



NERVA Jr. Operating Code

Updated October 2021

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Article I. Guidelines and Information about USA/NERVA Junior Programs

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 can be obtained by visiting the USA Volleyball website at <http://www.usavolleyball.org/>

Section 1.02 New England Region Junior Volleyball

NERVA Junior Volleyball is a program for girls and boys 18 years of age and younger who have not graduated from high school. 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 NERVA Junior Volleyball Program is an extension of learning from the High School program and a natural bridge between youth (ages 12 and under), college volleyball, and USAV Adult volleyball.

The NERVA Junior Volleyball indoor Competitions run from November through the mid-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 games. Be reasonable and keep the athlete's best interest at heart. Remember the philosophy of the NERVA Junior Volleyball is:

ATHLETES FIRST --- WINNING SECOND

Section 1.03 How to Start a Juniors Club in New England Region (NERVA)

1. Read these guidelines completely. These can be found at www.nevolleyball.org
2. Contact the NERVA Junior Commissioner with your intent to begin a club.
3. New clubs must register by Oct. 1 in order to participate in NERVA/USAV events.
4. Attend the NERVA Junior Assembly meetings. Mandatory meetings will be held in June and October or beginning of November each year.
5. Contact the NERVA Juniors commissioner to have your club added to the NERVA/USA volleyball registration system. Club names must be unique and must be approved by NERVA Junior Commissioner. Club names will not contain “New England” or “High Performance” in their titles. This is reserved for region sponsored programs.
6. Have all your coaches, directors, adult staff and players register for their NERVA/USAV membership.

Section 1.04 Becoming a Junior Coach in NERVA Juniors

1. Find a club in your area and contact the director of the club. A complete club list can be found at www.nevolleyball.org All clubs are independent companies; Club Director’s will let you know the requirements for coaching a team within their club.
2. Junior coaches must be IMPACT certified. This is offered online (free).
3. NERVA/USAV Background checks are required for each coach participating with a NERVA Junior team.
4. All NERVA coaches must complete the USAV Safe Sport training offered online (free).

Section 1.05 NERVA Club Boundaries (effective Sept 2010)

1. A NERVA club is defined as any club that holds 50% or more of its practices within the NERVA region boundaries. Such a club’s members must become NERVA members.
2. Any non- NERVA Juniors club holding any practices or events within the NERVA boundaries must apply for sanction with the NERVA Junior Commissioner.

Section 1.06 New England 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 events and/or activities will accept and abide by this background screening policy. The following individuals will be screened: Club directors, club administrators, team representatives, coaches, chaperones, and trainers who intend to register, affiliate and/or participate with a junior volleyball club or team in 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. Junior members are any members under the age of 18. 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

Every individual required to submit to Background Screening must complete, sign and date the Consent and Waiver Release Form. These forms will be submitted, and the applicant cleared before the applicant may participate in NERVA/USAV sanctioned junior events and/or activities.

Upon receipt of the above-described documents, NERVA will request that (SSCI) perform the background screen.

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 1.07 Entry into USA Volleyball Junior National Championships

1. The New England Region receives bids based on number of memberships. Most years NERVA receives two entries in each age group (National and American).
2. More bid/s may be awarded depending on National Junior Registration. These bids are called “At-Large” bids
3. NERVA clubs that would like to receive a NERVA bid into USAV Girl’s Jr. Championships must apply to the NERVA Jr. Commissioner. Bid application deadline dates and process will be announced at the fall NERVA Jr. Assembly.
4. Teams also qualify at one of the USAV National Qualifier Tournaments, for a pre-seeded bid to the National Championship Tournament.
5. Any team entering the U.S. Junior National Volleyball Championships will be fully responsible for their own entry fees and expenses.
6. If there are more teams requesting a NERVA bid than available bids, a playoff will be held prior to the National deadline. The time, place and format of this playoff will be at the discretion of the NERVA Jr. Commissioner.

Section 1.08 NCAA and High School Associations

Whether coaching a state high school, Junior volleyball team, or hosting a Juniors 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 NERVA 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. NERVA Juniors Club Regulations

Section 2.01 Requirements for Juniors Clubs in NERVA

To be a voting member at NERVA Jr Assembly, club must consist of 3 teams or more and participate in 3 or more NERVA sanctioned tournaments. A club with 1 or 2 teams may participate in NERVA sanctioned events. One and 2 team clubs will not be voting members at NERVA Jr. Assembly.

