

GENERAL QUALIFIER INFORMATION

(For complete information, please see the Qualifier Manual as posted on the USAV web site at www.usav.org.)

Ethics and Eligibility

Event Arbitrators: Event Arbitrators shall serve as the first level of hearing and resolving ethics and eligibility issues at a specific event. Teams or individuals accused of committing violations of ethics and/or eligibility rules and regulations at qualifying and/or championship events shall meet with the event Arbitrators(s).

The authority for the Event Arbitrator to act begins with the arrival of a team and individual participants in the Championship city, or 48 hours prior to the first day of competition, whichever is earlier, and shall continue through the duration of the Event through its conclusion.

Decisions of the Event Arbitrator shall be conveyed immediately to the affected parties and may be appealed to the Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee appointed for each qualifying and/or championship event of the corporation.

Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee: An Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee shall be formed for each qualifying and championship event sponsored by the Corporation. Each committee shall be composed of three (3) members, one (1) of whom shall meet the definition of the Corporation as a domestic player.

Each committee shall act on appeals of the ethics and eligibility decisions that occur during the conduct of the event. The conduct of the event shall commence when an individual or a team arrives at the site of the event, or forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the first day of competition for that event, whichever is earlier, and shall conclude with the departure of the individual and/or team from the city in which the event has been held.

If the committee is of the opinion the violation is of such a nature that requires further review or more serious discipline, they may file a recommendation with the Member Organization the team/participant represents and/or the USVBA Corporation Ethics and Eligibility Committee for extended disciplinary measures.

Tournament Format

1. All matches will be 2 out of 3 games. The first two games will to 25 points rally score, win by two, no cap. The third game will be 15 points rally score, win by two, no cap. USAV rules apply.

The finish in the pool will be determined by match results first, followed by game percentage.
(A "round" is one complete pool for a division.)

2. The Open "Gold Level": The top 4 to 16 teams (depending on the number of teams in the division) in Open divisions will play 3 rounds of pool play. First place teams of the third (3rd) round of pool play will be granted a bid. Additional matches after the third round of pool play may be required to determine 1st through 3rd place in the tournament. Format for the teams that do not advance into the "Gold Level" will consist of two rounds of pool play followed by single elimination bracket(s).

For Open Divisions with 38-48 teams, if a team in the top three finishers is a double qualifier, then additional matches are required to determine the 4th place team (to award the trickle down bid). The three 2nd place teams from the third round "Gold Level" pools will play a pool of 3 to determine the 4th through 6th place finishes. Winner of the pool earns the trickle down bid.

3. The Club "Gold Level": The top 4 to 16 teams (depending on the number of teams in the division) in Club divisions will play 2 rounds of pool play, followed by a single elimination play-off bracket for 1st through 4th place. All other levels in Club divisions will play 2 rounds of pool play, followed by single elimination play-off brackets.
4. Pool Play Sequence
All pool play will follow the sequence listed below unless otherwise approved by the CC:

	<u>Four Team Pools:</u>	<u>Three Team Pools:</u>	<u>Five Team Pools on 2 courts</u>
<u>Match 1:</u>	1 vs 3 (ref 2)	1 vs 3 (ref 2)	1 vs 5; 2 vs 4 (ref 3)
<u>Match 2:</u>	2 vs 4 (ref 1)	2 vs 3 (ref 1)	1 vs 4; 2 vs 3 (ref 5)
<u>Match 3:</u>	1 vs 4 (ref 3)	1 vs 2 (ref 3)	Break
<u>Match 4:</u>	2 vs 3 (ref 1)		1 vs 3; 4 vs 5 (ref 2)
<u>Match 5:</u>	3 vs 4 (ref 2)		2 vs 5; 3 vs 4 (ref 1)
<u>Match 6:</u>	1 vs 2 (ref 4)		1 vs 2; 3 vs 5 (ref 4)

5. Time Schedules

All Matches will be scheduled 1 hour apart. Some pools may play on two days to complete the pool (i.e., start one day in the evening and finish the next morning.)

The first match of a pool may not begin before its scheduled time. Within a pool and after the first match, a match may begin as much as 15 minutes before the scheduled starting time, provided the two teams competing, the officials and the tournament staff all agree to it and there is sufficient time for the warm-up protocol.

The last match of a pool may begin more than 15 minutes ahead of schedule provided the two teams competing, the officials and the tournament staff all agree to it and there is sufficient time for the warm-up protocol.

6. Court Use

A Qualifier may schedule no more than 12 matches on a court in one day, unless otherwise approved by the CC. (Tie-breaking games will not count as a scheduled match.)

