



USA *Volleyball*



NERVA Junior Division Operating Code

Updated 10/01/2017

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Article I. Guidelines and Requirements for Establishing a Club

Section 1.01 General Information

USA Volleyball (USAV) is one of the leading amateur sports bodies in the country... innovative programming, aggressive in the pursuit of improved benefits for its athletes, and dedicated to bringing world excellence in volleyball to America.

USA Volleyball is the nation's volleyball leader. It is recognized by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) as the National Governing Body for the sport. It is the exclusive representative of the United States volleyball community to the Federation of International Volleyball (FIVB) and to a number of other international sport bodies. In recent years, USA Volleyball has gained national recognition through the performance of both its USA Women's and Men's teams. But these two teams are only the tip of the iceberg for an organization that founded in 1928 and that involves itself in all levels of volleyball throughout the country.

USA Volleyball has divided the country into regions. Within each region there are a number of programs conducted including regular competitions organized by age and/or ability, summer instructional camps, and clinics for the development of coaches, players and referees. International competition involving the USA National Team and foreign opponents are also regular features in many of these regions.

Resources, such as rule books, video tapes, coaching manuals and drill books and more can be obtained by visiting the USA Volleyball website at <http://www.teamusa.org/>

Section 1.02 USA Junior Volleyball

Junior Volleyball is a program for players 18 years of age and younger who have not graduated from high school prior to the end of the spring semester of the current season (possibly 19 years of age). The purpose of the USA Junior Volleyball Program is to offer young players an opportunity to become involved in a wholesome and beneficial athletic activity which they can pursue at various skill levels. In many cases it is a chance for all athletes to receive high quality instruction in skills development and team strategy. The USA Junior Volleyball Program should be an extension of learning from the High School program and a natural bridge between youth (ages 12 and under) and college volleyball or USA Adult volleyball.

The USA Junior Volleyball Program of competition runs from November through the middle of July. Many athletes are also involved in their schools' other programs at the same time they are learning from you. Do not put unreasonable demands on the athletes. Let them stay loyal to their high school programs as well. If they enjoy your program and that is all they want to do, let that be their decision only. You, not their high school coach, will need to be flexible. Try to practice on days or times that do not conflict with the majority of their sets. Be reasonable and keep the athlete's best interest at heart.

Remember the philosophy of the USAV Junior Volleyball Program is:

ATHLETES FIRST --- WINNING SECOND

Section 1.03 How to Start a Juniors Club in the New England Region

1. Read NERVA Junior Division Operating Code completely
2. Contact the New England Region Junior Commissioner with your intent to begin a club (contact info located at www.nevolleyball.org).
3. Attend the Board of Directors Meetings. Mandatory meetings will be held on a Monday in June and a Sunday at the end of October or beginning of November each year and announced on the www.nevolleyball.org To be a voting member of the NERVA Junior Division Board of Directors, a club must consist of two (2) or more teams and be a club in good standing with the region.
4. NERVA Jr. Division Board of Directors voting structure:
Clubs with 1 to 99 members – 1 vote
Clubs with 100 to 199 members – 2 votes
Clubs with 200 plus members – 3 votes
5. Contact the NERVA Juniors Commissioner to have your Club added to the USA Webpoint Registration System. Club names must be unique and you will need to work with the Juniors Commissioner to select your name. All Club names must be approved by the NERVA Juniors Commissioner.
6. Have all coaches, tournament directors, players, chaperones and any one affiliated with your club who will be working with players, register with the USA Webpoint Registration System <https://webpoint.usavolleyball.org>. This must take place before tryouts or practices begin. All adults in your club must be current NERVA/USAV members with a current USAV background check. They must also be Safesport and IMPACT certified.
7. Secure an approved facility with appropriate equipment to conduct practices and competition consistent with the rules of the game. A Practice Sanction Request form will need to be completed and submitted to the Juniors Commissioner before practices begin.
8. Publish your Clubs tryout dates and other information about your club. It is strongly recommended you setup a website for this purpose.
9. Additional information and help documents are available on the NERVA and NERVA Juniors websites. (www.nervajuniors.org and www.nevolleyball.org) this may help with strategic planning.

Section 1.04 How to Become A USA Junior Volleyball Coach in the New England Region

1. Read these guidelines completely.
2. Find a club in your area and contact the director of the club. A complete club list can be found at www.nevolleyball.org The Club Director will let you know the requirements for coaching a team within their program.
3. Attend one of the IMPACT Clinics offered by the Region or take the USAV online IMPACT clinic The regional classroom IMPACT schedule will be posted at www.nevolleyball.org
4. Current NERVA membership, IMPACT and SafeSport certification and a successful background checks are required for each coach participating with a NERVA Junior team.

Section 1.05 N. E. Region Volleyball Assoc. Background Screening Policy

It is the policy of the New England Region Volleyball Associations (NERVA) that any entity intending to hire or use registered individuals in any sanctioned junior volleyball event and/or activity will accept and abide by the background screening policy. The following individuals must be screened: Club directors, club administrators, team representatives, coaches, chaperones, tournament directors, trainers and anyone who intends to register, affiliate and/or participate with a junior volleyball club or team in any capacity through NERVA.

Additionally, the entity will enforce the penalties resulting from a negative background screening report. Failure to do so is grounds for automatic suspension of membership privileges to participate in NERVA/USAV sanctioned junior events and/or activities. All disqualified individuals have the right to dispute the findings of the background screening directly with Southeastern Security Consultants, Inc. (Hereunder referred to as SSCI.)