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 age levels but may play up age levels.

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. However, players can only be on one roster per event.

Section 2.02 Club Director Responsibilities:

1. Once a team name has been established it cannot change for the duration of the season. Any team name changes results in confusion and a possibility of seeding and ranking issues for that team.
2. Provide a copy of NERVA Jr. 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. Medical release forms are not required but may be collected by clubs.
4. Have a first aid kit available at your site for practices and tournaments. Know and/or post emergency phone numbers for your site. Each team is responsible to have their own first aid kit for all NERVA tournaments.
5. Complete an NERVA/USAV Incident Report Form 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. Incident Report Form can be found on www.nevolleyball.org
7. **Girl's NERVA Series tournaments require reciprocal courts.** Each club must host on each scheduled tournament date enough courts to include the number of teams in their club that are participating. All facility expense incurred are the responsibility of the club. NERVA Series reciprocal tournaments include all 4 tournament dates and championship date.
8. As a club director it is your responsibility to establish a policy with your coaches regarding appropriate behavior (role models) toward player referees, not only for coaches but for parents of players. Parents and coaches must remember that the players are learning, and that competition is secondary. Emphasize leaving the win/loss records to the high school seasons. Coaches must be made aware that they should control the parents of their players. Tournament Directors are allowed to remove parents from the facility, or disqualify the team from further competition if they cannot control themselves. The NERVA Region will monitor coaches, parents and players behavior and will enforce the necessary sanctions as needed to deal with poor sportsmanship.
9. Assure NERVA/USAV memberships for all players, coaches and club staff are submitted and current before they participate in any club event.
10. It is advised not to give out the player's phone numbers, as some recruiting coaches have been known to call at very odd hours, unless you have specific authorization from a player's parent.
11. Report to the NERVA Junior Commissioner any team that intends to apply to the Junior National Championship. This request is for a NERVA bid.
12. Background screening is a requirement of NERVA and USAV. It is the Club Directors responsibility to see that each coach, chaperone and tournament directors in their program has a current NERVA/USAV background check and Safesport certification.
13. Club Directors or their appointed representative must attend NERVA Jr. Assembly held twice a year.
 - a. October or beginning of November and June meetings are mandatory. Meetings will be on Saturday or Sunday, based on site availability.

- i. Missing a meeting will have a penalty of not having a vote at the next scheduled NERVA Jr. Assembly.

Section 2.03 Club Player Recruiting

1. **Definition of Recruiting** – To solicit players for the purpose of persuading them to tryout or play for a junior volleyball club. Solicitation can be performed by any of the following individuals: club directors, coaches, or any other staff of a junior volleyball club.
2. Clubs need to follow the NERVA Recruiting Guidelines and FAQ. These can be found at www.nevolleyball.org
3. Any player or parent has the right to stop the recruiting process at any time. The decision to do this does not need to be based on harassment alone. If a player or parent has made the decision to play for another club and have conveyed that to any person of the recruiting club all contact needs to stop.
4. If contact continues, by any agent of a club and the player or parent contacts NERVA in writing about recruiting harassment NERVA will step in to protect its members from unwanted contact or harassment. Verbal complaints are not sufficient to take any punitive action.
5. **Acceptable Recruiting Methods** – The following methods are acceptable if initiated by a club representative.
 - * Flyers, bulk e-mails, press releases, newspaper ads, or any printed material that is distributed to the masses.
 - * If initiated by the player or parent/guardian: telephone calls or meeting to discuss the club's programs and offerings. Documentation should be kept on file by the club representative denoting all player-initiated contact in the event a recruiting violation is filed with the Region.
6. **Unacceptable Recruiting Methods**

Phone calls or meetings (either in-person or electronically) initiated by a club representative. In-person visits by a club representative at a NERVA sanctioned practice or event other than to distribute written materials.
7. **Recruiting Penalties** – The following penalties will be imposed on any club representative that is found guilty (by the NERVA Jr. Executive Committee) of violating the recruiting guidelines.
 - a) 1st Offense - \$500 fine and 1 year probation from the date of the offense.
 - b) 2nd Offense - \$1,000 fine and 1 year suspension of membership from the date of offense.

Section 2.04 Club Tryouts

1. When a club hosts tryouts to attract players for their teams they must follow all established safety precautions and guidelines set forth in NERVA Operating Code.

