

# 2017 PRE-SEASON INFORMATION

TO: Great Plains Region Members

9-14-16

Below is a synopsis of changes for the upcoming season. Refer to the handbook for a complete listing of all regulations. The **2017 Great Plains Region handbook** will be available on November 1 on the Great Plains website under the General tab.

The 2017 membership season begins on September 1, 2016. The 2016 season ends on August 31, 2016, but your 2016 membership is valid through October 31, 2016.

Most forms, documents and information noted will be available on the Great Plains website.

## New for 2017:

### 1. RULEBOOK

The USA Volleyball Rulebook (DCR – Domestic Competition Rules) is in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a two-year cycle. If you have a book from last year, this will be your book for this season. If you need a copy, please contact the office. You may also download a PDF copy at [https://volleyballreftraining.com/rules\\_interpretations\\_indoor.php](https://volleyballreftraining.com/rules_interpretations_indoor.php)

NEW RULES – There are no new rules this year. However, the USAV gray box for rule 19.2 regarding the solid colored jersey rule was eliminated. All teams must now comply with rule 19.2.

### 2. TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEES – Tournament names will remain as Gold, Silver, and Split. See the 2017 Great Plains Region handbook for more detail.

- (1) **GOLD** tournaments will play match play. **Entry fee - \$190**
- (2) **SILVER** tournaments will play 2 sets of 18 points in round robin pool play. **Entry fee - \$120**
- (3) **SPLIT SESSION** (Saturday only) tournaments will offer a morning and an afternoon session. **Entry fee - \$90**

### 3. The **Regional tournament** for 10's - 14's will be held on **Saturday, April 1** and for the 15's - 18's will be on **Sunday, April 2**. Entry fee for Gold Regionals is \$220; Silver and Bronze Regionals is \$150. The deadline to register is **Friday, March 17.**

### 4. The **18s Bid tournament** will be on **March 19, 2017.**

- a. 18s Spring National Championships is either **April 21 – 23 or April 22 24** in (we don't know what city as of this writing) for the 18's divisions. No 18's divisions will play at the GJNC in Minneapolis.

### 5. The **Bid tournament** for 15's – 17's will be **Sunday, March 19** and for 12 - 14's will be on **Saturday, March 25.**

- a. USA Volleyball Girls JNC is **June 25 – July 4** in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

See **BID TOURNAMENT and TEAMS PLAYING at NATIONALS** later in this letter for more information.

## 6. SAFE SPORT INITIATIVE

The creation of the USA Volleyball Safe Sport initiative was announced last year. The safety of its participants is of paramount importance to USA Volleyball. USA Volleyball has ZERO TOLERANCE for abuse and misconduct.

**NEW in 2017** - It is required that all adults affiliated with a junior program must have completed Safe Sport training prior to attending any national USAV event. This includes attendance at a qualifier as well as at the national championships. In 2018, all adults affiliated with a junior program will be required to have completed Safe Sport training prior to being eligible to coach.

This program covers not only on-court safety, but also off-court safety in any part of USA Volleyball's programs. USA Volleyball is committed to creating safe and fun environments for youth.

USA Volleyball has developed a SafeSport Handbook, intended to be a central location for all of the policies and procedures that are designed to protect its youth participants from all types of misconduct and abuse. It also includes information and education for adults on how to be proactive, to recognize areas of concern and signs of abuse.

This SafeSport Handbook includes the various Policies that apply to all USA Volleyball Member Programs and address the following areas:

- Sexual Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Bullying, Threats and Harassment
- Hazing

For more information and to start a SafeSport Program in your club or to complete the required online training, go to [https://www.volleyballreftraining.com/SafeSport/safesport\\_home.html](https://www.volleyballreftraining.com/SafeSport/safesport_home.html)

SafeSport certification is now included as part of IMPACT certification.

## 7. COACH AND TEAM OFFICIATING REQUIREMENTS

GOOD NEWS!!! Since we are in the second year of a 2-year cycle rulebook, there are no new rules for anyone to learn this year. The requirements for teams remain the same (as stated in item b below, but those players who completed their referee and/or scorer certification last year will have that certification extended through the 2017 season.

The two year certification will only be offered in the first year of a 2-year rulebook cycle. So at the end of the 2017 season, all certifications will expire and all players will need to attend the required certification clinics for the 2018 season.

