

OKLAHOMA REGION VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP REFERENCE GUIDE & PLAYER HANDBOOK

The purpose of this "**REFERENCE GUIDE AND HANDBOOK**" is to acquaint all persons of the Oklahoma Region Volleyball Association (OKRVA) of "who, what, when, why, where and how" the OKRVA organization works. Also to communicate Regional Rules and Regulations to the membership of the Region and to the organizations with which the membership interfaces so that equal, uniform and fair treatment of all Regional teams and OKRVA members is ensured. It is further intended to emphasize the Region's purpose of promoting The volleyball spirit and to develop leadership in the volleyball programs.

The United States Volleyball Association (USA) is the National Governing Body (NGB) of Volleyball. The USA is an organization of organizations. For example, the AAU, NCAA, the Army, Navy, Boy Scouts, etc., are all members in various classifications along with many other organizations. The USA is comprised entirely of volunteer workers who employ a small staff at the National level for maintenance of the USA national programs. Some larger Regional organizations have a paid administrative staff.

The most unique group of members of the USA are the Regional Volleyball Associations (RVAs). The RVAs are independent, local non-profit corporations, with their own administrative structure. Each RVA has specific and general purposes of operation established for national and regional goals. Each RVA is admitted to membership in the USA after having met certain membership requirements and after having demonstrated that leadership is available in the region for successful operation of the region. The regions are called Group D members of the USA.

Oklahoma was originally a part of what was termed, "Region 9, USA" which encompassed the entire states of Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. In 1955, while still a part of Region 9, the National USA Open Tournament was held at Norman, OK under the auspices of the Oklahoma City YMCA and under the direction of Cliff Smith, then director at the OKC downtown YMCA. The growth of membership has been dramatic. In 1956 the 3-State region had less than 100 members. In 1971 membership rose to 525 when Louisiana was added to the region. By action of the USA Board of Directors in July 1989, The Oklahoma Region Volleyball Association was given full status as a Group D member of the USA. This region consists of the entire state of Oklahoma. In 1994, thirty nine years later, Oklahoma was again host to the USA National Open Tournament. The tournament was held in Tulsa, Ok. and 217 teams participated. The 1994 USA National Open Tournament was put together in part by OKRVA's first President Jesse Cooper. With hundreds of volunteers and volleyball enthusiast the tournament was a great success.

The Group D members of the USA conduct their business at the "grass roots" level of volleyball. Each region registers members, carries on liaison and promotion of the sport with each of the other members of the USA, and carries on programs of national origin. The primary function of the region is **education**. Education of players, officials and the general public in all the aspects of the sport of volleyball.

Your membership is with the Region in which you register, in this case, the OKRVA. You are subsequently registered with the USA. An OKRVA member receives benefits directly as a result of the RVAs' membership in the USA. For example, the total membership of all the regions allows the NGB to purchase insurance at lower rates than are available for a single region. Likewise, the registered member is eligible for other benefits that can be provided more reasonably at the National level because of economy of scale. Although, strictly speaking, you are a member only of the OKRVA, it is common usage, through the close, special ties between the region and the USA, to call you a member of USA.

The NGB perspective is broadened by the input of its member organizations and by its more specific responsibility of directly supporting the National men's and women's teams. Therefore, the NGB is able to develop and support programs for which the individual regions have few resources. Such a program is the national certification program for coaches, referees, and scorekeepers at all levels of local and National competition. The NGB also provides many publications and training tapes.

The primary liaison between each RVA and the NGB is a Regional Commissioner selected by the Region for a term of office determined locally. The body of commissioners comprise the Steering Committee of the Regional Operations Division (ROD), which is chaired by an appointed USA vice president entitled the "Vice President of Regional Operations Division."

With the assistance of the local administrative structure, the Commissioner is responsible for the operational function of the RVA and for carrying out the policies of the NGB and the ROD. This structure is usually comprised of volunteers, each assigned to a specific task or project such as development of camps, players, coaches and officials, or the production of communication vehicles such as newsletters, handbooks, and technical literature.

Complete details of the ROD and Regional Commissioner's responsibilities are contained in the official USA Guide. The RVA is the only sanctioning body for 'open' competition between official 6-person teams of dissimilar organizations; e.g. between a collegiate team and a YMCA team. Open competition may involve several such organizations, whether by invitation or in a championship at the local, regional, zonal, national or international level. RVAs have the exclusive right to conduct open local, regional or zonal competition within their geographical areas.

Neither the USA nor the RVAs claim sanctioning jurisdiction over Closed or Restricted Competition, such as that between similar organizations; e.g. between colleges only, between high schools only, between YMCAs only, etc.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE REGION

A single sanctioning body having jurisdiction over open competition allows better planning of competitions, better organization of competitions (not having conflicting tournaments for example), a single, formalized set of rules (not having every team play by their own rules) with a single set of interpretations, training of officials for uniform application of the rules throughout the country, etc. The sanctioning program also serves the purpose of ensuring players' and teams' eligibility for national and international events as well as placing the insurance coverage into effect. More specifically, a structured system leads to better competition and better playing skills.

Your Board of Directors for Oklahoma Region for the 2004/2005 season are:

COMMISSIONER:

Donise King... 3015 E. Skelly Dr., #103, Tulsa, Ok 74105
Region Office (918) 584-2833
email: okcomish@aol.com

PRESIDENT:

Shawn McCarty
2741 NW 162, Edmond, Ok. 73013
(405) 844-6471

VICE PRESIDENT:

Larry Taylor,
1301 NW 141st St., Edmond, Ok. 73013
(405) 749-0866

TREASURER & FINANCE CHAIR:

Margo Juergens
625 N. Third, Purcell, Ok 73080
(405) 527-3904

SECRETARY:

Michele Clair
709 N. Cardinal Way, Mustang, Ok 73164
(405) 376-3794

JUNIOR COORDINATORS:

Tulsa: Jody Webber....5124 N. Duncan, Stillwater, Ok. 74075
(405) 743-0286

Ok. City: Bill Hamiter.... 3100 N. Briarwood, Bethany, Ok. 73008
(405) 789-6939

REFEREE COMMITTEE:

OKLAHOMA CITY: Dave Juergens...625 N. 3rd, Purcell, Ok. 73080
(405) 527-3904

SCOREKEEPER COMMITTEE:

OKLAHOMA CITY: Margo Juergens..625 N. 3rd, Purcell, Ok. 73080
(405) 527-3904

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Ellen Jezercak
Kelly Jackson
Gary Mathews
Edgar Miraku

Will Ethridge
Ryan Webber
Allison Silveira

Grievance Committee will consist of the Officers of the Corporation & Legal Counsel.