2. Every participant must be a NERVA member and have parental consent if under 18 years of age to participate in the tryout event.

Section 2.05 Team Competition and Playing Levels

Junior Teams are classified in single age groups. Qualifications for each age group are outlined in the USA Volleyball Junior Player Age Definition Chart.

NOTE: These age definitions are used by domestic club programs and are NOT the same as the age definitions for the International and Domestic High Performance programs.

1. Junior teams are required to have (as a minimum) an IMPACT Certified, and background checked though USAV adult coach (over the age of 18) on the roster and present at all tournaments and practices. Coaches must be NERVA members.
2. All Junior team head and assistant coaches are required to be IMPACT or CAP certified. A certified coach must be on the team bench during all competitions involving the team. For more information on IMPACT certification visit the NERVA web site at www.nevolleyball.org.
3. Once a Junior member has represented a team or club in sanctioned play they may not leave that club to represent another team or club during that season. Movement of players within a club is allowed.
4. 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.
5. Teams playing “up levels” in the NERVA Girl’s Series 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 on a tournament date at their age level and then choose to move up an age level. They must then stay at that level for the rest of the season. Teams will stay at the highest age level played during the season for NERVA Regional Championships.
6. Coaches should always carry a complete team roster.
7. **Junior Team Officials and Scorekeepers. (details TBA)**

Section 2.06 Program Hoppers

1. A player that has an outstanding balance with a specific Junior program and is attempting to gain acceptance with another program, is regarded as a “program hopper”. The Junior

community in an effort to help protect Directors from “program hoppers” has determined that if a player with an outstanding balance due to a club from a prior season, will not be eligible to compete in the current season (with any club) until the prior balance is cleared. Any program director with such a problem needs to report the players name to the Junior Commissioner. The player will not receive a renewal on their membership until the balance is cleared and thus cannot compete in any Regional or Inter-regional competition.

A program director that has such a player coming to their program in the current season will be made aware that the player has had past financial problems. It is left to the discretion of each program director as how to handle that player’s financial agreement. If a player’s name has been reported to the NERVA Junior Commissioner and we are not aware of the player’s intent to play elsewhere, and that players name appears on a membership application, the program director will be notified at that point.

Article III. NERVA SERIES

NERVA will be running a power league, details will be announced at Oct. assembly.

Section 3.01 NERVA Girl’s Series, Tournament Structure

1. The NERVA Girl’s Series consist of 5 one day tournaments. Dates will be announced at or before June NERVA Jr. Assembly.
2. Club Directors enter team/s into NERVA #1. Age level and playing level will be determined by club director. Deadline to enter NERVA #1 will be announced at FALL (Oct/Nov) NERVA Jr. Assembly.
3. Playing level for next tournament date is based on finish at previous NERVA Series tournament date.
4. There are no restrictions for entering your teams in other competitions beyond the sanctioned NERVA Junior tournaments. Be aware that if the tournament you enter your team in is not USAV sanctioned, there is no insurance coverage. You may 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 issues.
5. NERVA Series will use reciprocal court system.
Clubs are solely responsible for the cost of renting their facilities. Each club must host a tournament on each scheduled tournament date their club will be participating.
(1 Wave = 2 courts, 5 hours)
RECIPROCAL REQUIREMENTS:
 - a) Club with 1 – 6 teams, required to supply 1- wave