- a. For all Great Plains sanctioned tournaments, a **rostered adult** (coach, other rostered adult member or USAV certified referee) **must be the R1 or R2** on every match.
  - i. If the rostered adult is the R1, then a player may assist in other roles.
  - ii. If the rostered adult wants to be the R2, a player may be the R1.
- b. **Team requirements:** Each team registered in the Great Plains Region is required to have **two players certified as junior referees and two players certified as junior scorers.**
  - i. Clinics will be available on Oct 1 for registration.
  - ii. There is an option to 'test out' of specific modules, ie, R1, assistant scorer, etc.

- iii. It is the responsibility of club directors and coaches to ensure players have completed their officiating requirements.
- iv. Only players that have completed their certification, and are noted as such on the roster, should officiate in those roles.
- v. It is advisable to complete your officiating requirements as soon as a player is registered and the information is disseminated. It is highly recommended that you do not wait until the holiday break to complete your requirements.
- c. **Coach officiating requirements** do not have the second year extension. Coach requirements for the 2016-2017 USAV season is to complete the 2017 Great Plains Club Coach clinic.
- d. Club coaches are not required to complete the player referee/scorer modules.
- e. If a club coach wants to know more about the modules that are included in the junior player referee and scorer clinics, contact the region office for further information about how to view those modules.
- f. Additional videos and other information for training your players on how to officiate can be found on [www.volleyballreftraining.com](http://www.volleyballreftraining.com)

## CONTINUING REGION POLICIES

- 8. The **registration fee** for Club Directors, Junior Club Coaches and Junior Players (12-18) is \$65.

### 9. **14 & OLDER HIGH SCHOOL PLAYERS**

Many clubs and facilities are offering scrimmages, clinics and training opportunities during the fall High School season. If you are in high school and play on any level team for your school, make sure you know the NSAA policies on outside participation during your sport season. ([www.nsaahome.org](http://www.nsaahome.org))

### 10. **TRYOUT POLICY**

The Great Plains Region tryout policy remains the same; there is no specified tryout date. The tryout date was replaced with a signing/commitment date. Players cannot formally commit to a club/team until they have signed the official Letter of Intent that will be sent out just prior to the signing date.

- a. The **commitment date for 10 – 14** age groups will be **Saturday, October 29, 2016**.
- b. The **commitment date for 15 – 18** age groups is the Sunday after the completion of the Nebraska State High School Volleyball Championships (which this year will be **November 13, 2016**).
- c. Players and coaches should register before attending tryouts. A current 2017 membership card or membership confirmation should be presented at each tryout.
- d. If a club holds clinics or tryouts and wants it posted on the website, tryout information should be completed and returned to the office prior to the date. There is no fee for reporting or listing your dates. A club does not need to have tryouts.
- e. Tryouts may not start before 8:00 am. The facility may open one hour prior.
- f. Commitment forms or letters of intent cannot be signed by players or parents/guardians (and therefore are not binding) until the first tryout/commitment date for a specific age division.
- g. A sample letter of intent for use by clubs/teams can be found on the Great Plains website in the forms section.
- h. Clubs do not have to use the form to commit their players, but no other contract/form will be recognized by the region.

## 11. PRE-SEASON CLUB DEPOSITS

Great Plains policy states the Region is not responsible for any financial transactions between a player and a club at any time. If a club chooses to accept a deposit from a player to hold a position in a club, that is a transaction between a parent and the club. Parents should use due diligence in deciding which club is the best for their child before putting down a deposit. Additional club assurances are also not controlled by the Region. (For example, additional practices required before being placed on a team, no prior knowledge of assigned team or coach, etc).

12. **NUMBER PLACEMENT on the JERSEY TOP.** – The rule says the jersey number must be “centered (both horizontally and vertically) on the player’s chest and upper back”. The Region highly recommends NOT placing anything (club name/logo, etc.) above the number on the front of the jersey. This way the number can be placed as high as needed. The back of the jersey can still have a club name or player’s name above the number provided the number is still on the upper back of the jersey.

## 13. USA VOLLEYBALL INSURANCE

One of the benefits of your Great Plains Region/USA Volleyball membership is liability insurance coverage for players and facilities while participating in a sanctioned USAV event. Sanctioned events can include, but are not limited to tryouts, practices, and tournaments. Travel to and from a sanctioned event is also covered. Injuries that occur at sanctioned events are covered by a **secondary sports accident policy**. This policy normally covers additional costs related to the injury that are not covered by your primary insurance coverage. Incident report forms and medical claim forms are posted on the Juniors Forms page of the Great Plains Region website. These forms need to be completed by the club director or tournament director at the time of the incident. Only registered members are covered by these insurance policies. Club directors must be members of the new season to request insurance coverage

## 14. SANCTIONED EVENTS

Any event may be sanctioned by the Great Plains region. This includes open gyms, clinics, practices, and tournaments. In order for your event to be sanctioned, **ALL** participants **MUST** be registered with the region or a region of USA Volleyball. The Great Plains Region must also **KNOW** of this event. See the Great Plains Region handbook for more information.