During the year, when deemed necessary, there will be a number of working committees. These committees are volunteer working committees and you can help. Please contact any of the above chairpersons or any one of the Board of Directors if you can donate some time toward development of better volleyball play in Oklahoma.

**BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE OKRVA and
USE OF MEMBERSHIP FEES**

The mission of the Region is to provide educational programs and services to its members and to other interested persons and organizations, and to become a primary resource for all volleyball related information serving the general population, schools and colleges, other athletic organizations, and all persons or organizations desiring information on volleyball. Your membership fees allow the region to conduct activities in fulfillment of its mission.

These educational programs come in many forms: Officials' clinics (and subsequent certification), player clinics and camps, Junior development programs, coaching clinics and camps, identification of future leaders in the community and development of the concept of volunteerism through participation in the OKRVA programs. The principal byproduct of the educational effort is the players tournaments. These tournaments become a measure of what you have learned.

So what do you get for your membership?

- A copy of the current USA RULE BOOK for each individual. (One Official USA GUIDE is given the team representative of each registered team and to each committee chair and board member).
- A copy of the OKRVA Player Handbook.
- Subscription to the official USA magazine, "Volleyball USA," containing up-to-date information on national organization matters, national activities and national team information and other articles of interest.
- Subscription to the official OKRVA newsletter, containing up-to-date information on regional activities and regional participation in national events and programs.
- Sports Accident and Liability Insurance coverage during your participation in OKRVA sanctioned events.
- Special privileges including an opportunity to purchase USA merchandise and tickets to USA events at discount prices when provided.
- Access to a local, regional and national staff of volunteers and professionals who are dedicated to providing the membership with a structured, safe, regulated opportunity to play volleyball against teams and players of their own caliber.
- An opportunity to become involved with the regional and national governing bodies for the sport that brings together all volleyball groups of the nation and represents them to the US Olympic Committee.
- An opportunity to become affiliated with top volleyball athletes and leaders including those who represent the United States in Olympic and other world competition.
- A tournament schedule which will give every member plenty of opportunity to play.
- Trained officials and training for officials to ensure strict adherence to the rules for equal, fair play.
- Plenty of opportunities to become more than a player, such as becoming an official, scorer and/or coach with the attendant responsibilities and privileges of each.
- A lot of fun, enjoyment and satisfaction, and the opportunity to become whatever you want to become in the sport of volleyball!
- There may be other benefits offered from time-to-time that are not discussed above. The benefits package is dependent upon action by the OKRVA Board of Directors, the USA Board of Directors and the ROD.

REGIONAL INCOME AND EXPENSES (SOURCE AND DISPOSITION)

1. National USA Fees. The National office of the USA collects an administrative fee from the region for each registered region member.

2. Regional Fees. The OKRVA annually adds a certain amount to the national administration fee for the exclusive use of the region.

3. Regional Fines and Sanction Fees. The OKRVA collects money from fines levied for infractions of certain rules set forth in this handbook and, in addition, collects a sanction fee from each tournament held under the auspices of the Region. This money is used by the region.

4. Where Regional Money is Spent. The money collected by the region is used for:

- USA Administrative Fees
- USA Volleyball Rule Book (at USA Cost)
- Official USA GUIDE (at USA Cost)
- Insurance Premiums (at USA Cost)
- Officials Clinics
- Printing Tournament Schedules
- Printing Information for Team Representatives
- Postage
- Mailing lists for Tournament Directors
- Telephone Calls
- Regional Handbook Publication and Mailing
- Regional Championship Tournaments
- Regional Championship Awards
- Library Material
- Films
- Camp and Clinic Equipment
- Office Equipment
- Exhibitions
- Referees for Tournaments when Needed and Available
- Travel Expenses for Representatives of the Region to attend required National Level Meetings
- Maintenance of Registration Lists
- Contract Labor
- Aid to entry level programs as established annually by the OKRVA Board of Directors.
- Approved grants
- Other activities, events, or projects deemed appropriate by the OKRVA Board of Directors.

REGISTRATION

ANNIVERSARY DATE OF REGISTRATION: NOVEMBER 1st EACH YEAR

Individuals and teams become eligible to compete in any of the RVA competitions by registering in the RVA in which they reside. A registration fee is charged for each individual and each team registered. These fees are established annually by the Regional Board of Directors. Each individual is allowed to associate with only one team during the sanctioned season. After registering, these teams may play in any Regional Sanctioned competition, limited only by the eligibility requirements, availability of slots in the competition, and classification of the competition. These teams also become eligible to participate in competitions sanctioned by the NGB by meeting the NGB requirements for membership and eligibility. After January 1, team playing records will be kept and teams and players must both be properly registered in order to be eligible for participation in OKRVA sanctioned events or events sanctioned by other RVAs.

New registrations will be accepted beginning November 1 of each year. Registration will be annually and membership will run from the date of registration through October 31 each year. For example, if you register October 1, your membership is good only through October 31. The only exception is for Juniors whose practices require sanctioning so that Insurance coverage is in effect. Juniors may register early and will receive membership through October 31 of the following year. Each team within the OKRVA shall have a Team Representative (usually a person who wishes to play or coach, or sponsor a team, make the necessary contacts to form and register a team, do

all the paperwork and phone calling), who shall be the principal contact with the Regional and local administration, and will represent their teams to the Regional Board of Directors as a member of the Advisory Board. Your representative should be responsible for completion of the Team Registration form in all respects, for collection of the individual registration forms, and for mailing all completed forms to the registration chair, with a SINGLE check for all player, team and club registrations payable to OKLAHOMA REGION VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION (OKRVA).