NERVA will not register, or allow to be registered, any individual who refuses to consent to a background screen if he/she intends to affiliate and/or participate with a junior club or team in NERVA. NERVA Junior members are any members regardless of age that are registered with a regional club as a junior club member. A background screen will not be required for those individuals who will be classified as junior players or those individuals not registered, affiliated and/or participating with a junior volleyball club or team in NERVA.

Individuals who are subject to background screening will be screened every two years. NERVA retains the right to require additional background screens at any time.

PROCESS

Upon registering with the USA Webpoint Registration System individuals who will be associated with a junior's team must check off a box under the "Participating Role" section. Upon doing so if a Background Screen has expired or the participant is a first year participant, the system will lead to the Background Screen Authorization area. The participant must complete the data requested and accept the electronic waiver. Once the member's application has been paid, the Background Screen application will be forwarded for processing (to SSCI). Any registration that remains UNPAID will not be scheduled for background screening and processing and the registrant will remain ineligible to participate with any junior's activity or event.

All information received as a result of a background check will be strictly confidential. Notice of clearance or disqualification for all applicants will be provided via e-mail to:

1. The designated contact of NERVA that submitted the application.
2. USA Volleyball National Office

A notice of automatic disqualification will be sent by the screening service to the hiring or using entity.

The complete profile will be provided directly to an automatically disqualified individual, along with a copy of the "Summary of Your Rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act" (FCRA), and a notification that the individual is prohibited from participating in NERVA/USAV sanctioned junior event and/or activities.

All disqualified individuals have the right to dispute the findings of the background screening directly with SSCI.

Individuals automatically disqualified are excluded from participation in any NERVA/USAV sanctioned junior events and/or activities.

AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFIERS FOR PARTICIPATION IN SANCTIONED JUNIOR EVENTS AND/OR ACTIVITIES:

Convictions based on being found guilty, pled guilty or pled nolo contendere for sexual abuse, molestation, physical abuse, aggravated assault or assault of a minor, murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, and corruption of the morals of a minor.

Falsification of information on any membership application or the consent/release form is grounds for membership revocation or denial of membership.

Individuals that are automatically disqualified must wait one season before reapplying for affiliation and/or participation with a junior club or team.

ENFORCEMENT :

It is the responsibility of the entity hiring or using those individuals who are disqualified to make sure the individual does not participate in NERVA/USAV sanctioned junior events and/or activities.

PENALTY:

Failure of an entity to request background screening or enforce disqualification is cause for suspension of all members of the offending entity until background screening and enforcement requirements are met.

Section 1.06 USAV SafeSport Requirements

1. The SafeSport Platform can be found at <https://safesport.org>

Section 1.07 NCAA and High School Associations

Whether coaching a state high school, Junior volleyball team, or hosting a Junior tournament, for high school aged girls, please remember that the high school associations have certain restrictions on players, coaches, awards, clinics, camps, and all-star matches. Tournament directors and coaches must take these rules into consideration when considering USA Volleyball competition. It is imperative that USA Volleyball sanctioned coaches, teams, practices, tournaments, clinics and camps comply with these high school regulations in every aspect. The New England Region and USA Volleyball will not tolerate any action whether intentional or unintentional, which will jeopardize the eligibility of our athletes for future athletic amateur activity. ***Special Note to Our Clubs. The High School and the NCAA have rules that do not permit a player to participate for free if you charge for your program or at a reduced rate from what is charged other players in your program. Violation of this rule will cause a player to lose their amateur standing and be declared ineligible for high school and NCAA competition. If you have any questions, contact the NCAA first!

Article II. New England Region Jr. Club Regulations

Section 2.01 Requirements for Juniors Clubs in New England

A junior's club is 2 or more teams where the club name is part of each team name. A junior's club of 1 team may participate in regional sanctioned events. One-team clubs

will not be voting members at NERVA Juniors Division board of directors meetings. It is recommended that all teams in a club register at the same time. Team names will consist of club name, age level, optional name (example: Club Name 15 Blue). Additional team(s) may be added to the club as long as the new team(s) has (have) the club name as part of their team name. A club must register each team it intends to enter in sanctioned Regional events, with the Region's Junior Scheduler.

1. If a club consists of teams in more than one playing level, all players within the club may be assigned to ANY playing level, in which they are age qualified, for any given event. An assigned player may not play down but may play up for the part or entire season. The team rosters must be posted on webpoint. Roster must include player's uniform numbers.
2. If a club consists of more than one team at the same playing level, all players of that level may play on any team of that level for any given event.
3. Players are only allowed to be on one roster per tournament date.
4. A player shall be considered frozen to the team's roster on which they competed AND WON, a NERVA bid to USAV Junior National Championships. The frozen roster rule shall only apply for competition in the USAV Junior National Championships.