7. Warm-up Protocol

Warm-ups for all matches will be 2 minutes of shared ball handling, 4 minutes of solo court time for the serving team and 4 minutes of solo court time for the receiving team. (2-4-4). There will be no shared hitting.

8. Tie Breaking Procedures

At the conclusion of a pool, teams in the pool will be ranked according to their match record. If a tie in match records exists between two or more teams, the tie(s) will be broken using the USA JOVC National Tie Break Formats set out below. A tie break game will be one game to 25 points, switch sides at 13.

Officials

All pool play and play-off bracket matches will have a USAV certified official as the 1st referee. Two certified officials will be provided for third pool matches in Open divisions, Gold brackets in Open divisions, and semi final and final matches of Gold Level Club divisions. It is recommended that 1st and 2nd officials be provided for Gold Level quarterfinals in Club divisions.

Participating teams will supply a 2nd referees for all matches not requiring a certified official as 2nd referee, as well as lines people and scorekeepers, according to a published referee assignment schedule. A team's coach must be present at courtside while any members of his/her team are officiating.

The Qualifier will appoint a Head Official for the tournament, who will be part of the Protest Committee. The Head Official will instruct all officials to enforce the Coaching Standards outlined in the USAV Rule Book.

Awards

Each Qualifier will give a team plaque or trophy to each first, second, and third place team in the Gold level of each Open and Club division. In addition, the Qualifier will give an individual award of minimal value (non-merchandise such as a plaque, trophy or medal) to each player on each first, second and third place team in the Gold level of each Open and Club division. The Qualifier may give additional awards.

Qualifiers will not select All-Tournament teams.

Trainers

Each Qualifier will provide athletic trainers during all hours of competition and for at least 45 minutes prior to the beginning of competition each day.

Protest Committee

Each Qualifier will have an on-site Protest Committee, consisting of the Head Official, the Director and another qualified person. No committee member will be coaching a team in the tournament. This Committee will rule on protests lodged by teams regarding officiating.

Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships and Bids

The primary purpose of the Qualifiers is to determine, through tournament competition, which teams in various age groups will play at the Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships (JOVC).

At the present time, there is a JOVC in each of the following age divisions:

18 Open	18 National	18 American
17 Open	17 National	17 American
16 Open	16 National	16 American
15 Open	15 National	15 American
14 Open	14 National	14 American
	13 National	
	12 National	

A "bid" is a guaranteed entry into the JOVC in a particular age division. There are bids for the Open JOVC divisions, National JOVC divisions and American JOVC divisions.

Bids are either awarded or won through one of five processes: (1) A team can win a bid in all Open divisions and some Club divisions by finishing in a certain position in a Qualifier (see the formula listed under 'Qualifiers and Bids'); (2) The JOVC Competition Commission awards some Open bids to teams from a pool of Open "at-large" bids (see below for description of "at-large" bids); (3) Each Region with 200 or more junior players registered has at least one National Division bid in each age division to award to a team from its own region according to its own process; (4) Regions receive additional ("reallocation")* bids for the National and/or American divisions based on the number of junior female registrants from the prior season relative to other regions' registration** (the regions receiving these bids and the number of bids available per division changes from year to year); and (5) The region hosting the JOVC will receive one additional American Division bid in each age classification to award to a team from its own region according to its own process.

NOTE: "Reallocation bids" come from bids a region does not use in a particular age classification and from any Club bids (either National or American Club JOVC Division bids) not awarded at Qualifiers. These bids become a pool of "reallocation" bids that are then distributed to regions based on the process described below in the section titled "Club Bids."

Open Bids

In the Open divisions of Qualifiers, bids will go to the teams that finish the competition in a bid award position. A bid will "trickle down" to the next highest finishing team if a team winning a bid has won a bid at a previous Qualifier.

To compete in an Open division at JOVC a team must win a bid at a Qualifier or be awarded a bid through the at large process. To be considered for an at-large Open bid a team must: 1) play in at least one Qualifier in the Open division the team is being considered for, 2) follow its region's JOVC application process and deadline date, 3) follow the National entry process and established deadline dates.

At-Large Bids to Open divisions of the JOVC must be announced on the second Monday after the last Qualifier.

Club Bids (National and American Club Divisions)

The Club Division at each Qualifier can potentially award both a National Club JOVC Division bid and an American Club JOVC Division bid. The bids awarded at the Qualifiers have the potential to “trickle down.” The lowest finishing team that may win a bid at a Qualifier is the fourth (4th) place team.

For additional information on how Club bids trickle down, please see the current Qualifier Manual.