Team and individual registration forms can be obtained from the registration chair or the Regional Commissioner. Registration forms will be mailed to all team representatives for the previous year and will be available to others who wish to start a team upon request of the local registration chair.

Person(s) whose residence is in Oklahoma shall register with the OKRVA. Persons wishing to register in another region must submit a request in writing to the OKRVA commissioner and to the commissioner of the region in which the player making the request wishes to register giving the reasons for his or her request. The OKRVA commissioner will approve or disapprove this request in writing.

Person(s) whose residence is in another region who wish to register in the OKRVA must submit a request in writing to the OKRVA commissioner and to their regional commissioner. The OKRVA commissioner will approve or disapprove this request in writing.

TEAM REPRESENTATIVE WITHIN A JUNIOR TEAM/CLUB:

Each Junior team should have a Team Representative (usually an interested person or parent) who wishes to process all forms, paper or electronic, within the playing season. This person shall be the contact person regarding questions on all paperwork that needs to be filed concerning registration (individual and team) tournament entry forms, medical release forms, etc. and for mailing completed forms and appropriate fees to the Registration Chair with a SINGLE check per team.

In regards to "multiple team" clubs: Team Representatives will still be the contact person for questions regarding paper or electronic forms. Registered Team Coach shall be the foremost contact person in regards to team status, player status and general questions other than paperwork done by a team representative.

Registrations (forms and fee) of "multiple team" clubs can be done by a designated financial person for the club. Payment of fees for individual player, coaches, team representatives, chaperone, team shall be all included in a SINGLE check per team within a multiple team club.

Registration Deadlines. Registrations will be accepted at any time during the year, but individuals and/or teams wishing to compete in a given tournament must complete their registration and the registration material must be in the hands of the registration chairman by 5pm Tuesday prior to the first tournament in which the individual or team wishes to play. Do not send registrations by certified mail as it requires pick up by the registrar. Registrations cannot be properly processed if received later by the registrar.

Although, a Tournament Director, with permission from the Registrar or Commissioner will let you bring your completed registration materials including the required fees and a stamped envelope with the proper amount of postage (addressed to the registrar) to the tournament. The tournament director will verify that all information is completed and that the fees are correct. The tournament director will then place the forms and fees in the envelope, seal it and place it in the mail.

Team Divisions. Team divisions are: Men's, Women's and Mixed 6. With the exception of MIXED 6 (COED) teams, teams competing in USVBA or OKRVA-sanctioned tournaments or events shall consist of members of the same sex. Team registration is not required of Mixed 6 teams. Women's teams may not enter men's competitions and men's teams may not enter women's competitions. *(exception to this rule is a boy's team entering a girl's class/division tournament, and playing one (1) division higher than they are registered).*

Team Playing Classification: Team playing classifications are AA, A, BB and B, in descending order of skill level. Teams are encouraged to register in the highest classification they can.

Classifications of teams exist in order to divide the teams into groups of approximately the same skill level. This allows more even competition between the teams. As teams improve in skills, as measured against their performance in their current classification, they may be moved into a higher classification.

Teams may be moved from one classification to another based upon the known abilities of the individuals on the team PRIOR TO THEIR FIRST COMPETITION, if the classification committee believes the team has registered in the wrong classification. Here are the team classification rules.

- a. A team must register in the classification of the average of the three highest classified players on the team, provided no more than 2 players on the team carry a higher classification than the team. For example: If, of the three most highly classified players, two players carry an AA classification and one an A, the team may register as an A team but not a BB team. (See Player Playing Classifications section for applicable player classification.)
- b. If a team wins 75% or more of its games in its registered classification as measured through a predetermined date set by the tournament coordinator, it shall be moved to the next higher classification if the new classification has or will have, as a result of reclassification, at least 4 teams registered in its classification. This new classification shall be its proper classification.
- c. A player may not register on a team more than one classification lower than the player's classification. For example, an AA player may not play on a BB team, an A player may not play on a B team.
- d. The Regional Commissioner may create such other classifications as might be necessary to conduct appropriate competition.
- e. The Regional Commissioner may designate a higher or lower classification for a team upon determination that the team is obviously registered in the wrong or inappropriate classification.
- f. Teams will not be allowed to play in a lower classification than placed or registered, but will be given and should strive for opportunities during the season to play in higher classifications.

Player Playing Classifications. Player playing classifications are AA,A,BB or B in descending order of skill level.

- a. A previously registered player will carry the classification of the highest classified team of which he/she has ever been a registered member. For example: If a player has ever registered with an AA team (or with a team which has subsequently been moved to the AA level based upon performance), he/she will be considered to be an AA level player. Persons who have played or are playing collegiate volleyball, shall be considered to be not lower than A players.

In this case, team performance is the criteria for player classification. No consideration will be given arguments that lower classification players can be registered on higher classification teams. Players are put on notice that they should register with a team in the player's appropriate classification.

- b. A newly registered player will carry the classification of the team with which he/she registers. If a team is moved permanently to a higher classification, the player will carry the classification of the higher level.
- c. A junior player, playing on a team which participates in other than Junior competition, shall carry the classification of the team upon which he/she registers.
- d. A player may not be classified below his/her highest level achieved unless waiver is granted upon his/her application to the Regional Commissioner in writing.
- e. The Regional Commissioner may designate a higher or lower classification for a player upon termination that the player is obviously registered in the wrong or inappropriate classification.
- f. Records of players' classifications shall be kept at the office of the registration chair.

After you have registered, your registration cards and the other paraphernalia (such as GUIDE and RULE BOOK) will be sent to your team representative, or given to him/her at the next tournament, whichever is easier, for distribution to you. AFTER NOVEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR, IF YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED, YOU CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN OKRVA, RVA OR USAVB SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS.

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Your registration card will have a number which looks like this:

16-100MR-500MJ (which translates into)

16 -- The number assigned to the club
100 -- The number assigned to the team
M -- Male or F—Female
R -- Regular Classification
500 -- The number assigned to the individual
M -- Male
J -- Junior Classification

This card shall also have your name, the team name and the signature of the registration chairman or regional Commissioner.