Section 2.02 Club Director Responsibilities:

1. Club Directors must submit a club registration form each season. Form can be found on www.nevolleyball.org
2. Club Directors must report all club team names to the Juniors Scheduler before **February 1st** of each season. Once a team name has been established it should not change for the duration of the season. Name changes result in confusion and the possibility of loss of points for that team. If a team name has to change after it has been reported to the Tournament Scheduler, it must be approved by the Juniors Coordinator and confirmed with the Juniors Scheduler. Team Codes will be established when a team is entered into the Webpoint Registration system by the Club Administrator. Team names must accompany team codes when reporting results or issues to the region. Team name will consist of **CLUB NAME, AGE LEVEL and OPTIONAL NAME.**
2. Provide a copy of NERVA Junior Division Operating Code to each coach in the club, in order that all coaches will be aware of the Regions Guidelines, to avoid any discrepancies or misinterpretations.
3. Keep medical release forms and information for each player with you (a copy for yourself and the originals for your coaches) at all times; practices and tournaments, in case of emergency.
4. Have a first aid kit available at your site for practices and tournaments. Know and/or post emergency phone numbers for your site.
5. Complete a USAV **incident report** for any injuries that occur at your facility, whether the player is in your program or not, and forward the report to the NERVA Commissioner.
6. Confirm tournament assignments with the Juniors Scheduler. It is ultimately the responsibility of each club to know where teams are assigned for each tournament. Clubs

must report, in advance and with reasonable notice, if teams will be missing from or unable to compete in a tournament.

- a. Teams reported as “No Shows” with less than 24 hours notice will not be allowed to use that particular tournament when dropping their lowest score. They will receive zero points.
- b. Teams reported as “No Shows” with 25 hours or more notice will be allowed to use that particular tournament as their dropped score.

7. **Girls Club and Open level tournaments require reciprocal courts.** Reciprocal tournaments include 4 regular season tournament dates and the championship date. Clubs are solely responsible for the cost of renting their own facilities. Each club must host a tournament on each scheduled tournament date with a sufficient number of courts available (see Reciprocity defined in [Section 3.01, Paragraph 5](#)).
8. Club directors are responsible for the actions and behavior of their coaches, players and their parents. Establishing a policy within your club insisting on good sportsmanship towards officials, work teams (player referees), tournament directors and other coaches and players should be a paramount concern. Juniors volleyball is focused on the training and development of young players. Winning should be secondary to learning. Tournament Directors are allowed to remove parents from a facility if they exhibit poor sportsmanship, aggressive behavior or are otherwise unruly. The New England Region will monitor complaints about coaches, parents and players behavior and will enforce necessary sanctions as needed to deal with poor sportsmanship.
9. Assure membership for players and coaches are current prior to stepping on the court
10. Report to the NERVA Juniors Commissioner any team that intends to apply for the NERVA bids for the USAV Juniors National Championship by **March 1st**.
11. Background screening is a requirement of NERVA and USAV. It is the Club Directors responsibility to verify compliance for each coach, chaperone and tournament director in their program.
12. Ensure that all coaches are IMPACT and SafeSport certified. No coach may be on the bench without a current background check and without IMPACT and SafeSport certifications.
13. Club Directors or their appointed representative must attend Board of Directors meetings held twice a year. November and June meetings are mandatory.
 - a. A club that is not represented at the semiannual board meeting shall be issued a warning for non-attendance by the Juniors Division Secretary.
 - b. A member club that is not represented at two consecutive board meetings in a row, shall forfeit their voting rights at subsequent meetings until such a time as they have attended two meetings in a row.
14. When a club hosts tryouts to attract players for their teams, they must follow all of the established safety precautions and guidelines set forth in the NERVA Junior Division Operating Code. Every participant must be a current NERVA member.

Section 2.03 Team Competition and Playing Levels

Juniors Teams are classified in single age groups. Qualifications for each age group are outlined in the USAV Manual. All levels follow USA Volleyball Rules.

1. Juniors teams are required to have (as a minimum) an IMPACT, SafeSport Certified and background checked (through USAV) adult coach (over the age of 18) on the roster and present at all tournaments and practices. Coaches must be current NERVA members.
2. All Junior's team head and assistant coaches are required to meet the requirement listed in Section 2.03 – 1. A certified coach must be on the team bench during all competitions involving the team. Certification must be completed before coach is allowed to be added on webpoint roster. Teams cannot compete in sanctioned events until there is a IMPACT/SafeSport certified coach with a current USAV background check and current NERVA membership listed on webpoint roster.. For more information on IMPACT certification, visit the NERVA web site at www.nevolleyball.org
3. Upon yearly registration players may select a club or “Undecided” during tryouts. Once a commitment has been made to a club and that club has assigned a player to a club team, at that time, NERVA will assume that there is an agreement between the club and the player/parent. From that point on, for a junior player to move to a different club, a formal transfer procedure will be required. Visit the NEVolleyball.org website for details.
4. **Age levels of competition:** NERVA will follow USA Volleyball Age Definitions. USA Volleyball Junior Age Definition for use during the Current Season are available at: <http://www.teamusa.org>
USA Volleyball Junior Age Definition chart will be posted on www.nevolleyball.org
5. An individual may play up in any division but not down, for example: A 16 year old may play in an 18 & under event, but they could not play in a 15 & under tournament.
6. Teams may choose to play up an age level at NERVA I. Teams playing above their designated age level or “up a level” must stay at that level for the entire season and are not permitted to move back down later in the season. A team may play the first tournament date at their age level and then choose to move up an age level later in the season. Teams must report changes to the Girl's Division Scheduler. An exception to this rule is if two or more teams wish to play at National Championships. These teams need to play at the appropriate level **if the Regional Championship is being used to determine which team will win a NERVA bid into National Championships.** If a separate qualifying tournament is scheduled to determine a bid winner, they do not need to play at their age level. Teams will stay at the age level played during the season for Regional Championships.
7. Coaches should always carry a complete team roster and THE MEDICAL RELEASE FORMS with them at all competitions (templates are available at <http://nevolleyball.org/documents/>)
8. **Team officials:** It is recommended that all teams traveling out of the NE Region have at least two certified officials on their roster. It is recommended that all programs review the rules and guidelines with all program members.
 - a. A Junior Girl's Division team must have at least one certified official (of any kind) on the roster by **March 15**. Junior Girl's Division teams registering after February 15 must have the certified officials on the roster within 30 days, or they cannot play in sanctioned events until the requirement is met. This requirement is

for travel teams, in preparation for inter-region and regional level competition requirements. This does not apply to local level competitions.

