



Junior Official's Certification Program

**2024-2025
USA Volleyball Season**



OUR GOAL



The OVR has a history of well-trained junior work teams. Your cooperation in our Junior Officials Program will help us ensure that we are providing the best support officials for each match.

As we say, "All teams want good work crews, so be sure your team is providing the same quality officiating that you expect when you're playing."



JUNIOR WORK TEAMS



The "third team" on the court - a junior work team - consists of the following:

- A second referee ("R2")
- Two line judges
- A scorer
- An assistant scorer/Libero tracker
- A scoreboard operator/"flipper"
- A coach (or rostered adult), who must be at/near the score table throughout the match



JUNIOR WORK TEAM EQUIPMENT



- Second referee
 - Bring your OWN whistle! (An electronic whistle is permitted but not preferred since they are often not loud enough)
 - A timing device (wristwatch or stopwatch) is recommended
- Line judges
 - Line judge flags are typically provided by the tournament host or referees
- Scorer & assistant scorer/Libero tracker
 - Scoring materials, including scoresheets, pens/pencils, line-up sheets, are provided by the tournament host



JUNIOR WORK TEAMS



During all OVR-sanctioned tournaments, a “work team” is assigned to each match to fulfill the duties of second referee, line judges, and scoring crew. Junior players fill these “work team” roles and must be properly trained and certified.

The OVR Junior Official Certification Program provides training, instructions, and certification procedures to assist in this endeavor.



CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



The OVR certifies qualified junior players as scorers and/or second referees. There is no certification for line judges or Libero trackers (assistant scorers), but players filling these roles must be properly trained.

By **April 1** of each season, all OVR teams must have at least one trained and certified junior scorer and junior second referee.

(see page 15)



CERTIFICATION PROCESS



To become certified as a junior scorer or second referee, there are two steps:

STEP 1

- Complete the designated USAV Academy online training courses (*see page 11*)

OR

- Attend an in-person clinic hosted by your club and presented by a professional OVR-USAV certified referee (*see page 12*)



CERTIFICATION PROCESS



STEP 2

After completing the online USAV Academy courses or attending an in-person clinic, the player must:

- Be evaluated on-court during a scrimmage, Friendship Tournament, or regular-season tournament by a certified OVR-USAV referee.
- A minimum of two successful evaluations must be completed. Each evaluation must be at least one full set, preferably a full match.



EVALUATION FORMS



The OVR has developed evaluation forms for junior officials. The forms can be found on the OVR website at:

https://www.ovr.org/forms/Junior_Scorer_and_R2_Rating_Forms.pdf

Evaluations should take place during pool play. After the form is completed and the referee has discussed relevant items with the junior official, the form is given to the junior official.



CERTIFICATION



Upon successfully completing two evaluations as either second referee or scorer, whichever certification the player is seeking, a Junior Official certification is achieved. The certification is good for the current season.

The player and/or the player's coach retain the evaluation forms as proof of completion of the certification.

NOTE: Certification cards are not longer utilized.



ONLINE TRAINING



The OVR relies on each club and team to encourage their players to complete the online training materials for junior official certifications in the USAV Academy. Instructions for accessing the online training materials is available on the OVR website:

[https://www.ovr.org/docs/OVR Jr Officials
Online Course Instructions.pdf](https://www.ovr.org/docs/OVR_Jr_Officials_Online_Course_Instructions.pdf)



IN-PERSON CLINICS



Instead of, or in conjunction with the online training materials, clubs or teams and their coaches may also request an in-person clinic, presented by an OVR referee. These clinics cover scoring procedures and working as a second referee. To arrange an in-person clinic, contact:

Jared Malott (Malott@ovr.org),

Katie Wagner (kwagnervb@gmail.com),

Brian Hemelgarn (Hemelgarn@ovr.org).



ON-COURT TRAINING



Clubs/teams also have the option of utilizing pre-season on-court training in conjunction with an in-person clinic to certify junior scorers and second referees. An intra- or inter-club scrimmage or a pre-season Friendship Tournament can be used for this purpose.

Contact: **Jared Malott** (Malott@ovr.org),
Katie Wagner (kwagnervb@gmail.com), or
OVR Referees' Chair **Brian Hemelgarn**
(Hemelgarn@ovr.org)



CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

- It is each club director's responsibility to ensure all coaches and players are aware of the Junior Official Certification Program and the associated requirements for online training or in-person clinics, and on-court evaluations.
- It is highly recommended that ALL players on a team be trained as line judges and Libero trackers.



TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- Each team should have at least two trained, certified second referees and scorers.
- When a team does not have a certified second referee (or scorer) by **April 1**, a coach from that team will fulfill this duty.
- When a team has neither a certified second referee nor a certified scorer, a coach must fulfill the scorer duties; a junior player will be the second referee.
- The work team may have food/drink but items must **NOT** be on the score table. Drinks should be capped.



WORK TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- The junior second referee and scorer(s) should report to the first referee in time to attend the pre-match coin toss. At a minimum, they should report by the time the **servicing** team begins its timed warm-ups.
 - If more than one player will keep score during a match, ALL scorers need to report to the first referee at the same time. It is preferred that ONE player serve as the scorer **for the match.**
- The Libero tracker, line judges and scoreboard operator/"flipper" should report to the first referee no later than the time the **receiving** team begins its timed warmups.
 - If multiple players will work as Libero tracker and/or line judges during a match, ALL players need to report to the first referee at the same time.