Qualifiers and Bids

Each Qualifier will award a certain number of bids to the top finishing teams in all divisions that meet entry requirements. The number of teams in a division will determine the number of bids a Qualifier has for each Open and Club division. There will be a maximum of three (3) bids for any Open division, one (1) for 18, 12 and 13 & Under Club divisions, and two (2) bids for any 14, 15, 16 and 17 & Under Club divisions per Qualifier. (See the formula listed in this section.)

The number of bids in a division is determined by the number of teams entered in the division on the entry deadline date. If a Qualifier accepts late entries, the number of bids for a division may increase, but will not be less than the number determined on the entry deadline date. An increased number of bids will be established according to the number of teams entered in the division on the date the seeding for the division is finalized.

Teams **OPEN** 18, 17, 16, 15 & 14 & Under

< 12 = 0
12 – 15 = 2
>15 = 3

Team National/American Div. 14 & Under

<12 = 0
12 – 47 = 1 bid in the National Division
48 – 128 = 2nd bid to the American Division

Team National/American Div 15, 16, 17, 18 & Under

<12 = 0
12 – 63 = 1 In the National Division
64 – 128 = 2nd bid to American Division

Team National Division 12 and 13 & Under

<12 = 0
12 – 128 = 1

Requirement to Use Bids

As a general rule of thumb, the following applies to all Bid Awards:

Open bid supercedes National and American Club Divisions bid
Qualifier bids supercedes Region bid
National Club Division bid supercedes American Club Division bid

Once a team earns an Open bid, that team must take the Open bid over any other bid earned.

When a team earns and accepts an “American Club” bid at any National Qualifier (NQ) and then attends another NQ and wins a “National Club” bid, the team must take the “National Club” bid. The original “American Club” bid will be returned to the NQ where it was won and will trickle down no further than the 4th place team at that NQ. If no eligible team accepts the “trickle down” bid, that bid will be added to the Region Reallocation process.

If a team earns and accepts a “National Club Division” bid at a qualifier and earns a Region’s “American Club Division” bid, the team must take the “National Club Division” bid. The “American Club Division” bid will stay with that region and its bid process.

If a team earns an "American Club Division" bid at a National Qualifier and earns a Region's "National Club Division" bid, the team must take the "National Club Division" bid. The "American Club Division" bid will go back to the National Qualifier and through the "trickle down" process. If no eligible team accepts the "trickle down" bid, the bid will be added to the Region Reallocation process.

If a team wins either a "National Club Division" or "American Club Division" at a National and an OPEN bid, either from a NQ or through the "at-large" process, the team must use the OPEN bid. The National or American Club Division bid will be offered to the next highest finishing team at the NQ at which the team originally won the Club bid (down to the 4th place team). If no team from the Qualifier accepts the bid, it will be returned to the pool of Region bids to be reallocated.

If an Open team that earns a bid or is awarded an at-large Open bid does not participate in the JOVC in the division in which it won the bid, that team, it's coaches, it's club director and all it's club's teams will be suspended from participating in all national qualifying events for the following season.

If a Club team that accepts a National or American Club JOVC Division bid at a Qualifier and does not participate in the JOVC in the division in which it won the bid will be subject to sanctions imposed by the YJOVD Ethics and Eligibility Committee. The team shall lose their entry fee. Additionally, there may be added financial penalties and potentially additional suspension(s) of that team, its coaches, its club director and all its club's teams from participating in all national qualifying events for the following season.

If a Club team that accepts a National or American Club JOVC Division bid from a Region and does not participate in the JOVC in the division in which it won the bid, that team, it's coaches, it's club director and all it's club's teams will be subject to sanctions imposed by the YJOVD Ethics and Eligibility Commission and may face additional sanctions by their Region. The team shall lose their entry fee. Additionally, there may be added financial penalties and potentially additional suspension(s) of that team, its coaches, its club director and all its club's teams from participating in all national qualifying events for the following season.

On-Site Registration

Prior to beginning play, a coach, team rep or club director must confirm his/her team's presence at the tournament by signing the roster. The signing agent is verifying that all the information contained on the roster is both complete and correct, and that at least one coach for the team is Impact certified. The signing agent is assuming all responsibility for the organization (club) and any consequence if information is false or incorrect.

The roster for any team winning a bid will be frozen as submitted at registration. The Qualifier will send a copy of this roster to the JOVC Director of Competition, the USAV Events Department and the Regional Commissioner of the team's region following the conclusion of the Qualifier as the team's official roster for JOVC. (Frozen Roster Rule)

Team Forfeitures

If a team forfeits a match, the forfeit will be considered intentional, unless the team shows good cause for the forfeit. A team that intentionally forfeits a match will be excluded from further participation in that Qualifier. The Qualifier will report any team that intentionally forfeits a match to the JOVC Competition Committee and the USAV Events Department.