9. Team Officials (work teams) – Girl’s Club Level Tournaments. All Club level tournament matches will be officiated by the players and **NOT** coaches, directors or parents. Coaches are to monitor their work team at all times from any where needed in the playable area. Coaches cannot be seated in a spectator area. Coaches are to ensure there are no distractions for the work team such as cell phones, other electronic devices or unauthorized personnel. Club Directors are to remind their coaches of this policy each season.
10. Scorekeepers. (Please note: the certification is the Juniors Exam)
 - a. The following is required for the current season:
 - b. A Junior Girl’s Division team must have at least one certified scorekeeper on the roster by **March 15**. Junior Girl’s Division teams registering after February 15 must have the certified scorekeeper on the roster within 30 days, or they cannot play in sanctioned events until the requirement is met. This requirement is for travel teams, in preparation for inter-region and regional level competition requirements. This does not apply to local level competitions.

Section 2.04 Team Definitions and Tournament Structure

1. Team Definitions:

Girl’s Open Level teams: compete in the New England Open level sanctioned tournaments. Teams from New England must qualify for this level by entering and playing in a qualifying tournament. When growth and demand are high at the Open level, New England may impose a limit on the number of entrants into a specific qualifier. Open Level tournaments will abide by USA Volleyball Rules except where the New England Region has approved a modification. Open level Divisions will be determined by the competition committee at the beginning of each season. The size and scope of each Open Division age groups will be developed, designed and are affected by; demand, available court space, availability of certified officials and other mitigating factors. Open Tournaments will follow the approved Open Level tournament format whenever possible. Open level tournaments are generally comprised of 8 teams in each bracket (i.e. Gold, Silver Bronze) but may include other compositions to accommodate the reciprocal system (i.e. 12 team tournaments, etc.)

There will be a charge to all teams participating at the open level to offset the cost of officials. This cost will be determined by the Board of Directors on a yearly basis.

Girl’s Club level teams: compete mainly within a 2 hour driving range of their club and always within the New England Region. All club tournaments are on the same dates issued by the Juniors Scheduler and are sanctioned by the Region.

2. Movement between levels is based on a team’s finish at the previous NERVA tournament date. (Club teams have the ability to move up to an open level tournament and Open teams may drop down to the Club level). Movement at the club level (especially the “B” Level and below) is not guaranteed due to the increasing demand of the reciprocal system. The scheduler will take into consideration; requests from clubs, number of teams competing, geography, strength of teams and other criteria for placement into club tournaments.

3. Teams must declare their starting level at the beginning of the season, in order to be scheduled properly into the first NERVA tournament date. Teams must be aware of the qualifications required to be eligible to compete in the New England Region Junior Championships for the Girl's Division.
4. A team can choose not to move up to Open level. They must let scheduler know once results are posted. This team will then stay at the highest club level in that age division.
5. There are no restrictions for entering your teams in other competitions beyond the sanctioned NERVA Junior's tournaments. However, if a team enters a tournament that is not a USA Volleyball sanctioned event, there will be no insurance coverage under the USAV Policy. You may also jeopardize your team's eligibility to compete in Regional and National Championships. Rules set forth by the USAV and the Region's Board of Directors must be adhered to for liability and compliance issues.
6. The only guaranteed movement between playing levels.
 - a. At Open Level; 8 teams tournament, 2 teams move up a level and 2 teams move down a level.
 - b. At Club Level: Win a level move up a level. Junior Scheduler will also consider information received by a club director in order to place teams into the correct club levels.
7. Boy's NERVA teams are eligible to enter any NERVA sanctioned tournament. NERVA sanctioned tournaments will be posted on www.nevolleyball.org and www.sportwrench.com
8. It is the responsibility of each club and their director to know and understand the rules set forth by USAV and this NERVA Junior Division Operating Code Book, including any modifications to the USAV rules made by this operating code.
9. Players may move from team to team within the same club. Players can only be listed on one roster per tournament date.

Section 2.05 New England Region Junior Volleyball Championships

1. In order for a team to be eligible for participation in the Girl's New England Regional Championships; a team must have participated in **at least three** of the four regular season NERVA tournament dates.
 - a. If a team has not participated in three of the four regular season tournaments, but has participated in at least one of the following New England tournaments: Winterfest 1 or 2, Boston Festival, etc. they may petition the NERVA Jr. Executive Committee for an exception.
 - b. Good faith efforts must be made to attend all regular season NERVA tournaments and such efforts must be demonstrated to the committee to be considered for an exception.
 - c. A team that simply does not attend a tournament (No Show whether with or without proper notice) will not be considered for an exception.
 - d. A team "may" be considered for an exception if they were attending an out of region tournament that falls on the same date as a NERVA regular season

tournament. However, all decisions of the NERVA Jr. Executive committee are final.

- e. Any team missing a NERVA regular season tournament is subject to the procedures and penalties outlined in the Operating Code.
 - f. No team missing more than two regular season tournaments will be eligible for an exception and shall be ineligible for the Regional Championships (as outlined in this Operating Code).
2. A team must meet all the requirements set forth for team and individual participation within the Region.
 3. A Team must meet all the specific requirements set forth by the Region's Junior Coordinator for any given season.
 4. Boy's New England Regional Championships, all teams are eligible to enter NE Championships.