- b) Club with 7 – 12 teams, required to supply 2-waves
 - c) Club with 13 – 18 teams, required to supply 3 – waves
 - d) Club with 19 – 24 teams, required to supply 4 – waves
 - e) Clubs with more than 24 teams contact NERVA Jr. Commissioner to confirm your reciprocal requirement.
6. *Clubs that cannot meet their reciprocal requirements are in danger of their teams not being scheduled to play on that tournament date. Clubs not meeting reciprocal requirements will only be scheduled if there is available space. They will then pay a tournament fee TBA. Contact NERVA Jr Commissioner for more information.*
 7. Clubs that supply extra courts will be reimbursed the cost of these courts.
 8. Club must meet all the requirements set forth for team and individual participation within the Region.
 9. Clubs must meet all the specific requirements set forth by the Region Junior Coordinator of the girl's division for any given season.
 10. Teams are awarded points according to their finishes at each tournament. The points are accumulated and tallied at the end of the season, then used for seeding purposes for the NERVA Regional Championships.
 11. All tournament results must be entered on SportWrench. Tournament Directors will be sent instructions on how to enter scores.
 12. The Junior Scheduler will provide (via a website) which teams will be attending the next tournament, based on the previous tournament results. There is built in flexibility in the number of teams to switch between Division A, B, C. (The Junior Scheduler will also consider travel distance and try to accommodate teams but must maintain a certain level of integrity of divisions for the system to continue to work well.) Club Directors will receive this information before official list is posted on web site. If any teams need to be moved changes must be made before official posting. Club Directors must respond to Scheduler and confirm that all of their teams are listed and at correct levels on the unofficial tournament list.
 13. Tournament Directors must report all NO-SHOW teams and any team participating in tournament with less than 6 players to the NERVA Jr. Commissioner.
 14. 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.
 15. Work Teams for all playoff matches should be clearly defined at the start of the tournament. Tournament Directors should have all coaches' sign out before leaving the facility and dismissing their players at the end of the day. Teams may be obligated to work until released by the Tournament Director.

16. Team personnel: At NERVA Series tournaments if a team is missing a player, the team should:
- 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. 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. If there is not an available player using "a." team can play with a Ghost Player.
 - c. If a team has less than 6 players on their roster, they will not be eligible for playoffs. All sets will be counted as a loss officially (25-4) and they will not be eligible for playoffs

Section 3.02 NERVA Boy's Series Tournament Structure

1. The NERVA Boy's Series consist of 4 or 5 one day tournaments. Dates will be announced at or before Fall (Oct/Nov) NERVA Jr. Assembly.
2. NERVA Boy's Series will be organized by the NERVA Jr. Commissioner.
3. Sites and dates will be determined with the help of NERVA Jr. Club Directors.

Article IV. Procedures and Requirements for Sanctioned NERVA Jr. Events

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

An event is defined as any event between 2 clubs or more.

Section 4.01 For All New England In Region Juniors Events

1. New England In Region Jr Event is defined as any event between 2 or more New England Region clubs. This includes practices, scrimmages and tournaments.
2. Secure an approved facility with appropriate equipment to conduct competition consistent with the rules of the game. See the current USAV Rule Book.
3. All events must apply for NERVA sanction. Application form can be found at www.nevolleyball.org
4. Host clubs for event will absorb the cost of event into their own program budgets.
5. Host club is responsible for collecting and Checking rosters for current USAV membership and shall be done at the beginning of the event.

6. Complete an accident occurrence 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.

Section 4.02 Tournament Director:

1. Check with the team coach if a discrepancy arises. If a discrepancy cannot be resolved or reconciled you are to inform the NERVA of the problem.
2. 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 recorded, 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.
3. Complete an accident occurrence 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.
4. 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.

Section 4.03 Team Coaches Responsibilities at Tournaments:

1. All USAV rules apply for tournament play, except where modified in these guidelines.
2. Each team's coach will submit an official NERVA roster (sportsengine) to the Tournament Director at the pre-tournament coaches meeting.
3. Team names must remain the same for the duration of the season. Players may be moved from team to team, within a program, (see Section 2.04 Team Competition and Playing Levels) but the team's 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.
4. 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:
5. For every minute a work team is late, they will be down that number of points in their next game. It is the responsibility of the tournament director to monitor this and reflect the results in that team's next game. (e.g., If your team shows up 2 minutes late to work, the opposing team in your next game 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 game which you are about to begin).

6. After 3 minutes late, the work team will forfeit the first game in their next match.
7. After 10 minutes late, the work team will forfeit their second game in their next match.
8. The same penalties apply for late or missing playing teams in their current match.
9. 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. 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. 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. **Coaches can be part of the work team.**
10. Time-outs: (For games or matches with time limits)
Tournament directors must announce a “5-minute warning” when there is 5 minutes remaining before time runs out for that match. NO TIMEOUT WILL BE ALLOWED AFTER THE 5 MINUTE WARNING!
11. Scoring: For facilities that have time constraints.
 - a) Pool play: Games during pool play will 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).
 - b) If match time runs out during play, that play of the ball is completed, the point is awarded, and the score becomes final. Only a 1-point advantage is needed in case of a tie (not 2 points). This is during pool play. Semis and Finals should run as indicated by the tournament director, at the beginning of the day, as time is allotted.

