one-day event or six for a two-day event.)
2. If a tournament director has their own team(s) entered, withdraw their own team(s).

3. Withdraw most recent team(s) entered.

If the error is not caught within one week of the team entry, each oversubscribed team is refunded their entry fee.

5.7 Team Cancellation or Failure to Pay

Team Cancellation or Failure to Pay procedures should be part of any contract provided by the Tournament Director and agreed to by the Club Director or Team Representative when entering a tournament.

The OVR has no legal position to enforce payment of entry fees for an event managed by a Tournament Director. The OVR sanctions the event but is not subject to the contract in the determination of entries. That agreement is between the club/team representative requesting entry and the host management. A club cannot be required by the OVR to pay the fees asked.

5.8 Denial of Tournament 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 cancels from events
- c. a club fails to submit payment and/or required tournament entry information
- d. improper team designation

5.9 Updating Tournament Information

Beginning January 15, tournament hosts that do not have their tournament information updated (including team codes) can have their tournaments unsanctioned until the information is provided.

6 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 referees. Coaches and referees may not 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 a current, “clear” USAV background screen and updated certifications. Contact the following OVR personnel if you need help in finding qualified personnel:

- Tournament directors: Tom Kohl, OVR Indoor Juniors’ Tournament Coordinator, (937-773-7273, ovrjtd@gmail.com)
- Referees, head referees, referee assigners: Brian Hemelgarn, OVR Referees’ Chair (hemelgarn@ovr.org)

6.1 Professional Referees

All OVR-sanctioned regular-season tournaments are required to have at least one referee with a Provisional (or higher) rating.

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

A Conflict of Interest occurs when a referee has direct (as a coach, club director, etc.) or indirect (as a parent, chaperone, etc.) affiliation with a particular club or team. Should a conflict of interest occur, the referee may not officiate matches involving that club or team. In the case of direct affiliation, the referee should not officiate tournaments run by the affiliated club.

Within the OVR, professional referees are classified as International, National, Junior National, Regional, Provisional, and Junior Regional. Junior Regional referees, who are relatively new, are restricted to officiating 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U and 15 Regional competitions for girls or boys. Provisional referees may officiate 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U, 15U, 16 Regional/American, 17 Regional/American, and 18 Regional competitions. Regional through International referees may officiate any level of juniors' competition.

Tournament hosts must hire registered, certified USAV referees with completed, "clear" USAV background screens. For a 1-court tournament, two referees are required. For a 2-court tournament, three referees are required. For a 3-court tournament, four referees are required. For a 4-court tournament, five referees are required. For a 5-court tournament, six referees are required. For a 6-court tournament, seven referees are required.

Use the OVR website (www.ovr.org/officiating/officials.php) to identify and contact certified referees. Brian Hemelgarn (hemelgarn@ovr.org) can also provide assistance in that endeavor and can provide answers and interpretations to any questions regarding officiating issues or playing rules.

Tournament Directors having a history of hiring an insufficient number of referees or consistently needing help assigning referees will receive a minimum number of tournament sanctions as determined by the OVR Indoor Juniors Tournament Coordinator. Additional tournament sanctions will be considered once all referees have been hired for all the Tournament Director's sanctioned events.

Tournament Directors needing excessive assistance from the OVR Referees' Chair to assign officials to their tournaments will be assessed an assignor's fee by the OVR Referees' Chair.

USAV referees from other regions may only be hired with prior notification of Brian Hemelgarn (hemelgarn@ovr.org), and the visiting referee's regional referees' chair. When non-OVR USAV referees are hired, the names of the referees must be entered in the tournament's "Tournament Information" section. Any non-OVR referee who has attended a pre-season OVR officiating clinic is eligible to officiate OVR events.

The hiring of non-USAV referees or suspended referees will cause loss of the tournament bond.

If, due to cancellation or other circumstances, a tournament has no hired referees, or an insufficient number to cover court assignments, the head coach for each match's assigned work team will serve as the first referee for that match and will be compensated at a rate of \$35.00 per match. This reflects the fee that would have been paid to a certified professional referee.