- a. For insurance purposes, all facilities used by a club/team for practice, open gym, clinics must be listed on the club profile form.
- b. Tournaments in the Great Plains Region may not start before 8:00 am and must end by 8:30 pm.
- c. There is a section on the website for clubs and facilities to list pre-season clinics, open gyms and tryouts.

## 15. PRESEASON CLINIC MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

As long as you have completed your online registration application, you are not required to pay your region membership before tryouts/commitment date. You may print your registration confirmation to take to clinics or tryouts/commitment date. Once you have been selected for a team, you will then log back into your account and pay for the membership. You can also go back to your main info tab and select your club name if you initially chose ‘undecided’. You may still pay for the membership when you register. All refund policies are still in effect.

- a. If a member realizes they cannot begin the season, a refund may be requested by using a form on the Great Plains website under the General Information tab. Requests for

refunds must be made by December 31. Requests for refunds after December 31 may be granted, if requested within 30 days of membership activation.

- b. Any registered player that has participated in practices is not eligible for a refund even though they were not able to play during the season.
- c. The entire refund policy can be found on the Great Plains website under the General Information tab.

#### **16. CLUB AFFILIATION TERM**

Club affiliation for the current season begins when the player signs a letter of intent or commits to a club and ends after the last day of competition for that age division at the USA Volleyball Girl's Junior National Championships. Membership with the region remains through the end of October of the current season.

#### **17. SINGLE SIGN-IN TO USA VOLLEYBALL ACADEMY**

The USA Volleyball Academy, where everyone will take their ref and scoring clinics, has been re-designed. You will see a much different look to the site. All the functions remain the same. You must log into your webpoint membership account and register for your clinic(s). When you have registered for your clinic, there is a new link to the USAV Academy that you can find in multiple places. This link will automatically log you into your USAV Academy account and take you to your course listings. This link can be used any time you need to return to your clinic material. You only have to register once for a clinic. You may still go directly to the USAV Academy and log in there if you wish but you must register for your clinic through Webpoint before taking the clinic(s). For complete details and information, go to the Coaching Requirements page on the Great Plains website. (<http://www.gpvb.org/page/coaching-requirements>)

#### **18. CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT**

The Nebraska Concussion Awareness Act (LB260) went into effect July 2012. The new law affects public, private, denominational, or parochial schools (Statute 71-9104), as well as any city, village, business, or nonprofit organization (Statute 71-9105) sponsoring a sporting activity having athletes 19 years old or younger, where there is a cost to participants or where such costs are sponsored, i.e. club sports, select teams, Parks & Rec programs, Legion, Babe Ruth, YMCA, AAU, Pop Warner, Midget FB, etc.

Club directors, you are responsible for knowing and administering the information presented in the Great Plains Concussion Management document. The entire document can be found on the Great Plains Region website under the **Juniors** tab.

#### **19. TEAM NAME REQUIREMENTS**

When deciding on your team name for this season, you must include the following minimum information in the team name. Club Name and Age Level. If the team rank is used in the team name, it must match the team rank in the team code. Example: Club Name 14-2 (or 142). You may include other identifiers in the name (i.e., coach's name, team name, etc.) if you want.

- a. If a club has a considerable number of teams, the club director can contact Bill Stanley, the registrar, to assist in setting up the team names and team codes. Just send an email with the team names and the respective team rank.
- b. Team names cannot change after January 1, 2017.

#### **20. REGISTRATION**

- a. The start date for the USA Volleyball season is September 1. When you register, you will be able to print your membership card once the membership is activated. Activation is

immediate if using a credit card. When paying by cash or check, the membership will not be activated until the money is received. Make sure to print this card or membership confirmation if you are attending tryouts. Memberships expire on October 31 (of the following year), regardless of when you registered for the current season.

- b. ALL individuals are required to register and pay their membership fees directly to the Great Plains Region office. This includes players, coaches, chaperones, club directors & officials. Checks will not be accepted from clubs to pay for multiple player or coach registrations. There are no papers to print or send to the office. If a check is mailed for an individual's membership, the check should include the member's name in the memo section.
- c. The Region is still offering the **8 & under membership for free**.
- d. During the registration process, each individual has the ability to opt out of receiving emails or mailings from the Great Plains Region, USA Volleyball and/or third parties. If an individual chooses not to receive these emails or mailings, they may not be informed of important region or USAV information.
- e. All coaches (regardless of age) are required to sign the National Club Personnel Code of Ethics form when registering. This signature will be processed electronically in the same way as your signature for the Waiver and Release of Liability.
- f. All signatures required for a background screening are processed electronically. If a background screening has lapsed, each member who requires a background screening will be asked when applying for membership to complete the background screening application. The background screening process will begin as soon as the membership is paid and activated.