PARTICIPATION

THE OFFICIAL SANCTIONED SEASON BEGINS NOVEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR AND CONTINUES THROUGH OCTOBER 31 OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR. Team playing records will be kept beginning January 1 of each year.

An individual may play on only one OKRVA registered men's or women's team. However, many coaches in the region have formed volleyball clubs which allows some intermingling of members between club teams. There are several advantages to this type of organization. Several teams can be coached together and make use of the same practice facility. It also allows some players within the club to play in a higher classification during the season as their ability improves. Teams joining together into a club must pay a single clubbing fee to cover administrative costs.

A. An adult club may be as large as it chooses up to and including 50 playing members per gender. The size is necessarily limited so that the intent of the other regional rules is met. Junior clubs are unlimited to number of playing members per gender.

(Junior Club team coaches must have applied and been cleared in a Back Ground screening process. (This has become mandatory for the 2005 USAV season) As well as attended an IMPACT Coaches Training Session and have received their certification before they will be allowed to coach in Oklahoma Region competition. IMPACT clinics will be arranged upon request of the Regional Commissioner).

B. Every member of the club must be an OKRVA member, including coaches.

C. A club must pay a team registration fee for each team it intends to enter in tournaments.

D. Each player will be registered in his/her appropriate classification.

E. Each B, BB, A and AA team within a single club must register at least 6 players to be classified as a "team".

Players may not play on another of their club's teams in a classification below that on which they are registered. Players may, however, play on one of their club's teams that is registered in a higher classification.

Senior players (Age 30 and over) playing on senior teams are exempt from these requirements.

F. If all teams within a club are registered in the same classification, all players will be interchangeable.

G. Clubs with more than one team must pay the OKRVA a one-time administration fee of \$5.00 @ team.

The sanctioned FRIENDSHIP season is from September 1 to October 31 of each year and includes men's, women's and Mixed-6 coed divisions. After November 1, all participants in these friendship tournaments must be registered USAVB members and be on the roster of a registered team.

JUNIOR TEAM / CLUB

Oklahoma Region Volleyball Association, is the regional governing body for each player, team, coach and official whether it is in the Junior or Adult category. OkRVA maintains strict jurisdiction over actions taken by players, team, (7) coach or official as these actions may relate to the well-being of OkRVA members.

Junior Clubs are unlimited to number of playing members per gender.

All Junior coaches MUST have attended an IMPACT (Increased Mastery and Professional Application of Coaching Theory) training session and have received their certification before they will be allowed to coach in Oklahoma (competition. In the event that the registered coach is absent and said duties of this registered coach falls upon the "assistant" coach, the assistant coach must carry the same IMPACT certification. Certain deadlines for completion of this course can be obtained through the OkRVA office.

Further coaching accreditations programs include: CAP Level's I to V. Contact your Regional Commissioner for additional information on this requirement or at the USA Volleyball website.

The registered Coach on a Junior team shall become the foremost contact person in regards to team status, player status and general questions other than paperwork done by a team representative.

MINIMUM GUIDELINES TO BE CONSIDERED A JUNIOR CLUB WITHIN THE OKLAHOMA REGION

- ❖ Every player and coach must be a fully registered member of OkRVA.
- ❖ Each team within a club consisting of no fewer than 6 players, must be registered individually.
- ❖ Every adult person applying to become associated with a Junior Team/Club either as (but not limited) to being a coach, chaperone, driver, club director, must pass a Back Ground screening process through OkRVA and USAV. These persons must be "cleared" by the contracted screening company BEFORE any interaction with junior players. However, if "not cleared" by the screening company to be associated with juniors, does not limit said person from becoming a registered member as a player.
- ❖ Each Junior division team must have an Impact Certified Coach and/or Assistant Coach registered with the team.
- ❖ A team must participate in no fewer than 2 Oklahoma Sanctioned tournaments before they can enter into a Regional Championship.
- ❖ Multi-team clubs must report to the Commissioner each season of the newly elected officers of club.
- ❖ Each club/team must sanction all tryout's to include date, time, division and location
- ❖ Club/Team will have on hand a signed Coaches Contract / Code of Ethics.
- ❖ Club/Team shall report any penalties that they enforce on a player or coach to the Commissioner within 1 week of penalty.
- ❖ A club director or another officer of their club, is encouraged to attend all OkRVA meetings.
- ❖ Club/Team is highly encouraged to report any and all player's who have not fulfilled financial obligation during the immediate playing season, no later than August 1st each year.
- ❖ Club / Team shall report any recruiting violations to Commissioner.
- ❖ Club / Team will provide a list of members considered "not in good standing" to Commissioner no later than August 1 each playing season.
- ❖ Club / Team shall submit their player's agreement, signed parents form, etc. to the Commissioner within 72 hours if requested.
- ❖ Club / Team shall report dissolution of any team within a 72 hour time frame.

Failure to adhere to the guidelines for maintaining a Junior Club within the Oklahoma region may result in penalties and/or dissolution of club as voted on by the Board of Director's.

Uncontested Transfer / Contested Transfer:

Very few instances of changing teams/clubs in either Adult or Junior divisions will be granted once the registration, team form has been signed. Per USA Volleyball, a player may represent no more than 1 team/club per playing season. If a transfer is granted and if the team that you transfer TO is able to participate in the Junior National Championship the transferred player will not be allowed to play. **If there is an uncontested transfer request prior to January 1:**

1) ADULT players must complete a transfer form with the signature of the current team representative, the future team representative and the approval of the Registrar and or Commissioner.

- 2) JUNIOR player must complete a transfer form with signature of current team coach, future team coach, (if (8)

under 18) parents or legal guardian signature, and approval of the Registrar and or Commissioner.