6.2 Volleyball Officiating Contract

Please have all referees complete and sign a *Volleyball Officiating Contract* (www.ovr.org/forms/Officiating_Contract.pdf) for each day or event they work. Please include all *Volleyball Officiating Contracts* with *Juniors Tournament Report*, pool and tournament brackets, and verified team rosters. If a referee refuses to sign, they may not officiate your tournament. Also send the OVR Indoor Juniors' Tournament Coordinator a *Volleyball Officiating Contract* with that referee's name on it and write on the contract "Refused to sign."

6.3 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 assume this role. If all referees have the same certification level, the most experienced referee should fulfill this responsibility. Junior Regional referees may NOT serve as a head referee. 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 pre-tournament coaches' meeting to answer questions about the facility ground rules or

USAV Rules Book.

- Confirm playing ground rules with all referees for each court to ensure the consistent application of the ground rules by the crew of referees.
- Assist referees 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 referees for any play-off matches (adults) and 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. At least two referees must remain present at the tournament until the conclusion of the final match. They should depart the playing venue together.
- Serve as a liaison with 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 Junior's 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 a referee, at the rate of \$5 per court each day.

6.4 Compensation for Referees

Referees are to be paid the final day of a regular season tournament. Method of payment should be agreed upon prior to the tournament. Referees working a multi-day tournament held at multiple sites, convention centers or arenas are to be paid either the final day of the tournament or within three days of the tournament end. Referees and Tournament Directors may agree to a different rate or pay schedule.

A referee hired/contracted to officiate a juniors' regular-season tournament will be compensated on a tiered pay scale based on certification level:

- Junior Regional: \$210/day or \$35.00/match, whichever is greater
- Provisional: \$225/day or \$37.50/match, whichever is greater
- Regional (and Retired Junior National/National): \$225/day or \$37.50/match, whichever is greater
- Junior National/National: \$240/day or \$40.00/match, whichever is greater

The pay rates for a best 3/5 match are:

Junior Regional	\$52.50
Provisional / Regional	\$56.25
Junior National / National	\$60.00

The pay rates for a 3-set

Seldom will a referee be working a full schedule (six matches) of best 3/5 matches in a day. However, it is not uncommon for a referee to work one or two best 3/5 matches when a tournament has a 3-team pool or is running a modified playing format. The easiest way to calculate the referee's pay when 3/5 matches are involved is:

- 1) Count the number of best 2/3 matches and multiply by the standard rate (noted above, based on certification level)
- 2) Count the number of best 3/5 matches and multiply by the "best 3/5 match rate" (also noted above)
- 3) Add those two figures together, and

- a. if the amount is GREATER than the standard six-match pay rate for that certification level, pay the higher amount
- b. if the amount is less than the standard six-match pay rate, the standard “full day” rate is paid (For example, working four 2/3 matches and one 3/5 match would still result in being paid for six matches.)

The OVR uses six matches as the basis for a “full day”. When a referee works more than 6 matches per day, they are paid an additional match fee per match beyond six based upon the per-match fees listed above. If they work less than six matches, they are still paid for a “full day” since accepting assignments is based upon working at least six matches. In the case that a referee works fewer than six matches as first referee, the referee is encouraged to officiate as second referee, particularly on a semi-final or final, to meet the six-match “full day” standard.

It is also acceptable, by agreement of the referee and tournament director, that the referee work on a “per match” basis when it is known in advance that the referee will only work for a part of the day instead of a full day.

A referee acting as the head official shall be compensated at the rate of \$5 per court each day in addition to their match pay as a referee. A head official that is not working for match pay but is supervising/evaluating the officials, available for protests, and actively working to address any problems that would affect the tournament officials’ work schedule should be compensated at the same daily rate as the highest paid official plus \$5 per court. The head official can be further compensated by any prior agreement with the event organizer.

A referee who arrives at the tournament but is unable to complete his or her assignment will be compensated for any completed matches at the appropriate rate stated above. A referee who does not fulfill an assignment should be reported to the OVR Referees’ Chair. If there is a shortage of referees, a coach fulfilling that duty will be paid \$35.00 per match.

6.5 Releasing Referees

A tournament director may release a referee if the tournament format changes or if the number of courts is reduced. This should be done with at least one week’s notice whenever possible. With ample notice, referees may be able to find another event to work. It is at the tournament director’s discretion when releasing a referee, keeping in mind the level of play and the certification levels of the referees.