## 21. CLUB DIRECTOR ACCESS

- a. Club applications are due prior to the start of each year. In order for a club director to gain access to their club administration, they must be registered with the region and have turned in their club application/profile for the current season. If a previous club director is not registered by October 31, 2016 or has not turned in their Club Application for the current season, club administrator access will be disabled.
- b. Tryout information can be included on the Club Application.
- c. Club directors must have a current membership and must submit a completed Club Profile form before club director administrative access can be granted.
- d. The club director access function in the online database allows the club director/administrator to view information about each individual in their club; i.e., address, phone numbers, birth date, etc. The system also has the capability of storing uniform sizes, athletic abilities, etc., for each player and will allow the club director/administrator to send group or individual emails to members.
- e. After coaches and players have registered and the registration fee has been paid, and the membership has been activated, club directors/administrators can build team rosters from their club's paid members. A club administrator can also view unpaid memberships (when a member has registered for their club, but the fee has not yet been received). Club directors/administrators can move players from one roster to another for different tournaments.
- f. Once the club director's membership is active, a certificate of insurance for your club will be sent. If the practice/tournament facility you use requires a separate certificate, you need to request the certificate from the office using the Insurance Certificate Form on the Juniors Forms page of the website. Do not make a copy of your certificate. The certificate must be sent directly from the office to the facility.
- g. It is imperative that all coach's information in the on-line database is current. The region office uses the system to send out information emails to specific groups of members.

## 22. COACH ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- a. All adult coaches for junior teams must have a current membership and a current background screening before they can coach at any practice, tryout or clinic.
- b. All coaches must be IMPACT certified before they are eligible to coach.
  - i. All junior age coaches must be IMPACT certified before they are eligible to coach
  - ii. A junior age coach must have an eligible adult coach on the bench at all times.
  - iii. If a junior age coach turns 18 at sometime during the season, all of the coach requirements (including background screening) must be fulfilled.
- c. Any coach who will attend a USAV national event (qualifiers and national championships) in 2017 must be Safe Sport certified.
- d. An IMPACT schedule will be posted to the Great Plains website. A limited number of in-person region IMPACT clinics will be held this year. **Plan accordingly!**
  - i. If a coach needs an IMPACT clinic and one is not scheduled in the region, USA Volleyball offers IMPACT webinars. Contact the Great Plains Region office for further information or see the education tab on the USA Volleyball website ([www.usavolleyball.org](http://www.usavolleyball.org)).
- e. All coaches must meet **officiating requirements** each year. These requirements may include attendance at officiating and scoring clinics and/or passing scores on exams. Coaches officiating requirements are noted above in the NEW for 2017 section.
- f. Eligible coaches must wear their name badge at all times when their team is playing at a tournament.

## 23. WAIVERS

An Age Waiver can be considered if a player is one age division too old and a team would not have enough players, since if they live in an area of the state with a limited player base. A player that has been granted an age waiver may not play on a team competing in a division in which the player would normally be too old in any competition leading to the USAV Junior National Championships. Age waivers are not 'skill' waivers.

- a. The region allows SAME GRADE waivers for any player in the region who falls in the 15 and under age category but is still in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. All other waiver restrictions are the same as previous years. No waived players are allowed to play in Gold tournaments.
  - a. If a team of players, all from the same grade, want to play together, but do not all qualify for the same age definition, a same grade waiver form must be completed.
- b. A waiver form must be completed for ALL waived (same grade or older age) players.
- c. Waivered players must be added to a team's roster by the region. Uniform numbers are required to add a player to a roster.
- d. In most cases, only 3 or fewer waived players are allowed on one team.
- e. Waivered players are not allowed to play in national events.
- f. Eligibility for tournaments in other regions is at the discretion of the tournament director according to the policies of the sanctioning RVA.

## 24. TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

A current list of all qualifier and National Championship dates is posted on the Great Plains website tournament schedule page.

- a. Tournament directors must be registered members before tournament applications will be accepted. All tournament staff and personnel must be registered members.
- b. Deadline to request tournament dates is **Monday, September 28**.
  - i. Tournament requests turned in before the deadline require a \$10 application fee.
  - ii. Tournament requests turned in after the deadline require a \$25 fee.
  - iii. Further information is available in the Tournament Directors pre-season letter.