If a team intentionally forfeits a match in the Gold Level during the third round of pool play in an Open division or during the playoff bracket matches in a Club division, the team's sanction will be the same as the sanction for rejecting a bid: that team, it's coaches, it's club director and all it's club's teams will be suspended from participating in all national qualifying events for the following season. The Qualifier Ethics and Eligibility Committee will determine if good cause exists.

USA Volleyball Age Falsification Policy

For all USA Volleyball Corporation events, any person who alters any document that certifies the age of a participant, or falsifies any statement which lists the age of a participant, will be sanctioned as follows:

Any team representative, coach, program director or responsible adult found to be party to such action shall:

1. Be immediately suspended from registration with USA Volleyball and barred from further participation in the event; and
2. Be barred from participation in any USAV Corporate events in any capacity, for a minimum of two (2) years; and
3. Have a minimum probation of one additional year, to run consecutively to the suspension.

A junior player who knowingly plays in a lower age classification than he or she is actually eligible for, or an adult player who knowingly plays in a higher age classification than he or she is actually eligible for shall:

1. Be immediately suspended from registration with USA Volleyball and barred from further participation in the event; and
2. Be barred from participation in any USAV Corporate events in any capacity, for a minimum of two (2) years; and
3. Have a minimum probation of one additional year, to run consecutively to the suspension

When discovered and confirmed during an event, these penalties shall be the required minimum penalty imposed by the Event Arbitrator or the Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee.

The Event Arbitrator and the Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee may recommend a more severe penalty. The Event Arbitrator or the Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee shall file a report of any age violation with the Corporation's Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee and with the registering Member Organization with its recommendation.

Missed Officiating Duties

A team's failure to have a complete officiating crew, including a rostered coach for that team, available and on time, for a match officiating assignment could result in the team having to forfeit the first game of its next match. For every minute an officiating team is late to fulfill its assignment, one point will be awarded to that team's next opponent for the first game of the next match – up to 25 points. No more than 25 points will be awarded to the team's next opponent, even if the team designated to officiate misses the entire match. The clock begins to run at the completion of warm ups.

A team will forfeit its entire next match for failing, a second time, to have an officiating crew available, on time, for an officiating assignment.

This penalty does not apply to a team that misses a 3 way tiebreak because of leaving a site before the determination a tiebreak is necessary, unless the team misses an officiating assignment for the match following the tiebreak, or a team leaves after playing the first tiebreak game but before officiating the second tiebreak game. Losing the opportunity to advance by not being present for the tiebreak is considered the penalty for the team.

Frozen Rosters

The roster of a team is frozen at the time the team wins a bid in a Qualifier, applies for a bid in an at-large process, or receives a bid through its regional process. Getting a bid defines the team as "qualified" for the JOVC.

All players listed on the roster of a team that qualified for the JOVC may not be on the roster of or play on any other team attempting to qualify for the JOVC. This rule applies regardless of whether the qualifying attempt is in a Qualifier, at a regional event that determines which teams are awarded the region's Club bid(s), or through an at-large process. Switching a player from the roster of a qualified team to the roster of a team attempting to qualify will result in sanctions being imposed on the already qualified team, its club, and/or the individual(s) involved.

Likewise, no player may switch from one qualified team to another qualified team, even within the same club. Under the Frozen Roster Rule, a club may add player(s) to the roster of one of its qualified teams for the JOVC, provided the player(s) added are members of the club and the team from which the players are switching has not qualified for the JOVC. A club may not switch players between two teams that both are qualified for the JOVC. All players added to a roster must be on the roster submitted for at-large bid consideration. The roster is then frozen as of submission for bid consideration.

In addition, once a female junior player has participated in a JOVC qualifying event, she may not participate in another JOVC qualifying or championship event with a different club unless a waiver is granted by the YJOVD Arbitrator and the regions involved.

For any JOVC event, each player is required to wear the same jersey number throughout the entire event, with limited exceptions as required by emergency or blood rule applications.

Violations of the Frozen Roster Rule will result in sanctions being imposed on the already qualified team, its club, and/or the individual(s) involved, including the player, the coach and the club director.

The YJOV Ethics & Eligibility Committee will determine sanctions for violations of the Frozen Roster Rule. For a first or subsequent offense, the sanctions may be a warning, probation, suspension or expulsion

WAIVED PLAYERS

Teams may use players who have a waiver from their region for age requirements in any division at a Qualifier that does not have a bid for the JOVC. Teams may NOT use players who have a waiver from their region for age requirements in any division at a Qualifier that has a bid to the JOVC.