6.6 Tournament Directors, Building/Site Directors

If the requesting Tournament Director will not be in attendance, they need to email the OVR Juniors Tournament Director the name of the Site Director for the tournament. Please include the Site Director’s OVR membership number. Any courts not under the same roof will require a separate Site/Tournament Director.

Tournament and site directors may not officiate during the tournaments they are directing. Coaches for a participating team cannot serve as referees, 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 certified coach present for a match.

6.7 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.

7 Pre-Tournament

7.1 Pool Play and Tournament Formats

Formats and other instructions for conducting OVR juniors' tournaments of 4 through 24 teams are detailed in the *OVR Juniors' Tournament Packet* (www.ovr.org/juniors/tournament_packet/ .)

Excel files for the various team formats can be found at the link below.

https://www.ovr.org/juniors/tournament_packet/Excel/index.php

7.2 Alternate Playing Formats

Tournament hosts wishing to develop and use alternative pool play or tournament formats must obtain permission from the OVR Indoor Juniors' Tournament Coordinator prior to the tournament date.

Tournament Directors have the choice to invert the teams (1 team is 4, 2 team is 3, 3 team is 2, and 4 team is 1) within the 4-team pools or just use the regular 4-team alignment pool format. This alternative option doesn't change anything but the team arrangement after the pools have been created.

Tournament Directors can alter the work team responsibilities for the second match of the tournament round. The losing team from the first match can leave, and the winning team will act as the assigned work team. This change to the normal procedure must be stated within the tournament information prior to creating the pools for pool play.

7.3 Playing Rule Modifications

Service Step-in Line

The two-meter step in line for Youth competition will be used for 10s, 11 Regional, 11 Select, 11 and Under, 12 Regional, 12 Select, and 12 and Under events. It will not be used at 11 National, 11 American, 12 American, or 12 National events. The back edge of the step-in service line is drawn at two meters (6'6-3/4") 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.

Serving

Underhand serving is permitted.

7.4 Tournament Changes and Cancellations

Tournament sanctions are for tournaments on a specific date/s. OVR tournaments are not postponed. Nor are entire tournaments moved to a different date. Tournament Directors needing to change a tournament date must request a separate tournament sanction. Teams that are available on that date can choose to play but are not required to participate. Full refund of the team entry fee to any team not participating.

Due to circumstances beyond a tournament director's control, a tournament may need to be cancelled. When a tournament is cancelled, contact the OVR Indoor Juniors' Tournament Coordinator immediately. Notify all teams entered and assigned referees by email or phone and through the OVR website and issue a full team entry refund within 72 hours of the cancellation.

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. If a tournament needs to be altered, the tournament director must notify all club directors and referees both by phone and through the OVR website. Hired/contracted referees who are not notified but still arrive at the match site will be compensated a minimum of one match fee.

Tournament directors are responsible for providing information in a timely manner to allow club directors and their teams to plan accordingly. Use the OVR website to post all tournament information.

7.5 Pre-Tournament Information

Wednesday, the week of the tournament, seed 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 referees 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 9:00 am)
- d. pool play format with the schedule of play
- e. tournament format
- f. availability of concessions

8 Juniors' Team Seeding

8.1 Creating Tournament Pools

The general idea behind creating tournament pools is simple. Essentially, the best teams are separated from one another until the later rounds of a tournament.

Each OVR approved tournament has a format sheet that explains the procedures for that tournament. That information can be found within the OVR Juniors Tournament Packet which is published at https://www.ovr.org/juniors/tournament_packet/index.php.

For OVR tournament purposes, teams achieve a ranking based on results from previous OVR and USAV sanctioned events. Currently, the OVR does not have a way to list head to head results among the teams.

Seeding of a tournament does require some thought and effort. Tournament Directors are to use the weekly rankings to create pools for their tournaments. It is recommended that Tournament Directors wait until Wednesday to create the pools for their tournaments as all results are electrically updated by Wednesday morning.

Tournament Directors have the option to have the OVR create the initial pools (Tournament Details; Update Tournament; AUTO POOL). Tournament Directors will still need to ensure teams from the same club are not in same pools.