Section 2.06 Membership Region Hold

The NERVA junior community, in an effort to help protect Region Clubs. Has determined that if a player has an outstanding balance due a club from a prior season, the player will not be eligible to compete in the current season (with any club) until the prior balance is cleared. A region hold will be placed on the member to allow time for the Club to take action in court.

Players:

A region hold of a members account will take place when that member has a failure to complete financial arrangements with a NERVA sanctioned club or tournament. This hold will result in suspension of membership until a settlement is reached. For junior player, the hold will be removed when they have meet their outstanding financial obligation or reached the age of 19 or 2 seasons.

Clubs:

In order to place a member on Region Hold a Club will need to

1. Have a written contract/agreement with the player and a parent.
 - a. The club will provide the region with a copy of the contract.
2. Make an effort to collect the balance with the player in writing.
3. Be willing to negotiate on a settlement with the player/parents.
4. Report all "Region Hold" candidates to the NERVA Juniors Commissioner prior to September 1st each year.

Club Directors:

A Region Hold of a club director's account will take place when that directors club has a failure to complete financial obligations with NERVA. The Club Directors club will be make in active on webpoint. A region hold of a Club Director will not be removed until a settlement is reached. Once settlement is made club will be returned to active on webpoint.

Current wording on webpoint confirmation page: Failure to complete financial arrangements with a NERVA sanctioned club or tournament may result in suspension of membership until a settlement is reached.

Article III. Tournament Procedures and Requirements for NERVA Girl's Tournament Series

The following principles and guidelines help to assure efficiency and consistency in the conduct of sanctioned tournaments within the New England Region for Juniors Volleyball.

Section 3.01 For All New England Girl's Tournament Series

1. Secure an approved facility with appropriate equipment to conduct competition consistent with the rules of the game. See the current USAV Rule Book.
2. All level tournaments will be scheduled and sanctioned in conjunction with the annual meetings for the girls division. Dates are available in the Fall prior to the upcoming season for scheduling purposes. Any girl's tournament listed by the Juniors Scheduler is a sanctioned event.
3. All teams are assigned to tournaments by the Juniors Scheduler.
4. Host clubs for tournaments will absorb the cost of facilities into their own program budgets. Participating clubs will reciprocate with each other by hosting tournaments. Clubs that do not meet these criteria for reciprocal hosting will either not be scheduled or pay a fee per team per tournament set by the NERVA Junior Division. These teams will only be able to play if there are available spots at their playing level.
5. **Reciprocity defined:** Reciprocal tournaments include all 4 regular season tournament dates and the championship date. Clubs are solely responsible for the cost of renting their own facilities. Each club must host a tournament on each scheduled tournament date. The number of courts they must make available is dependent on the number of teams (multiples of 4) within the club.

Reciprocal Requirements:

- a. **Club with 1–2 teams** required to supply a 2 court site on one date or 1 court site on two dates. These dates will be assigned by the junior scheduler.
 - b. **Club with 3-4 teams** required to have 1 court available for each tournament dates. The Junior Scheduler will also work with small clubs that can supply a 2 court site. They will be able to run a 2 court site on 3 dates. These dates will be assigned by the Junior Scheduler.
 - c. **Club with 5-8 teams** required to have 2 courts available on all 5 dates.
 - d. **Club with 9-12 teams** required to have 3 courts available on all 5 dates.
 - e. **Club with 13-16 teams** required to have 4 courts available on all 5 dates.
 - f. **Larger clubs**, one court for every 4 teams in their club. Contact junior scheduler for details.
 - g. ***Clubs that cannot meet their reciprocal requirements are in danger of their teams not being scheduled to play on that tournament date.***
 - h. Clubs not meeting reciprocal requirements will only be scheduled if there is available space. Fee of \$175 per team per tournament will be collected by NERVA.
6. **Movement between levels:** The assignment of teams to particular tournaments is done according to the regions established criteria within each age division. Teams will have the opportunity to move within the structured levels (i.e. A, B, C) according to their

performance at each tournament. Teams are scheduled for each subsequent tournament based on a number of criteria including; previous performance, availability for tournament, geographical location (for lower level tournaments), and special requests by hosting clubs. Teams are awarded points according to their finishes at each tournament. The points are accumulated and tallied at the end of the season based on the current point system, then used for seeding purposes for the Regional Championships.

7. Seeding for NERVA 1, Open level tournaments will be determined at Qualifiers.
8. Qualifier Committee has final authority on the qualifier format.

Section 3.02 For All NERVA Boys Tournament Series

1. NERVA will run a limited number of Boy's tournaments, schedule will be posted on www.nevolleyball.org
2. Clubs can apply to run boy's tournaments. Sanction application can be found at www.nevolleyball.org or contact NERVA Jr. Commissioner.
3. Once tournaments have been sanctioned they will be posted on www.sportwrench.com and listed on www.nevolleyball.org
4. All tournament enter will be online at www.sportwrench.com
5. Teams dropping out of a tournament less than seven days before tournament, the sanction fee will be half the entry fee will be charged. Teams dropping out of a tournament less than three days before tournament, the sanction fee will be the full entry fee.
6. Notification for dropped team must be made by email to Host club director and NERVA Jr. Commissioner (juniorscommissioner@nevolleyball.org)

Section 3.03 Tournament Responsibilities:

1. All Junior Tournaments will have a non-playing, non-coaching Tournament Director conversant with the rules of play and the format for a tournament whose sole responsibility is keeping the tournament on schedule and properly recording results, or appointing court managers for each court who are collectively charged with the above responsibilities and should not serve in any officiating capacity. Tournament Directors shall not referee. Tournament Directors must take the NERVA online course (available on Webpoint) Tournament Director Training prior to hosting a sanctioned event.
2. Each tournament director is responsible to make sure the facility is properly set up for the tournament play. Beyond the playing surfaces this includes having deciding and non-deciding score sheets, lineup sheets, Libero Tracking sheets, pens, pencils, game balls, scoring devices for each court, scorer's table and chairs (if they fit), team benches (when available) and SAFE referee stands (if your site does not have referee stands, then the players will referee from the floor). Seating for parents is not the responsibility of a tournament director.
 - a. The tournament format should be done in advance and should be handed out to each coach at a coaches meeting prior to the start of the tournament. It is strongly suggested that the host club forward a copy of the tournament format via email to attending clubs. Determine the limitations for your site and allot proper time for matches. Even if you have unlimited time, limits should be established so that the tournament does not drag. In most cases, there should be no more than 7 minutes between matches. When setting up the format, tournament directors **may not change**

the names of the teams and may not change the seeding order of the teams in the pools that were given to them by the Juniors Scheduler.

- b. Teams must be guaranteed a **minimum of 6 sets** at all tournaments. A set must consist of a minimum of 21 points.
- c. Tournament formats may not be changed after it has been announced to team coaches. This rule makes it imperative that the tournament director keep the tournament on schedule and know exactly what their facility time limits are. Recommended playoffs for 8 or more teams (2 or more pools) should consist of the top 2 teams from each pool advancing to playoffs. Any format that cannot meet this requirement should be cleared with the Juniors Coordinator prior to the tournament.
3. Checking rosters for current USAV membership is the responsibility of the tournament director and shall be done at the beginning of the day. Rosters **MUST** be signed and turned in by each coach and **MUST** be printed from the USA Webpoint Registration system.
4. Checking of all coaches is the responsibility of the tournament director. Coaches must be USAV members, IMPACT certified and background checked.
5. Check with the team coach if a discrepancy arises. If a discrepancy cannot be resolved or reconciled you are to inform the Juniors Coordinator of the problem by phone the day of the tournament or, if unreachable, the following day via email or phone.
6. Complete a USAV incident report for any injuries that occur at your facility, whether the player is in your program or not, and forward the report to the Juniors Commissioner.
7. Tie breaking criteria must be posted as part of the format. **REMEMBER:** If teams are tied going into the playoffs, you must have a tie-breaker (usually one 15 point play-in set) to determine which team will advance. A team cannot be eliminated from a playoff spot based on points.
8. All tournament results must be reported online (www.nervajuniors.org) to the Juniors Scheduler at the conclusion of the tournament or **no later than the Monday night immediately following the tournament**. All results must be reported (not just the finals). To determine the order of finish of ALL teams not making the playoffs:
 - a. Sets won/loss record for teams for entire pool play.
 - b. If there is still a tie in the ranking of the teams, report ties to Juniors Scheduler. Those teams will receive equal rankings for the day.
 - c. If you have 12 teams in your tournament, 12 rankings must be reported.
9. The Juniors Scheduler will provide (via www.nervajuniors.org) tournament assignments for all teams, based on the previous tournament results. The Juniors Scheduler will also take into account factors such as; travel distance, club requests, team availability and other information, but must maintain a certain level of integrity within the divisions to provide a quality experience for all teams. Club Directors will receive this information before the official schedule is posted on web site. If changes are necessary, they will be made before official posting. Club Directors must respond to Scheduler within 24 hours of receiving the unofficial list and confirm that all of their teams are listed, at their correct levels, in the right location and available to play. Lack of response will be considered approval.
10. Tournament Directors must report all NO SHOW teams and any team participating in a tournament with less than 6 players to the Regional Juniors Coordinator and Girl's Division Juniors Scheduler.

a. *Forfeiture of Team Tournament Entry Fee and No Show Fee*

- i. Fees for NO SHOWS: There will be a \$150.00 fee charged by the Region for all teams that do not show for a scheduled tournament without 24-hour prior notice to the NERVA Jr. Commissioner and host club director.
- ii. Remember, tournament formats are usually drawn up in advance and changes create “extreme stress” on the day of a tournament. COURTESY PAYS OFF. Tournament Directors must report no shows to the NERVA Jr. Commissioner.
- iii. Open Level teams that are NO SHOWS will also forfeit the entry fee.

11. Tournament Restrictions: Any Juniors tournament that has not concluded pool play before 7 PM will have all Playoff round matches consist of only one (1) set to 25 points. The one set match will use rally scoring with the teams switching sides at 13 points. Also, any Juniors Tournament that has not concluded all ‘Semi-final’ matches by 8 PM will have only one (1) ‘Final’ set to 25 points. The one set match will use rally scoring with the teams switching sides at 13 points.

- d. Should any Tournament Director find that their event will fall under this rule the Director may choose to either follow the rule as written OR take a vote of the remaining teams as to their desire to follow the rule or continue play as previously scheduled. Should any ONE (1) team wish to follow the rule, then the Tournament Director is obliged to revise their event to match the play schedule as outlined by this rule.