LATE/INCOMPLETE WORK TEAM



- A work team that is incomplete or that fails to report to the first referee in a timely manner prior to the start of the match, may be assessed a penalty of up to **4 points**. The penalty points will be awarded to their opponent in the first set of their next match.
- If a late work team does not have additional matches to be played that day, a \$50 fine shall be imposed by the OVR Commissioner. A team that fails to report for an officiating assignment is subject to a \$100 fine and may be placed on suspension until the fine is paid.
- ***Why a penalty or fine?!*** Because a late work team delays the start of the match and impacts the flow of the tournament, which lengthens the tournament day.



WORK TEAM COACH RESPONSIBILITIES



- A work team coach (or rostered adult) must:
- be at/near the score table for the duration of the match and must arrive by the end of warm-ups.
 - be familiar with USAV scoring procedures.
 - NOT use electronic devices. (*see pg 19*)
 - work as second referee or scorer if the team doesn't have a certified junior player for either of these positions after April 1.



ELECTRONIC DEVICES



- Work teams are NOT permitted to use electronic devices while officiating a match. This includes, but is not limited to: cell phones, iPads, iPods, AirPods, ear buds, music players, etc. (Exceptions are made for required medical devices.) A watch for timing warm-ups or time-outs is permitted.
- Referees are instructed to issue ONE verbal warning PER DAY to a work team that violates this OVR rule. A subsequent violation will result in a 10-point penalty, assessed in the first set of the work team's next playing match.



COMPETENCY



Teams or clubs that exhibit a pattern of failing to fulfill work team duties with a reasonable level of competency will be required to host an in-person clinic to provide additional training for the team(s). The clinic will be at the team's/club's expense.

We do not expect work teams to perform at a "professional" level, but they must have working knowledge of: scoring procedures, primary second referee responsibilities, and basic line judge duties, respectively.



RESPECT!



Spectators/parents (and playing teams) must recognize that our work teams are comprised of 10- to 18-year-old KIDS. They are not professional officials. As such, the OVR expects our work teams to be treated with respect, regardless of ability. Failure by any spectator, parent or playing team to act accordingly may result reprimand, removal from the facility, or sanction levied against the team or club by the OVR Commissioner. (see *pages 22-24*) Work teams are instructed to report inappropriate comments from teams or spectators to the first referee or tournament staff.



USA VOLLEYBALL



SPECTATOR/PARENT CONDUCT

GUIDELINES

2023-2025 USA Volleyball Indoor Rules Book

1. USAV Volleyball has a “zero tolerance” policy for unsporting conduct at local, regional, and national events.
2. Harassment, intimidation, or unsporting words or actions directed towards other spectators, match participants, tournament staff, officials, including line judges and scorers, may result in removal from the event. Attendance at future events may also be impacted.

The complete Conduct Guidelines text is on the following slide.



SPECTATOR/PARENT CONDUCT GUIDELINES AT USA VOLLEYBALL EVENTS

The following guidelines are intended to encourage positive spectating experiences in an enthusiastic, supportive environment for athletes, coaches, officials, and fellow spectators.



1. USAV Volleyball has a "zero tolerance" policy for unsporting conduct at local, regional, and national events.
2. Harassment, intimidation, or unsporting words or actions directed towards other spectators, match participants, tournament staff, officials, including line judges and scorers, may result in removal from the event. Attendance at future events may also be impacted.
3. A current membership with USA Volleyball is required to participate in any game or game-like activities.
4. Law enforcement, security personnel, and USA Volleyball Event Arbitrators (the "Green Shirts") play an important role in ensuring a safe, fair environment for our young athletes and should be considered important members of the tournament staff.
5. Generate goodwill and good sportsmanship by being polite and respectful to others attending the event.
6. The Event Director and/or Program Administrator must be notified when any illegal activity is witnessed.
7. Spectator seating around the courts is for the primary use of those watching the match in progress. Spectators may rightfully choose to remain in a seat for an entire match without switching sides of the court.
8. Alcohol may not be consumed courtside at any USA Volleyball Youth/Junior volleyball event.
9. Club directors and coaches have a responsibility to address unsporting conduct, words, or actions, by spectators or parents associated with their club.
10. **WARNING!** Injury from flying objects incidental to the sport of volleyball may occur. Attend at your own risk. Please pay close attention to your surroundings and be alert at all times, especially during active play.



OHIO VALLEY REGION



SPECTATOR/PARENT CONDUCT

In addition to the USA Volleyball Spectator/Parent Code of Conduct, the Ohio Valley Region has a “zero tolerance” policy when it comes to spectator conduct at local and Regional events. By entering a facility to attend an OVR-USAV sanctioned event, all spectators agree to abide by OVR and USAV Codes of Conduct. Failure to do so may result in removal from the facility. A pattern of unsporting conduct by a spectator(s) may result in a sanction being assessed to the team/club by the OVR Commissioner.



If their lanyard is green, the referee is under 18! Be kind, understanding, and respectful toward these up-and-coming referees!

A GREEN LANYARD

MEANS YOUR REFS IS

UNDER 18





RESOURCES



- A PDF version of the current USAV Indoor Rules Book is available online:
<https://usavolleyball.org/resources-for-officials/rulebooks-and-interpretations/>

Have a GREAT SEASON!