Pools are established using the most recently published team rankings. However, problems can occur at the beginning of the season when few team results are available; if tournaments consist of different age groups and divisions; not having teams from the same club in the same pool; and out of region teams.

8.2 Regional and American Tournaments

For those tournaments consisting of different age groups within like divisions, nowhere does it say to seed one age group first and then the other age groups. Such tournaments require greater effort by the tournament director in creating the pools due to comparing the success of each team. For such tournaments, please follow these procedures using the “**OVR Champ. Ranking**” column found at Juniors Team Seeding page at <https://www.ovr.org/juniors/seeding.php>.

For a Regional team playing in a higher Regional age level, multiply their current seeding average by .75 and then seed them by their new average.

For an American team playing in a higher American age level, multiply their current seeding average by .75 and then seed them by their new average.

For those tournaments consisting of different age groups within different divisions, please follow these procedures:

For an American team playing in the next Regional age level (i.e. 17A playing 18R; SpikeFest), multiply their current seeding average by .90 and then seed them by their new average.

8.3 “Select” and “U” tournaments

For an American team playing in a tournament which also includes National teams (such as Elite or “and Under” Tournaments), multiply the American team’s current seeding value by .90 and then seed them with their new value.

For a Regional team playing in a tournament which also includes National teams (such as “and Under” Tournaments), multiply the Regional team’s current seeding value by .80 and then seed them with their new value.

For a Regional team playing in a tournament which includes American teams (such as “Select” or “and Under” Tournaments), multiply the Regional team’s current seeding value by .90 and then seed them with their new value.

It is important to know that seeding is essentially a guideline, and a team’s seed does not always reflect the level of ability for a specific day. At the end of the day, teams must prove that they are the best on the court

Helpful links:

Juniors Team Seeding: <https://www.ovr.org/juniors/seeding.php>

Seeding System: https://www.ovr.org/juniors/seeding_system.php

9 Weather

The decision to delay, suspend or cancel a tournament due to weather related issues is a difficult decision. The safety of the individuals traveling to or from a tournament site or occupying a tournament site will take precedence over any other considerations.

Tournament Directors need to be cognizant of the current weather conditions and travel conditions for the teams entered in their tournaments. The safety of the travelers should always be the first consideration.

Once a tournament begins, each Tournament Host is responsible for the safety and health of the tournament site occupants. Every tournament site should have a policy or plan concerning weather-related situations. Contact the local emergency management office to obtain community information and procedures.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN WATCHES & WARNINGS

Watch

A Watch indicates the possibility of severe weather in a relatively broad area. For instance, a tornado watch means conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes. Go about your normal routines but watch for threatening weather.

Warning

A Warning is issued when severe weather is occurring. For instance, a tornado warning means a tornado has been sighted or has been indicated by radar. The warning usually encompasses a relatively small geographic area. If a warning is issued for your location, take cover immediately.

Types of Severe Thunderstorm warnings:

Severe Thunderstorm Watch – issued when conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms, people located in and around the watch area should stay alert and listen to NOAA weather radio or tune to local broadcast media for further weather information. The watch is intended to give you time to prepare and time to review safety rules.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning – issued when a severe thunderstorm has been detected by National Weather Service doppler radar or a reliable report has been received. If the warning includes your neighborhood or workplace, you should take immediate action to protect your life and the lives of others. Severe thunderstorms can produce large hail and damaging winds.

The best defense against thunderstorms is to stay inside a sturdy building or shelter that can protect you from deadly lightning, large hail, damaging winds, flooding rain and tornadoes. Fortunately, thunderstorms typically do not last very long and will most often pass by your location in less than one hour.

Tornadoes can and occasionally do accompany severe thunderstorms. For the purpose of ensuring the safety of the facility occupants, Tournament hosts should have a procedure in place should a tornado warning be issued in the community of the tournament site. This procedure should be on display so all building occupants can view the procedures.

Types of Tornado Alerts:

Tornado Watch – Tornadoes are likely to occur in the watch area. Be ready to act quickly and take shelter. Monitor radio and television stations for more information.

Tornado Warning – Imminent threat – A tornado has been sighted in the area or has been indicated by radar or warning sirens. Take shelter immediately.