Transfer request after January 1 of a playing season:

1) ADULT players must complete a transfer form, submit detailed request in writing, written permission from the current team representative, the future representative to the Regional Commissioner. This request will be acted upon by the Executive Committee within a two week time period if this is an uncontested request. If transfer is approved, there will be a Transfer Fee Charge (to be determined by the Committee)

2) JUNIOR players must complete a transfer form, submit a detailed request in writing, written permission from the current team coach, future team coach. For transfer to be considered, it may be necessary for the Commissioner to request all team/club forms pertaining to said player from current team/club. If requested, all forms shall be made available within 3 days from either the Team Representative, Team Coach, Head Coach of Club, Treasurer, Secretary, President of Club. The transfer request will be acted upon by the Executive Committee within a two week time period. If transfer is approved, there will be a Transfer Fee Charge (to be determined)

If and Adult or Junior transfer request is being "contested" before or after January 1, all pertinent parties will be asked to attend and discuss at a meeting with the Executive Committee of OkRVA within a 2 week time frame of date specified by the Commissioner.

Players who move from one Region to another and who wish to continue to participate with their same team may do so as they wish. If the player wishes to join a team in his/her new Region, he/she must notify the Regional Commissioner of each region of his/her move and request a transfer of membership. The player may have to pay a small transfer fee for this service. Teams are allowed to play above their registered classification in tournaments, subject to acceptance by the tournament director, but are not allowed to play below their registered classification. For example, teams classified "B" may play in "B", "BB", "A", and "AA" tournaments (their own classification and up) but "AA" teams may play only in "AA" tournaments. However, if a tournament of a lower classification is being held that same weekend, lower classification teams cannot be accepted into the higher classification tournament until the lower classification tournament has been filled! A sanctioned tournament will be considered as being filled if four out of every five pool positions are filled. For example: If a ten-team event can draw only nine teams, it will be considered as being filled. The tournament coordinator shall be the final authority regarding eligibility of a team to play in a higher classification tournament in this situation.

If you don't have a team to play on, and you have no prospect of getting one together yourself, give any of the above listed individuals your name, address, phone number, date of birth, level of play desired, and your current/past USAVB or RVA status. Your name will then be placed in a suspense file established for the purpose of bringing together players in your similar circumstances. You will be contacted when something develops to get you on a team. There is no charge for this service.

BE SURE THE REGION HAS AN ACCURATE RECORD OF YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS SO YOU CAN RECEIVE THE BENEFITS TO WHICH YOU ARE ENTITLED! IF YOU HAVE AN ADDRESS CHANGE DURING THE YEAR, PLEASE SEND IT TO THE REGISTRATION CHAIR. ALL GENERAL MAILINGS ARE BY BULK MAIL WHICH IS NOT FORWARDED.

INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES AND OFFICIALS' STATUS

1. Player Categories.

- a. Regular - A player not registered as a Junior.- A player who enters an Open National Championship tournament. - A person who registers only as an official or only as a coach.
- b. Junior - The classifications of Juniors are 18 and under, 17 and under, 16 and under, 15 and under 14 and under, 13 and under, 12 and under. Complete age-group eligibility is outlined in the registration documents.

2. Team Categories.

- a. Regular - Made up of any combination of players not meeting the requirements for Junior teams.

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- b Junior - Consisting solely of Junior Players. (Please note: Coaches of Junior teams or of teams which have junior players must carry a copy of the medical release and waiver form signed by the players guardian or parent to every tournament they attend. Tournament directors are instructed to verify that each team coach has these signed forms with them on the day of the tournament. A player may NOT PLAY IN THE TOURNAMENT IF THESE FORMS ARE NOT AVAILABLE. This rule will be strictly enforced by all tournament director. Tournament directors not enforcing this rule may be subject to penalties.
- c. Conglomerate - A team composed of players over 30 years old and whose members are:
- 1) Registered on different teams within one Regional Volleyball Association, or
 - 2) Registered in different Regional Volleyball Associations.

Any conglomerate team may participate in OKRVA regional sanctioned Tournaments regardless of their officially registered team affiliation under the following conditions:

- 1) The conglomerate team must have a separate team registration.
- 2) The conglomerate team must enter A or higher classification tournaments unless the tournament is an age group tournament.
- 3) The conglomerate team must notify the tournament director that they are a conglomerate team.
- **4) The conglomerate team will not be eligible for tournament playoffs or awards.
- 5) The conglomerate team will not be eligible to participate in the OKRVA championships. (Members of the conglomerate team may participate in the OKRVA Regional Championships with their registered team provided they otherwise meet the eligibility requirements).

A conglomerate team registered with another region will be accepted into OKRVA tournaments under the following conditions:

- 1) The conglomerate team must enter A or higher classification tournaments unless the tournament is an age group tournament.
- **2) The conglomerate team must notify the tournament director that they are a conglomerate team.
- 3) The conglomerate team will not be eligible for tournament playoffs or awards.

Conglomerate teams formed to participate in tournaments specifically held for age group competition shall be eligible for awards provided the team meets the eligibility requirements set forth in the USAVB Guide for National Competition and provided the team meets the eligibility requirements of the region the team represents.

3. Team Divisions.

Team divisions are: Men's, Women's and Mixed Six (COED). With the exception of Mixed Six teams, teams competing in OKRVA sanctioned tournaments shall consist of members of the same sex. Women's teams may not enter men's competitions and men's teams may not enter women's competitions, except as follows:

a. With the approval of the OKRVA Tournament Coordinator, one Junior 14 Boys team or one Junior 12 Boys team may enter a specified women's B classification tournament. Literature regarding such tournaments must announce that the tournament will allow the boys team to enter. These specified tournaments shall accept the boys team entry on a par with any women's team entry.

4. Officials Certification.

A principal responsibility of the OKRVA is to provide training for candidates for certification and to follow up on their progress throughout the certification process. Certification involves attending a clinic, passing a written test and receiving practical ratings. Complete information may be obtained from the referee's chairperson listed herein.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Certain responsibilities are attendant to your participation in OKRVA-sanctioned tournaments as a consequence to your receiving the benefits of the OKRVA membership: First, each team member who wishes to compete must be outfitted properly. The uniform rule is specific in the Rule Book, but briefly: Each team member must wear identical uniforms with numbers on front and back of their shirt. 4" high (minimum) 6" high (minimum) on back. All players must wear matching shorts in color and style. Numbers must be of contrasting color to the shirts and in a clearly visible location. (Yellow numbers on white background is not an acceptable combination of colors). If more than one player wears any other type of visible shorts or shirts, this visible apparel must be identical. (Shoes and socks, sweatbands and gloves, knee and elbow pads are not considered part of the uniform).