Modified 12 & Under Rules

1. Rally scoring: Rally scoring is in effect except for the 1st missed service attempt from the traditional service line and when a side out occurs when a server serves 5 straight pts.
2. Serving: The 1st serve in each service rotation must be from the traditional service line. If serve is successful, all remaining serves are from that line (in that service rotation). If the 1st attempt is missed (NO POINT IS ALLOTTED THE RECEIVING TEAM) and the player may step up to the “step in” line (5 feet in the court) and serve from there. If missed from there rally scoring goes into affect and the receiving team gets the ball and the point. Servers are limited to no more than 5 service points in a serving series, at which a sideout would be awarded with no penalty to the serving team. ie..Server one misses her 1st serve..score 0-0 She steps to the step in line and serves 5 straight pts...5-0...Opposing team gets the sideout w/o the point. This restriction is in effect for a player that serves 5 pts from the traditional service line (base line).
3. Substitutions: unlimited substitutions and entries. Must be legal substitutions.
4. Coaches will referee as 1st official. If there is an Assistant Coach they may 2nd referee. Players should be nearby to learn.
5. Volleylite must be used as the game ball.

Section 4.04 Forfeiture of Team Tournament Entry Fees and No-Show Fees

Fees for NO SHOWS: There will be a \$50.00 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 NERVA Junior Commissioner 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 NERVA Jr. Commissioner.

Article V. NERVA Girl’s Championships

A Competition Committee is in place to plan, schedule, and determine eligibility of teams for the NERVA Championships. This committee will be elected annually and create a proposal for the tournament’s formats and seeding. This proposal will be submitted to the Junior Commissioner, and when approved, will be distributed to each Club Director. If you wish to be a part of the committee, you may contact the NERVA Jr. Commissioner to get your name on the ballot. Vote will take place at the Fall NERVA Jr. Assembly.

Section 5.01 Requirements for Qualification

1. Entry for NERVA Championships will be posted online.
2. Teams must be part of a current NERVA Club that is in good standing.

Section 5.02 Championship seeding

1. Seeding for the NERVA Championships is determined by finishes and points received at the current NERVA season tournaments.
2. All teams in the NERVA Championships must fulfill at a minimum the following criteria: have played in at least 2 NERVA sanctioned tournaments.
3. The NERVA Jr Executive committee shall prior to the start of the first match(s) of the tournament. reserve the final privilege of seeding teams as deemed necessary. This can be done at any time

Article VI. Application for Sanction Tournaments - Guidelines and Procedures

Section 6.01 Application for sanction of tournament:

1. Prospective Tournament Directors for a Juniors event must be a member in good standing with the Region.
2. Upon verbal or written request to the NERVA Jr. Commissioner, tentative approval of a tournament date, site, and playing bracket(s) will be granted. The tournament director will then fill out the NERVA Sanction Event form for final approval.
3. Written approval by the NERVA Jr. Commissioner must be obtained by a Tournament Director prior to sending out invitations and conducting sanctioned competition. Upon receipt of tournament application, the NERVA Jr Commissioner will respond with a written response within 7 days.

4. The Region reserves the right to revoke any sanction for a Juniors tournament or event if the guidelines are not adhered to. If a sanction is revoked the tournament/event should be canceled. It is up to the discretion of the Host Club to continue the event or not, without sanction by the NERVA Region. The non-sanctioned event will not be covered by the Region's insurance, and all participating sites and teams will be notified. For sanction approval the Tournament Director must comply with the Regions operating guidelines.

Section 6.02 Facilities and Director:

1. An approved facility with appropriate equipment to conduct competition consistent with the rules of the game. See the official USAV Rule Book.
2. A non-playing, non-coaching Tournament Director conversant with the rules of play and the conduct of tournaments whose sole responsibility is keeping the tournament on schedule and properly recorded, or 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.
3. A Tournament Committee comprised of a minimum of 3 individuals, for selection of teams for participation (if not assigned by the Region) and for seeding of such teams.

Section 6.03 Referee(s):

1. Tournament wanting to hire USAV certified Referee's must contact the NERVA Jr. Commissioner. These Referee's will then be assigned the NERVA Referee assigner.
2. Host Club of the tournament is responsible for paying all Referee cost.
3. A Protest Committee shall be composed of the Tournament Director, a coach, and a third party knowledgeable in the rules of play. The third party is preferably a certified official of the Region, or a site/court manager. The Protest Committee must be formed before competition begins.