Strong Winds

Strong winds of 55 mph or more can cause significant damage even though no tornado is present. If such conditions are present, take the same precautions as you would for a tornado.

Lightning

When lightning is a threat, stay indoors and do not use electrical appliances.

Snow Emergencies

WHAT THE LEVELS MEAN in Ohio

Level 1 Snow Emergency: Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Roads are also icy; drive carefully.

Level 2 Snow Emergency: Roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Only those who believe it is necessary to drive should be out on the roadways. Contact your employer to see if you should report to work.

Level 3 Snow Emergency: All roadways are closed to non-emergency personnel. No one should be out during these conditions unless it is necessary to travel. Those traveling on the roadways may be subject to arrest.

Pennsylvania and West Virginia do not define Snow Emergency levels the same as Ohio. Generally, The State Governor or a local agency will issue an emergency declaration.

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 referees 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 order and cancel the tournament.
- C) A team which originates from an area with a "no travel" order, that consequently does not attend a tournament site, will be given a full refund of tournament entry fee. (The final decision for event cancellation lies with the site host – the final decision for player/team participation lies with the parent(s) and coach.)
- D) If a tournament site is in a location where the local authorities have issued a weather-related warning, follow the pre-determined facility or local community procedures.

If an ongoing pool play/tournament needs to be cancelled due to weather related conditions, follow the guidelines in 11.8 Unforeseen Circumstances for Tournaments in Progress.

10 Tournament

10.1 Banned Substances

Use of tobacco products and alcoholic beverages is prohibited at USA Volleyball events. This includes gyms, locker rooms, and facilities. Tournament sites may not sell CBD (cannabidiol) products.

USA Volleyball prohibits the sale and/or consumption of alcohol beverages in close proximity to junior age participants during all junior events. Despite this prohibition, there are situations where alcohol might be present at a junior event due to the venue where the event is being staged. Many facilities which have volleyball courts also have restaurants and bars located within or adjacent to the facility that serve alcohol. When this is the case the event director should take special precautions to restrict alcohol reaching the spectator area adjacent to the courts and to restrict junior access to the area where liquor is being sold and / or consumed.

USA Volleyball Policy on Alcohol at Junior Events

https://usavolleyball.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/USAV_Alcohol_Policy_Rev_20120525.pdf

10.2 Forms

Forms for hosting a tournament are in the *Juniors' Tournament Packet*, (www.ovr.org/juniors/tournament_packet/.)

10.3 Eligibility

All participating coaches, players, and teams must be duly registered and eligible for participation. Every adult and coach on the team bench must have SafeSport training and be IMPACT or USAV CAP (current or expired). Check the *TD's Info* section of your tournament information for the current membership status of teams, players, coaches and referees participating in your tournament. Prior to the tournament, contact the club directors or referees with incomplete membership or SafeSport training, or IMPACT or USAV CAP (current or expired). Players with incomplete OVR membership cannot participate in OVR sanctioned tournaments. Coaches with incomplete OVR membership or lacking IMPACT or SafeSport training cannot participate in OVR sanctioned tournaments. If a coach brings a copy of their certification(s), please include it with your tournament report.

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.

Parents or spectators who are not currently registered USAV members with a "Clear" USAV background screen, and who are not listed on a team's roster, may not participate in pre-match warm-up activities.

Tournament hosts or tournament directors permitting coaches or players to participate with incomplete OVR membership or coaches without SafeSport training or IMPACT or USAV CAP (current or expired) will lose their tournament bond. Tournament hosts or tournament directors permitting teams with an incorrect team classification to participate in a tournament will lose their tournament bond.

10.4 Official Volleyballs

Molten® volleyballs must be used for all OVR tournaments. Red-White Blue Molten® Super-Touch™ balls are to be used for girls' 13s'-18s' divisions. The VB-Lite will be used for all Youth competition. Molten® Pro-Touch™ or Molten® Flistatec™ balls are to be used for boys' regular season tournaments by the discretion of the Tournament Director. The Molten® Flistatec™ will be used for Boys' WinterFest and the OVR Boys' Championships 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 Bill Zehler (zehler@ovr.org) for pickup near Dayton/Cincinnati.