If a player wears a prosthetic limb or brace, he or she must comply with the rules found in the USA Volleyball Rule Book.

The Board of Directors of the OKRVA has granted a waiver to BB and B teams to allow the team to wear shorts that are a shade of the same color. However, all other uniform rules apply.

Out-of-region tournaments may require identical uniforms of every team, so teams are cautioned to verify the uniform code of any other region in which they intend to play.

Officials of the match shall verify that all uniform code requirements are met. They will also check for other OKRVA-USAVB violations pertaining to dress, jewelry, etc. However, this does not absolve the captain/coach of the team of his/her responsibility to adhere to the rules pertaining to dress, jewelry, etc.

PROTESTS CONCERNING A PLAYER'S UNIFORM OR A PLAYER'S ELIGIBILITY

Protests concerning a player's uniform or a player's eligibility must be made before that player has played against the protesting team. If a team or a player is out of uniform, the opponents will be given one point for each game that player/team is out of uniform.

The Regional Commissioner may grant a waiver to the uniform rule if convinced that extenuating circumstances exist. A request for waiver should be submitted to the Regional Commissioner before team/individual plays for that day.

Each team member must know the rules of the game. Competitions cannot be held when there are continual interruptions explaining the rules of the game. So, take time to read the rules...you will be expected to know them.

Waivers to rules which are effective only for a specific time period will be published in the OKRVA Newsletter, the ATTACK LINE.

DISSOLUTION OF A TEAM

For one reason or another, a team will occasionally cease to participate during the season, thus causing a dissolution of the team. If this happens to your team and if you wish to continue to participate in sanctioned competition, your team's representative should write the regional commissioner giving the details of the situation and requesting dissolution of the team. Upon approval of this dissolution, the team members will be allowed to join other teams subject to the rules herein.

If your team representative is not available, a petition (letter) giving the details of the situation and requesting dissolution and signed by three team members, should be sent to the regional commissioner for approval.

If the team simply cannot maintain its roster and thus becomes unable to compete, it may club with another team under the clubbing rules written elsewhere in this handbook.

TOURNAMENT ENTRY CLARIFICATION

A sanction issued to conduct a tournament is strictly for the classification(s) and division(s) for which it is issued and covers the conditions outlined in the application and the sanction request. Generally, only one tournament of any one classification and division for any one date in the Region. If more than one sanctioned tournament is scheduled at different sites for any one date, each tournament will be of a different classification or different divisions, or both.

The rules states that a tournament director may complete his/her tournament with teams in lower classification after the deadline date for entries has passed, however, if a tournament of a lower classification is being held that same date, lower classification teams cannot be accepted into the higher classification tournament until the lower classification tournament has been filled.

We occasionally meet teams which will not travel to another city to enter their classification tournament, but would rather enter a high classification tournament locally. If the lower classification tournament is not filled, the only way the team may enter the higher classification tournament is to raise their classification. To raise their classification, they must notify the registrar at least 5 days in advance of the tournament they wish to enter. Once in the classification, the team will be subject to the rules pertaining to movement between classifications.

A sanctioned tournament will be considered as being filled if four out of every five pool positions are filled.

As passed by the OkRVA Board of Director's on Feb. 2000, "adult tournaments" will be open to all teams with playoffs divided up by divisions. AA, A, BB, B divisions unless approved by the Commissioner."

OFFICIATING TOURNAMENTS

The format and low cost of OKRVA-tournaments does not include the luxury of having paid officials, so each team is assigned one or more matches during the day for which they furnish all officials. (one "up" ref, one "down" ref, a scorekeeper and two lines' persons) The officiating team should do so on an impartial basis, since they will be playing the teams being officiated at one time or another during the tournament. The play/ref program has been a very good working program since OKRVA was founded. Being an official can also make you a better play.

Each team is required to have two certified referees and one certified scorekeeper (or candidates in good standing) at each competition the team enters. These persons are the **ONLY ONES WHO ARE ALLOWED TO PERFORM THE ASSIGNED REFEREEING AND SCOREKEEPING DUTIES**. These must be different persons, although it is desirable to have these persons know how to do both.

Persons wishing to become certified officials must attend a clinic each year and complete a written test and receive the required number of practical ratings by the March 1 of each year or shall have made arrangements satisfactory to the official's committee for completion.

Until the deadline dates for completion of certification of officials, each candidate for certification shall carry a "candidate" rating and shall serve as the team's official.

Upon completion of the requirements, each candidate shall receive the proper certification as evidenced by an official USA/OKRVA card signed by the proper OKRVA officer. These certifications are recognized nationally.

Clubs with more than one team must provide certified or otherwise qualified officials for each team entered in a tournament.

Teams failing to provide officials in accordance with the rules shall be fined in accordance with the schedule published herein. This fine will be levied by the OKRVA Region upon receipt of the tournament director's report.

The USA and the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport (NAGWS) have a reciprocity agreement which allows certified referees of each organization to more easily meet the certification requirements of the other. (See the Official USA Guide for the details of this reciprocity agreement). No reciprocity agreement exists for scorekeepers, so all scorekeepers must be certified by the OKRVA to meet the scorekeeper certification requirements.

REFEREE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

To Receive Certification as a "Provisional" Referee: Adult or Junior (a One Year Certification), you must

1. Be a currently registered OKRVA member.
2. Each year attend one refereeing clinic which covers all aspects of the techniques and procedures of refereeing.
3. Attain a passing grade (as follows) on the USA/NAGWS Test "C". This test is an OPEN BOOK TEST IN THE OKLAHOMA REGION.
 - a. Take the test, review the answers with the clinician (or the referee chair) bring the test grade to 100% by writing the rules references on the sheet provided for each wrong answer.
 - b. Send in all tests and corrections to the OKRVA Officials Chair or turn them in to the clinician once completed.
4. Receive two "up" and one "down" ratings by a certified provisional, regional, or national referee during a sanctioned OKRVA tournament or one "up" and one "down" rating during an OKRVA clinic/rating session.