Section 6.04 Format of Play:

1. Recommended formats may be obtained online at www.nevolleyball.com. It is up to the discretion of the Tournament Director to select a format and it must be stated in advance of the tournament.
2. Round robin: This format is more universally accepted because all teams are guaranteed a reasonable number of games. It is also more practical for the assignment of support officials. A multiple-pool round robin in the same division/class must offer a championship play-off. Playoffs are permitted in single-pool round robin tournaments at the discretion of the Tournament Director (must be stated in advance on the Tournament Invitation)

Section 6.05 Timetable for tournament organizers:

1. The sanction request is to be submitted to the NERVA Jr. Commissioner at a minimum of 6 weeks prior to the requested playing date. Request may be subject to denial if this deadline is not met. Please note that "**Sanction**" in this content does not refer to penalties, but rather, to official recognition and support (through insurance and other benefits) for the tournament.
2. At a minimum of four weeks prior to the date of the event, notice must be sent to ALL TEAMS IN THE REGION that are eligible to participate in the tournament PRIOR TO ANY TEAMS BEING EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE. The list of clubs will be provided upon request from the NERVA Jr. Commissioner. Only

approved NERVA sanctioned events will be advertised on the NERVA Website. Unless a tournament organizer receives special clearance from the NERVA Jr. Commissioner granting deviation, he or she may be penalized if proper notices are not sent via mail, fax, email, etc.

3. A Tournament Director can gain assistance for seeding New England teams, from the NERVA Jr. Competition Committee and/or NERVA Jr. Commissioner.
4. The tournament organizer should submit a full reporting of the tournament to the NERVA Jr. Commissioner within 8 working days of completion of the tournament. Report must include all signed team rosters.
5. All teams and players are to be registered with USAV prior to participation in the tournament and must be verified, by the Team Representative signing the final roster the day of and prior to the first match.
6. Changes in rosters may be made up to one-half hour before the involved team's first match at the discretion of the Tournament Director. It is suggested that roster changes be limited to emergency situations only. Specifically, club teams shall not be allowed to shift players once the pools have been established, which is generally one week prior to the tournament.
7. Tournament start schedules and times for each team, accompanied by a map and directions to the playing start site, are to be in the hands of all competing teams and listed assigned head officials by the Sunday preceding the tournament. At the time of this mailing any team on the wait list shall have had their deposit returned.
8. Additional information and official forms can be found in the tournament packet.

Section 6.06 Fees:

1. The Competition Committee will review all applications for tournament sanction and serve as a review board to ensure the regions operating code has been adhered to. The competition committee, NERVA Commissioner and NERVA Jr. Commissioner will serve as a hearing board if required.
2. Entry fees: Suggested entry fees are established by the region. Entry fees are determined by the Tournament Director but must be in accordance with the Regions regulations concerning profit margins. Tournament financial reports will be reviewed by the Junior Commissioner.
3. Awards are required for the first and second place finishers (at a minimum).
4. Awards must conform to the NCAA rules for giving of awards and gifts to Junior players. Team awards are optional for the first and second place teams, based on the number of individual awards provided. Individual awards are required for the first and second place finishers. When presented, a minimum of 10 individual awards per team must be available for presentation. For larger tournaments that have bracket playoff divisions, individual awards for first place finishers of each bracket shall be awarded

Section 6.07 Procurement/assignment of 1st Referees:

1. All 1st Referees assigned to USAV sanctioned competition shall be duly certified USAV Referees.
2. All 1st Referee assignments shall be made by the designated Head Referee in cooperation with the Tournament Director.

3. The fee schedule for Referees is located in the tournament packet and is available from the Officials Chairperson upon request.
4. If help is needed in acquiring referees, the Tournament Director must notify the NERVA Jr. Commissioner at least two weeks prior to the tournament date.
5. The NERVA Jr. Commissioner will notify the Officials Chairperson of all approved tournament dates that will require referees.