12. Tournament Directors should remind all coaches, at the coaches meeting, that bad behavior toward player referees is not acceptable and that players, coaches or parents may be asked to leave the facility if they are disrespectful or disruptive in any way. Coaches should be reminded to inform the parents of their team of this rule. The New England Region will enforce a zero tolerance policy on unsportsmanlike behavior. All incidents are to be reported online when filing the tournament results.

13. Work Teams for all playoff matches should be clearly defined at the start of the tournament. For a standard 8 team - 2 pool format with the top 2 teams advancing to playoffs - the 3rd place team in each pool becomes the semi-final work team. The losing semi-final teams are to provide 3 players from each team for the finals work team. If one team is gracious enough to provide the entire work team then the Tournament Director may release the other work team. This would generally be the closest in distance travel team. Tournament Directors should have all coaches’ sign out before leaving the facility and dismissing their players at the end of the day. Tournament Directors should use their best judgment in releasing work teams i.e.: if one semi-final is running longer (going to a third set) than the other (done in 2 quick sets) the TD may release the pool that has completed play for the day (regardless of distance traveled - it is unfair to make a team wait an extra 30 minutes for the other pool to finish, just so they can work). Both losing teams are obligated to work until released by the Tournament Director.

14. Standardized formats will be posted on www.nevolleyball.org

15. NERVA Series and Qualifiers: Spectators and teams will not be allowed to play music or use noisemakes.

16. All cigarettes, E-cigarettes and legal marijuana are prohibited from the facility of all NERVA sanctioned events.

Section 3.04 Team Coaches Responsibilities at Tournaments:

1. Team names must remain the same for the duration of the season. Players may be moved from team to team, within a club, (see Section 2.04 Team Competition and Playing Levels) but the team name will remain the same. Coaches should be aware of their team's name, and shall not change their team's name at a tournament.
2. Each team's coach will submit an official Webpoint Team roster, printed and signed, to the Tournament Director before the start of the first match. Official rosters are created by the Club director prior to the start of the season. Coaches are responsible to have a copy of their roster prior to arriving at the tournament. In the absence of a printed roster, a coach may present an electronic copy of his or her roster but only as a temporary means of proving eligibility. A printed, signed roster must be presented to the tournament director the day of the tournament or special permission to play must be granted by the Girl's Division Juniors Coordinator or the Juniors Commissioner.
3. Team Personnel At open level tournaments, teams may not "borrow" players or play with less than 6 players (No Ghost). Only sets played with six or more legally rostered players will count towards eligibility for playoffs. All sets with less than six legally rostered players count as forfeits. You must have 6 or more rostered players to compete in playoffs. Playoffs are deemed to begin at the conclusion of pool play. Once a team has been declared ineligible, then all other teams remain eligible based on their record.

At club level tournaments if a team has less than six rostered players, the team has the following options:

- a. "Borrow" a player from another team within their own program at the tournament. Any player that is "borrowed" from the same program must play with the new team for the entire day. The player must be designated on the roster (borrowed player change should be handwritten on the Webpoint roster and included in the tournament notes when reporting results). The player may return to their original team only when the new team is finished playing for the day. If the new team does not make the playoffs, the "borrowed" player may return to her original team for playoffs.
- b. The team may choose one of the following options.
 1. The work team of that particular match may provide the needed player(s). The coach of the work team shall select the player(s). If the work team does not have enough players to cover the work assignment, borrowed players may come from another team within the same pool.
 2. Play with a "Ghost Player". A team with only 5 players may play with a ghost player. The ghost player must appear on the lineup and must be maintained in the rotation. When it is the ghost player's turn to serve, the first referee will award an immediate point and sideout to the receiving team.
- c. **All sets played by a team with less than 6 players on their roster will be counted as forfeits.**
- d. Once the team has 6 rostered players sets will be counted.
- e. Teams are not eligible for playoffs without 6 or more rostered players.
- f. Teams are not allowed to play with less and 5 players on the court.

4. All USAV rules apply for tournament play, except where modified in these guidelines. **Matching uniforms (shirt and short) are required.**
5. Tardiness: Team coaches are responsible for the promptness of their teams during tournaments, for both play and work schedules. Penalties are as follows and apply to late or missing work teams and/or playing teams:
 - a. For every minute a team is late to a match, a point will be assessed against them in the first set of their next match. It is the responsibility of the tournament director to monitor this and reflect the results in that teams next set. (e.g. If your team shows up 2 minutes late to work, the opposing team in your next set will be given two points to start the match. If you are the playing team and you are late, you lose the points in the current set which you are about to begin).
 - b. After 3 minutes late, the work team will forfeit the first set in their next match.
 - c. After 10 minutes late, the work team will forfeit their second set in their next match.
 - d. The same penalties apply for late or missing playing teams in their current match.
6. All Club level tournament matches will be officiated by the players and **NOT** coaches, directors or parents. Coaches are to monitor their work team at all times. Club Directors are to remind their coaches of this policy each season. Work teams: will provide 2 referees, 2 lines people, scorekeeper and libero tracker. The coach of the work team is responsible for the actions of their work team, and must be at the court helping their team. Coaches should not be one of the required personnel but instead should be there to help with scoring or officiating. Let the players make their own judgment calls when officiating; this is a learning experience and should be **SUPPORTED BY ALL COACHES**. Work coaches should protect their work team players from any distractions including cell phones, other electronic devices or unauthorized persons at the table, etc. Coaches should also remind the parents of their players that any disrespectful behavior toward player referees will not be permitted and is punishable by being asked to leave the facility and potential sanctions against the offending team or club.
7. Scoring: For facilities that have time constraints;
 - a. Pool play: sets during pool play may be capped at 27 points. That means if the score is tied at 25-25, a team wins at 27-25 or if tied at 26-26, a team wins at 27-26 (1 pt. win). Games may be played to 21 (starting at 4-4) and Tournament Directors may shorten playoffs to single sets (21 or 25) with a preference for shortening the finals before the semi-final matches.