10.5 Net Heights

Boy's Net: Standard net height for boys is 7 feet, 11 5/8 inches.

Girls' Net: Standard net height for Girls is 7 feet, 4 1/8 inches.

Youth Net: The net height for boys or girls ages 13 and 14 is 7 feet, 4 1/8 inches. Boys and girls ages 11-12 is 7 feet. The lone difference is for youth 10 and under, as the boys will use a net that is 7 feet, while the girls will use a 6-foot, 6-inch net.

10.6 Team Rosters

It is the responsibility of the club director to provide complete and correct rosters. Coaches are required to verify online their team rosters for a tournament. If changes can't be made to online rosters, a coach can print out the "Roster for Tournament Check-In" from the team page on the OVR website. A coach can submit the updated roster to tournament staff when they arrive at check-in the day of the tournament. Roster changes cannot be made once a team starts their first match.

Out of region teams need to submit an OVR Tournament Entry form

https://www.ovr.org/forms/OVR_Tournament_Entry_Form.pdf

Another USAV Region's roster form is also acceptable.

Team rosters are available to Tournament Directors through the *TD's Info* pages linked from the *OVR 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 when a team coach checks-in. 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. G14EXEMP1OV)
- team registration number (e.g. OV-G-1234)
- registration numbers for all participating players and coaches
- uniform numbers for all participating players

In addition, a written or pre-printed, accurate team roster must be available courtside for referees' use during the tournament.

10.7 Coaches' Check-In

A coaches' meeting prior to the start of the tournament is not necessary. A team coach will check-in with the tournament staff when they arrive. If necessary, a team coach can submit an updated roster.

If a Tournament Director feels that it is necessary, a handout with tournament details listing any changes can be distributed when the team coach checks-in with the tournament staff. A coaches' handout can also be linked in the tournament info area from information provided by the Tournament Director.

10.8 Late Arrivals

A team arriving late for its first match has a 10-minute grace period after the warm-up before forfeiting the first set. This is followed by another 10-minute period before that team forfeits the second set. However, the match is not delayed if six players from that team are present at any time during this delay period. (See USAV 6.4.2)

10.9 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.

10.10 Ohio's Return to Play Law

This document can be found as in the Juniors Tournament Packet at https://www.ovr.org/juniors/tournament_packet/index.php. Please have a printed copy at each tournament site for each event you host. The procedures outlined in this document pertaining to concussions and head injuries are to be followed by all OVR Junior Tournament Directors regardless of tournament location. As you read the Ohio's Return to Play Law document, it emphasizes WHO can initiate protocol, and what must be done when an athlete has been involved in a possible concussion injury. It is emphasized, "having the athlete examined on site, DOES NOT REMOVE the athlete from competition." IF the athlete FAILS the protocol, they MUST BE REMOVED! If you have any questions, call OVR Commissioner Brian Hofman at 419-905-6414.

10.11 Team withdraws during the week prior to tournament

To assure a tournament is assigned the correct number of points based on the number of teams entered the week of the tournament, please implement the following procedures:

When a team withdraws during the week leading up to the tournament weekend, and it's not weather-related and no team is found to replace that team, place that team's code in the last place of the tournament results bracket. When a team doesn't show up for the tournament, place that team's code in the last place of the tournament results bracket. When more than one team fails to show up for the tournament, those teams will be tied for last place in the tournament results bracket.

11 Pool Play and Tournament

11.1 Pool Play and Tournament Information Display

Pool play, tournament 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.

11.2 3-team pools

For pools with only three teams, start the second match when the third match of the 4-team pool starts. Also, the third match should start when the fifth match of the 4-team pool starts.

11.3 Warm-ups

Only registered USAV members with a "clear" USAV background screen may be in the playing area to assist with warm-ups. Such individuals must also be listed on that team's roster.

Prior to each team's first match of the day, Juniors boys'/girls' mandatory warm-ups are to consist of 15 minutes (7 minutes shared, no hitting across net), 4 minutes serving team, 4 minutes receiving team. After each team's first match, the mandatory warm-up time between all matches is will be 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 must be in their bench area and not interfere with the team using the court. However, for purposes of risk management, the "off team" may help with retrieving balls for the team warming up, provided both teams' coaches agree.

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.