Section 6.08 Assignment of support officials:

1. The primary responsibility for the assignment of support officials shall lie with the Tournament Director.
2. All participating teams if required furnish the required support officials as requested. These officials may include, 1st Referee, 2nd Referee, the Scorekeeper, and two line judges. The 2nd Referee is recommended to be a certified Junior Referee or an adult coach (over the age of 18). All teams must be provided with the working requirements for an event in the tournament announcement or invitation. All teams must be prepared to comply with the work requirements. Failure by a team to report on time (as determined by the Head Referee) for a work assignment will result in a penalty that is outlined prior to start of tournament. It is recommended that forfeiture of the first game in the teams next match, or to follow the rules outlined in the Regions specific code for girls. In addition, failure to work matches assigned near the end of a tournament may result in suspension of the team. The tournament director may excuse a team from any or all work requirements if replacement personnel are available. Teams which find the work requirements different than those announced in the Tournament Entry Contract may file a written complaint with the Region Junior Commissioner. Tournament Director should report any team that does not fulfill their work obligation to the Junior Commissioner.
3. A work schedule, including play-off matches, must be posted prior to the first match so that teams will be properly informed as to their respective responsibilities. In addition, teams assigned to work the first scheduled matches should be notified by the Sunday preceding the tournament.
4. It is required that the Tournament Director or Head Referee post a schedule at the beginning of the tournament indicating who is to officiate all matches including, if possible, all playoffs.

Section 6.09 Running the tournament:

1. Regulation standards, nets and antennae must be used. Padding of standards and cables is required. Tables and chairs may not be used as referee stands.
2. Floors must be properly lined.
3. Courts with walls close to the baseline shall be marked clearly with a regulation serving area. There is no such thing as a “one-foot-in” serving rule.
4. Only USAV approved volleyballs will be used in sanctioned competition.
5. Tournament Directors will make writing utensils (pens and pencils) available for score keeping. Markers and crayons should not be used.
6. Only USAV score sheets and lineup sheets are to be used in sanctioned competition. Master forms are provided in tournament packets and online at <http://www.NEVolleyball.org>.

7. Rosters for each team must be available at the tournament and are to be signed by the Team Representative, the day of the event and prior to competition.
8. Standings must be posted at the conclusion of each match.
9. Facility ground rules regarding overhanging objects, out of bounds areas, etc., should be clearly defined by the Tournament Director and Head Referee for all teams prior to commencement of play.

Section 6.10 Sunday Tournament Restrictions:

1. Any Sunday Junior Tournament that has not concluded pool play before 7 PM will have all ‘Quarter-Final’ and ‘Final’ matches consist of only one (1) game to 25 points. The one game match will use rally scoring with the teams switching sides at 10 points. Also, the ‘Finals’ of any Sunday Junior Tournament that has not concluded all ‘Semi-final’ matches by 8 PM will have only one (1) ‘Final’ game to 25 points. The one game match will use rally scoring with the teams switching sides at 10 points.
 - a. 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. This Rule may be modified for the New England Regional Championships.

Section 6.11 Forfeiture of Team Tournament Entry Fees

1. Teams that have been accepted into a tournament and withdraw within 3 weeks of the tournament playing date for any reason, shall forfeit their entry fee unless they or the Tournament Director are able to obtain a replacement team. If the reason for withdrawal is due to circumstances beyond a team’s control, then the entry fee should be refunded. Decisions on refunds shall be made by the Tournament Director. Appeals may be made to the Junior Commissioner.
2. A second withdrawal by a team from a tournament less than 3 weeks before the tournament date shall result in a sanction as determined by the Junior Commissioner after review of the circumstances.
3. Teams that have been accepted into a tournament and withdraw within 7 days of the tournament playing date, for whatever reason, shall forfeit their total entry fee regardless of whether or not the Tournament Director is able to obtain a replacement team. If the team can replace itself, with approval of the Tournament Director, it may recover the entry fee from the replacement team.
4. A second withdrawal by a team from a tournament less than 7 days before the tournament date shall result in the forfeiture of its fee and a sanction as determined by the Junior Commissioner after review of the circumstances.
5. Teams entering a tournament and failing to show for participation, without notifying the Tournament Director, shall pay a fine, in addition to the penalties indicated above, unless good cause created by an unforeseen emergency can be shown to the Junior Commissioner. A “No Show Fee” of \$50.00 has been established for girls’ teams within the New England Region. This is optional for Tournament Directors of Inter-regional tournaments, but if used must be clearly stated in the invitation to teams, and must realize

that it is not the responsibility of the Region to attempt to collect such fees from out of region teams. The offending teams region would have to be contacted.

6. A late entry fee may be added for teams applying after the entry date set by the Tournament Director. The maximum late entry fee is \$10.00.