Section 3.05 Modified 12 & Under Rules

1. Unlimited Substitutions
 - a. Unlimited Substitutions and entries are allowed. All Substitutions must be made legally according the current “Domestic Competition Regulations 2011-2013 Indoor”.
2. Official Ball: Tachikara Volley-Lite or ball with equivalent physical specifications.
3. Net Height shall be in accordance with current USAV rules, 12U is 7’ (or 2.13m).
4. Scoresheet – The USAV scoresheet will be used at 12 & under tournaments.
5. Work Teams
 - a. Coaches for the work team must officiate as the 1st referee (R1). If there is an assistant coach, he or she may act as the 2nd referee (R2). It is strongly

recommended that players be nearby and encouraged to learn proper officiating techniques.

- b. Players will make up the rest of the work team (R2, scorekeeper, lines and libero tracker).
6. Serving Rule
- a. Players have the option to serve from behind the end line or at the 25' line.
 - b. Service will shall continue until a service fault or five (5) consecutive points have been earned.
 - c. A Player is entitled to a 'Re-Serve' for a tossing error as defined in "Domestic Competition Regulations 211-2013 Indoor" Page 40, USAV 12.4.4
 - i. The server must contact the ball within 5 seconds after the first referee whistles for service
 - ii. If the ball after having been tossed or released by the server, lands without touching the player, it is considered a service tossing error (service tossing errors do not count towards unsuccessful attempts).
 - iii. After a service tossing error, the referee must authorize the service again and the server must execute it within the next 5 seconds.
 - iv. One service tossing error is permitted for each service.

Section 3.06 Forfeiture of Team Tournament Entry Fees and No Show Fees

Fees for NO SHOWS: There will be a \$150.00 fee charged by the Region for all teams that do not show for a scheduled tournament without 24-hour prior notice to the tournament director or hosting club program director. **You must also email the Girl's Division Juniors Scheduler 24 hours prior to tournament.** Remember, tournament formats are usually drawn up in advance and changes create "extreme stress" on the day of a tournament. COURTESY PAYS OFF. Tournament Directors must report no shows to the Girl's Division Juniors Coordinator and Juniors Scheduler. Open level teams that are NO Shows will also forfeit their entry fee.

Article IV. Girl's Division Regional Championships:

Section 4.01 Requirements for Qualification

1. See Section 2.05.

Section 4.02 New England Region Junior Volleyball Championships:

1. Teams will qualify for Region Championships by ranking from the regular season tournaments.
2. All teams in the New England Region Junior Championships must have played in a least 3 of the 4 NERVA tournament dates.
3. Championships for all Girl's levels are reciprocal. This includes all Open levels.

Section 4.03 Seeding For New England Region Junior Volleyball Championships

1. Seeding will be determined by final, regular season ranking as determined by the current ranking system.
2. Ranking System:

Each team receives a point value based upon their finish at each tournament. After all regular season tournaments are completed, the lowest point value for each team is dropped and the remaining scores are averaged to calculate a ranking.

3. Teams traveling out of region and missing a schedule NERVA tournament should be awarded zero points and reentered in the next NERVA tournament date where they were previously seeded from the last NERVA tournament played.

Article V. Entry into USAV Jr. Championships

Section 5.01 Entry into USA Volleyball Girls Junior National Championships

1. NERVA USA Girls Jr. National Championships bids.
 - a. The New England Region is guaranteed at least one entry in each age group of the USAV Jr. National Championships, based on the size of our current membership.
 - b. NERVA club director must apply for these bids by March 1st. This deadline date will be posted on www.nevolleyball.org
 - c. After posted date NERVA bids will be assigned.
 - d. If more teams have applied than bids available NERVA will schedule a bid playoff.
2. Teams may qualify at one of the National Qualifier Tournaments, for a pre-seeded bid to the National Championship Tournament.
3. After May 1 there may be some “at large bids” available from other regions unused bids.
4. Any team entering the USA Junior National Volleyball Championships will be fully responsible for their own entry fees and expenses.
5. All online registrations and hard copy submittals are the responsibility of the Club Director. The Region Junior Commissioner will only communicate with the Club Director.
6. All Clubs applying must be current paid members in good standing with the NERVA Region

Section 5.02 USAV Boys Junior National Championships

- a. We do not receive bids for the USAV Boys National Championships.
- b. Clubs can entry teams directly with USAV.

Section 5.03 USAV/NERVA Rosters

- a. NERVA and USAV does not allow clubs to add players from other clubs to their

roster/s for any USAV sanctioned tournament including USAV Jr. National championships.

- b. Players can only play at USAV Jr National Championships or any other NERVA/USAV sanctioned tournaments with their assigned club.

Article VI. Inter-Regional Tournaments

Section 6.01 Defined:

1. Any tournament not included in the reciprocation tournament format will be considered an Inter-Regional Tournament.
2. Inter-Regional tournaments must complete a Tournament Sanction Application and abide by the guidelines set forth in that document.
3. The Tournament Sanction Application and Guidelines document is available at www.nervajuniors.org or by contacting the Juniors Commissioner, Division Coordinators or the Juniors Scheduler.