11.4 Support Officials: Pool Play and Tournament

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

A coach must be at the scorer's table if their team is acting as the support team. For pool play and tournament, teams are required to supply the following support officials: one second referee, two line judges, one scorer, one

assistant scorer/Libero tracker, and one scoreboard operator.

Penalty for teams that are late to their officiating assignment.

By the start of the second 4-minute segment (the receiving team's use of the full court), the entire work team, including the coach, must be present. It is recommended that the second referee be present for the pre-match coin toss.

A penalty of one point per minute, up to 4 points, will be assessed until the work team is complete. If the work team is still incomplete, they will forfeit the first set of their next match. If they do not have any more matches that day, their club will be fined \$100.

For a work team that fails to report for the entire match, that team forfeits their next scheduled match. If the team does not have a subsequent match at that tournament, an incident report is filed with the OVR commissioner and the team/club will be sanctioned and/or fined by the commissioner.

11.5 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 request the winning team to provide the next match's support officials. This must be explained in the "Tournament Details" of the tournament information.

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 the same distance 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.

11.6 Team Benches

The purpose of the roster is to identify the individuals who can participate in a match, including team members who may be on the bench. Once a match has started, the roster cannot be changed to add another coach, player, etc. The roster must be complete prior to the start of warm-ups.

Exception: A player from the same club may be added to a roster (beyond the parameters above) to prevent a forfeiture due to an injury/illness that results in a team having fewer than six players. Proper age/division requirements remain the same.

A club director is permitted to sit on the bench for any of his/her teams, and he/she should be listed on the team roster(s). The club director is subject to conduct sanctions by the referees, if appropriate. The club director is not a coach and has no right to intervene in the match or to interact with the officiating crew. They also do not have coaching privileges and have no right to leave the team bench to stand to give instructions to players on the court, even if no assistant coaching is currently standing for this purpose. The club director may participate in time-outs.

As for other coaches from other teams in that club, they are NOT permitted to join the bench during a match in progress.

11.7 Adjacent Courts

When adjacent courts are being used but one of the courts is not currently scheduled for play (either a break during the day or after play has finished at the end of the day), spectators and other teams may NOT move onto the empty adjacent court to watch the match(es).

Many facility have rules regarding the use of chairs on hardwood floors or Sport Courts, and we can't allow spectators to bring their folding chairs, food or drinks onto these surfaces and risk damaging the floor.

An adjacent court that has no further matches scheduled for the rest of the DAY is a playable area for the teams involved in subsequent matches. If an adjacent court becomes vacant while a nearby match is in progress, the adjacent court will remain a non-playing area for the duration of that match. This assumes there is no break/gap between Sport Courts if playing on that kind of surface. And even if the adjacent court is NOT playable because of the gap/break between the two courts, spectators still cannot be there.

11.8 Unforeseen Circumstances for Tournaments in Progress

If a power outage occurs prior to or during pool play/tournament, it is suggested that the Tournament Director wait one hour before making a decision to cancel an event. If sufficient lighting exists for pool play/tournament to safely continue, the event shall proceed.

If pool play/tournament needs to be 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. Teams that played less than four matches will receive a refund of their entry fee (minus any officiating expenses), pro-rated by the number of matches played. The tournament director will pay each referee based on number of matches officiated.

11.9 Protest Committee and Handling Protests

Only valid protests based upon the *USAV Rules Book* will be accepted.

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

The first referee must stop the match and consult the *USAV Rules Book*.

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 *USAV Rules Book*, the head referee for the tournament should be consulted, and the tournament protest committee convened. (The committee shall consist of the head referee, tournament director and a designated referee or coach not involved in the match.)

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, Libero tracking sheet 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.

Incident Reports, https://www.ovr.org/forms/OVR_Incident_Report.pdf, should be mailed to the OVR Commissioner (address on form). Any concerns regarding referees or work teams should be reported to Brian Hemelgarn (hemelgarn@ovr.org), OVR Referees' Chair, and to Brian Hofman (hofman@ovr.org) OVR Commissioner and President.

Mail Injury or Property Damage Report, https://www.ovr.org/forms/Injury_Damage_Report.pdf, to the address on the form.