- c. All **GOLD** tournaments will have region assigned **paid referees**, unless the tournament requests not to have referees. The price per tournament does not change if paid referees are not used. Tournaments not using referees will be noted in advance on the printable tournament schedule.
- d. Some tournaments will charge an **admission fee**. If a tournament charges an admission fee, the fee must be stated on the tournament sanction request form when the tournament is sanctioned. The admission fee will be noted on the tournament schedule.

## 25. **BID TOURNAMENT and TEAMS PLAYING at NATIONALS**

### a. **15-18 Bid Tournament**

- i. The Great Plains Bid tournament (qualification for the region's allotted bids at the USA Volleyball National Championships) for the 15-18s divisions will be held on **Sunday, March 19**.
- ii. The deadline to enter this tournament is **Friday, March 3**.
- iii. All teams are eligible to register for the tournament. However, only the eight highest ranked teams in the Region that have registered for the Bid Tournament will be selected to play in the Great Plains Bid tournament.
- iv. The eight teams will be selected based on the region rankings on the Wednesday (**March 8**) following the Friday bid tournament deadline.
- v. Teams selected to play in the bid tournament must complete all of the JNC paperwork on-line with AES and must submit copies (along with your check made payable to USAV JNC for the entire entry fee) to the region office within one week after the team is notified. (March 15)
- vi. Entry fee for this tournament will be **\$220**.

### b. **12-14 Bids**

- i. The Great Plains Bid tournament (qualification for the region's allotted bids at the USA Volleyball National Championships) for the 12-14s divisions will be held on **Saturday, March 25**.
- ii. The deadline to enter this tournament is **Friday, March 10**.
- iii. All teams are eligible to register for the tournament. However, only the eight highest ranked teams in the Region that have registered for the Bid Tournament will be selected to play in the Great Plains Bid tournament.
- iv. The eight teams will be selected based on the region rankings on the Wednesday (**March 15**) following the Friday bid tournament deadline.
- v. Teams selected to play in the bid tournament must complete all of the JNC paperwork on-line with AES and must submit copies (along with your check made payable to USAV JNC for the entire entry fee) to the region office within one week after the team is notified. (**March 22**)
- vi. Entry fee for this tournament is **\$220**.

c. The bid tournaments format is double elimination.

d. **Teams that qualify for the USA Junior National Championships** (whether through the region bid tournament or at a USAV National Qualifier) may receive some reimbursement from the region per the team participation policy. A specific pool of money has been budgeted. The exact amount each team will receive will be determined based on the total number of teams that qualify. Reimbursements will be sent at the conclusion of the National Championships.

e. Teams that participate in the Great Plains bid tournament must be prepared to accept a bid if they should win or are next in line to receive a 'trickle down' bid. If a team does not accept the bid and does not play in the division in which it won the bid, each



individual member of that team is subject to the same sanctions as per the USAV National Bid Qualifier Manual (regardless of the club/team affiliation for the next year).

## 26. **ONLINE TOURNAMENT ENTRY SYSTEM (OTES)**

The tournament entry system is used by all teams to enter any sanctioned tournament within the region.

- a. For a team to be accepted into tournaments, a club director must:
  - i. enter club and team information in OTES (see instructions on Tournament Schedule page). A team rep must be added to each team before teams can be entered into tournaments.
  - ii. enter teams into tournament.
  - iii. build a roster in the membership database (Webpoint)
    - i. Uniform numbers are required when adding a player to a roster.
  - iv. contact the Region Tournament Coordinator to request team approval.

Use of this system allows viewing of currently accepted teams in each tournament. There is no additional cost to tournament directors or teams for use of this system. OTES will also allow tournament directors to send group emails to all teams entered. All tournament results are entered online by the tournament director.

All tournaments in the region will use the same format; i.e., same warm-up procedures, same coin toss procedures, same playing schedule, etc. All tournament rosters must be printed from the online membership database (webpoint). No other tournament rosters will be accepted at tournaments.

## 27. **FORMS** (See the website for copies of all forms.)

### a. **Club Profile Form**

- i. Must be completed before a club is listed as an approved club on the website.
- ii. Is used to assist parents looking for information about a club.
- iii. Is used to send a club's certificate of insurance
- iv. Is used to sanction all practices

### b. **Certificate of Insurance Request**

- i. A separate request must be made for each facility used for practices, clinics, tournaments, etc. Photocopies of the club's insurance certificate are not allowed.