A ratings clinic, may be for game, match or as many as determined by the clinician in charge.

A 'Special Provisional "Down" Referee' certification is available to those individuals who wish to be only "Down" Referees. In order to qualify for this certification, you must meet all the requirements for becoming a Provisional Referee except you will receive all three practical ratings as a "Down" referee.

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To Maintain Certified Junior Down Referee Status:

To maintain special junior "down" referee certification, complete all clinic and testing criteria and receive one (1) down ratings by a certified Provisional, Regional or National referee and give two (2) down ratings to any Provisional referee candidate during a sanctioned OkRVA tournament or rating session.

To Maintain Provisional Referee Certification, you must

1. Each year attend one refereeing clinic which covers all aspects of the techniques and procedures of refereeing.
2. Attain a passing grade (as follows) on the USA/NAGWS Test "C". This test is an OPEN BOOK TEST IN THE OKLAHOMA REGION.
 - a. Take the test, review the answers with the clinician (or the referee chair) bring the test grade to 100% by writing the rules references on the sheet provided for each wrong answer.
 - b. Send in all tests and corrections to the OKRVA Officials Chair or turn them in to the clinician once completed.
3. Receive one "up" rating by a certified provisional, regional, or national referee and give one "up" and one "down" rating to any provisional referee candidate during a sanctioned OKRVA tournament or rating session.

To Receive Certification as a "Regional" Referee (a Two Year Certification)

1. Have been a certified "Provisional" referee for one year. Candidates who exhibit a special ability for refereeing may be granted a waiver of this rule upon recommendation of the referee chair and/or Commissioner.
2. Each year, attend one OKRVA Referee's Clinic not designated specifically as "Provisional" Referee clinic.

3. Attain (after review) a score of 100% on the USA/NAGWS Test "A". If a score of 85% is not achieved prior to review, Test "B" must be taken and a score of 85% achieved prior to review, and brought to 100% after review. If a score of 85% is not achieved on test "B" prior to review, the candidate will retain provisional certification status.

4. Receive two "up" and one "down" ratings by a certified regional or national referee during a sanctioned OKRVA tournament or rating session. One "up" rating must be during an "A" play-off match or any "AA" match.

5. Give one "up" rating and one "down" rating to any provisional referee candidate(s) during a sanctioned OKRVA tournament or rating session.

6. NOTE: Ratings during clinics may be for one game, more than one game, or less than one game as determined by the clinician in charge.

7. JO Regional Ref: With the growing number of Junior players, OKRVA is now recognizing the need for a JO Regional Referee status. The same rules and regulations will apply to the Junior who wishes to take and pass the Regional clinics and test. But, with the status of a **JO Regional Ref.** may only referee JO tournaments, leagues and clinics. JO Regional Ref's will not be allowed to referee any division of adult play. (For clarification, please contact the appropriate Referee Committee person or the Commissioner)

To Maintain "Regional" Referee Certification, you must

1. Each year after receiving certification as a Regional Referee, attend one OKRVA referee clinic not designated specifically as "Provisional" referee clinic.

2. Attain (after review) a score of 100% on the USA/NAGWS Test "A". If a score of 85% is not achieved prior to review, Test "B" must be taken and a score of 85% achieved prior to review, and brought to 100% after review. If a score of 85% is not achieved on test "B" prior to review, the candidate will be given provisional certification status and will be eligible to apply for Regional Certification the following year. **If you have been officiating at the College or High School level this current season, please contact the appropriate Official Committee person in your area and/or Commissioner.**

Second, Fourth, Sixth, Year After Receipt of First Certification as a Regional Referee (Maintenance of Certification):

Give "three" or more ratings to any Provisional, JO referee candidate(s) during a sanctioned OKRVA tournament or rating session.

Third, Fifth, Seventh ... Year After Receipt of First Certification as a Regional Referee (Recertification)

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Receive one "up" rating by a certified regional or national referee and give "four" ratings to any Provisional or regional referee candidate(s) during a sanctioned OKRVA tournament or rating session.

To Receive certification as a "Junior National or National" referee, a four-year certification, see the yearly USA Volleyball Official Guidebook on the website or contact your Regional Officials Chair.

To maintain and remain in good standing in the Oklahoma Region as a Junior National or National Referee:

- 1) Each year attend an Oklahoma sanctioned high-level referee clinic which covers all aspects of the referee techniques and procedures as instructed on the National level.
- 2) Complete USAV test "A" and send to USAV National Referee Commission as required.
- 3) Keep up to date on scorekeeping procedures by attending an Oklahoma sanctioned clinic that may be called for that purpose.
- 4) Score 90% or higher on the USAV written certification test and bring that score to 100% after review by the Clinician or Scorekeeper chair.
- 5) Annually rate three (3) Provisional or Regional referee candidates AND two (2) Provisional or Regional scorekeepers. It is the responsibility of the rater to send copies of those rating sheets to the Officials Chair for record keeping.
- 6) It is recommended, but not required, that the referee assist in some capacity within the instruction at an OkRVA clinic, when required by the Officials Chair or the Commissioner.

SCOREKEEPER CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

To Receive (and Maintain) Certification as a "Provisional" Scorekeeper, you must

1. Be a currently registered OKRVA member.
2. Annually attend a scorekeeping clinic which covers all aspects, techniques and procedures of scorekeeping.
3. Take the approved USA written test for Provisional Scorekeepers and bring that score to 100% after review with clinician or scorekeeper chair. This test is an open book test.
4. Be rated on three matches during a clinic or tournament by a certified regional scorekeeper, national scorekeeper or approved rater.

All tournament scoresheets are reviewed and graded during the season. All scorekeeper candidates and certified scorekeepers will be kept aware of their performance.

To Receive Certification as a "Regional" Scorekeeper (This is a two- year certification)

1. Have been certified as a Provisional Scorekeeper one of the last one year or be currently certified as a Provisional Scorekeeper. Candidates who exhibit a special ability for scorekeeping may be granted a waiver of this rule upon recommendation of the scorekeeper chair.