11.10 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 cannot 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 pre-determined "heads" or "tails" will have the higher finish. If both coins land with the pre-determined "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 pre-determined "heads" or "tails" will have the higher finish. If both coins land with the pre-determined "heads" or "tails", then the coaches will toss their coins again until the tie is broken.

12 Post-Tournament

Failure to do the following will result in loss of the tournament bond. Retain copies of all tournament results until the end of the OVR Championships.

12.1 Post-Tournament Procedures

Post-tournament procedures are as follows:

Monday or earlier, after the tournament, post the tournament results, www.ovr.org/juniors/results.php.

Tuesday, after the tournament, mail or e-mail pdf document (ovrjtd@gmail.com) a *Juniors Tournament Report*, Official contracts, updated team rosters, pool play and play-off brackets to the OVR Indoor Juniors' Tournament Coordinator (Tom Kohl, 955 East Snodgrass Road, Piqua, OH 45356, ovrjtd@gmail.com).

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.

12.2 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. Tournament bonds from a recently completed season can be used for the next season.

13 Food and Coolers

Tournament hosts determine whether outside food and drink is permitted or not permitted inside a tournament site. Tournament hosts that provide concessions should offer food choices that are fresh and healthy. Tournament hosts are not responsible for providing meals to referees but may do so at their discretion. Tournament hosts permitting outside food must abide by the following OVR rules:

Coolers are prohibited inside and outside facilities hosting OVR-sanctioned events.

Setting up tables and/or cooking equipment by teams or their support staff, fans, coaches, or parents is prohibited at OVR-sanctioned events. Tournament directors and site managers do not have the discretion to grant exceptions 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 Brian Hofman, OVR Commissioner, resulting in up to a \$250 fine and a team/club suspension.

Food and/or drinks are not permitted ON the scorer's table. We realize that sometimes breaks are short, and the athletes need time to eat and to stay hydrated. With the Tournament Director's permission, the work crew can have food/drinks at the table while working, but their drinks need to stay on the floor (capped) and food needs to be on the player's lap.

14 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 and a warning, possible fine, or sanction 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.

15 Sportsmanship/Spectator Behavior

The Ohio Valley Region promotes a high standard of sporting conduct (“sportsmanship”) among its athletes, coaches, referees, and spectators and expects the USAV Spectator/Parent Code of Conduct to be followed, as outlined in the USAV Rules Book and any other publications. Tournament directors are expected to support officials, coaches, players, and other tournament personnel during an event. 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 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.

16 Video Recording, Photography, and Other Electronic Devices

The use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS, Drones) indoors is not permitted during OVR events.

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. Local Tournament hosts decide whether they will allow a team to mount a GoPro/NetCam on the net post. If a GoPro/NetCam/video camera will be attached to the net post, it must be firmly secured so that there is no risk it will fall off during the match. The video device cannot obstruct or impeded the work of the referees. A video device placed near the first referee may not obstruct the referee’s view or prevent the referee from signaling. ONLY the two competing teams may use a video device on the net. There can be no delay during the match for a coach or other team personnel to adjust the camera, etc. Once it is mounted, it must remain there for the duration of the match. The coach/team may NOT review or access video during the match at any time-including time-outs or the interval between sets. The video device cannot transmit video to any other source during the match. The owner of the video device takes FULL RESPONSIBILITY for the equipment in the case of damage, etc. If a video device is damaged during the match, the team is at risk for a delay sanction if the situation interrupts the continuation of the match.

Possession of phones, musical devices, and other electronic devices (excluding medical devices) is strictly prohibited by support officials. This includes coaches at the scorer’s table. Referees have been instructed to offer a reminder (“warning”) the first time a work team uses electronic devices. For any additional occurrence, the support team shall be penalized 10 points in the first set of their next match, awarded to their 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 \$100 fine shall be imposed.

Teams may use portable audio equipment to play warm-up music but only for the first match of the day and only if allowed by the local tournament host. Once competition has started, the use of audio equipment must be discontinued to avoid interfering with matches on adjacent courts.

17 Violations

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

- **First Violation:** *Incident Report* filed and tournament bond will be sent to the OVR Commissioner to be cashed. The 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. 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 Brian Hofman, OVR Commissioner (419-905-6414, hofman@ovr.org.)