2. Attend one scorekeeper clinic which covers all aspects of scorekeeping techniques and procedures including the use of the 6-substitution scoresheet and the 12-substitution scoresheet.

3. Score 90% on the USA written "Certification" test and bring that score to 100% after review by the clinician or scorekeeper chair. This test is an open book test. If you do not score 90%, you will be certified as a Provisional Scorekeeper upon bringing your score to 100% after review by the clinician or scorekeeper chair.

4. Be rated on one match which is sufficiently complex for you to demonstrate your proficiency in the use of the 6 or 12 substitution scoresheets.

5. Maintain high quality scoresheets throughout the season as determined by the continuous review of scoresheets by the scorekeeper chair. You will be notified of deficiencies in your scorekeeping if they occur.

6. After completion of requirements 1 through 4, you must rate two provisional or regional scorekeeper candidates.

To Maintain Certification as a "Regional" Scorekeeper

1. Keep up-to-date on scorekeeping procedures by attending a clinic that may be called for the purpose.

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2. Be rated annually on one match which is sufficiently complex that you can demonstrate your proficiency in the use of the 6 or 12 substitution scoresheet.

3. Continue to maintain high quality scoresheets throughout the season as determined by the continuous review of scoresheets by the scorekeeper chair. You will be notified of deficiencies in your scorekeeping if they occur.

4. Annually rate "two" provisional or regional candidates.

5. During every **second** year you hold your certification, score 90% on the USA written "Recertification" test and bring that score to 100% after review by the clinician or scorekeeper chair. This test is an open book test. If you do not score 90%, you will be certified as a Provisional Scorekeeper after bringing your score to 100% after review by the clinician or scorekeeper chair.

Please note: In order to become a certified National Junior Olympic Volleyball Scorekeeper or a certified USA/USA National Scorekeeper, you must first become a certified Regional Scorekeeper.

Please refer to your USA Guide (your team representative has one) for the procedure for obtaining either of these certifications.

ALL SCORESHEETS FROM TOURNAMENTS ARE REVIEWED BY THE SCOREKEEPER COMMITTEE. YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED OF ANY DEFICIENCIES AND BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO CORRECT THEM.

Certified officials of the finals of each tournament are paid amounts as approved by the OKRVA board of directors each year. New candidates are not eligible for payment. Each certified official must sign the scoresheet in order to be eligible to receive his/her pay.

The OKRVA makes these payments to the officials from tournament sanction fees.

Unless requested to the contrary in the sanction application and advertised to the contrary in the flyer announcing the sanctioned tournament, teams assigned to officiate the finals shall officiate and the officials shall be eligible to receive the pay for doing so. If the tournament director assigns persons to officiate the finals other than those persons required to do so under the rules of the region, the fees shall be paid to those persons thus displaced as though they had actually done the officiating and the director shall dismiss the balance of the team thus assigned from their duties. The persons being assigned shall not be paid. If the tournament director desires to assign persons to officiate the finals other than those persons required to do so under the rules of the region, and the originally assigned officials waive their rights to be paid, the tournament director shall dismiss the entire team from their duties and shall enter the appropriate entry on the scoresheet for the match. In this case the persons assigned to the match shall be paid.

Persons substituting as officials for a team which does not have the required official shall be paid at the same rate of pay as paid for the finals. Teams not having certified officials or candidates in good standing will be required to pay an additional fee to the region before being accepted into any future tournament.

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REGIONAL TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS

A. Teams

- 1) All teams must play in at least 2 sanctioned tournaments in the OKRVA in their classification to be eligible for the **Regional championships**.

B. Players

- 1) A player must play in two tournaments in the OKRVA to be eligible for the Regional championships. Exceptions may be granted upon application in writing to the Regional Commissioner.
- 2) A player will be allowed to play in only one regional championship, subject only to exceptions stated in the rules pertaining to the regional championships.

C. Substitution Rule

- 1) The OKRVA uses the 12 substitution rule for AA, A, BB, and B classifications and in all Junior Competition. AA classification play uses the six substitution rule.

REGIONAL REGULATIONS FOR PLAYERS AND TEAMS

The OKRVA adheres to the rules and regulations of the current Official USA Guide and the Current USA Rule Book. In addition to those, the following regional rules apply. It is the responsibility of the team representatives to pass this information to each person affiliated with his/her team so that everyone's cooperation can be secured in this respect. Each individual is responsible for knowing these rules and regulations.

As adopted by the Oklahoma Region Volleyball Association (OKRVA), the following misconduct subjects the violator to a fine, suspension or other sanction. Please note: Referees and/or Scorekeepers are authorized to impose the sanctions marked with asterisks (**), and shall report all other misconduct to the Regional Commissioner or the Tournament Director as applicable. Only the OKRVA Regional Commissioner or the Tournament Director, as noted, may impose sanctions not marked with the asterisks. Appeals to penalties imposed by the Regional Commissioner may be made by following the procedures outlined in the current USA GUIDE.

PLAYER: "STEALING VOLLEYBALLS"

Suspension for ONE calendar (Sanction by Commissioner)
year from date of infraction and publication of name
in OKRVA newsletter

"DRINKING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON TOURNAMENT
PREMISES"

Suspension for ONE calendar year from date of infraction
and publication of name (Sanction by Commissioner) in OKRVA
newsletter. Plus Disqualification from Tournament

"THREATENING GESTURES-WORDS OR ACTIONS TOWARD
ANY TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL OR PLAYER"

(Action may be taken by the First referee) or (Regional
Commissioner) Disqualification of player from tournament.

"PARTICIPATION IN UNSANCTIONED OPEN COMPETITION"

(Disqualification by Commissioner)
Disqualification from future sanctioned competition until
reinstatement has been applied for and granted through the
commissioner's office.

TEAM: "FAILURE TO PROVIDE OFFICIALS AS ASSIGNED"

(by Commissioner)
Fine of \$50.00, to be paid to OKRVA BEFORE acceptance
of team into future tournaments.

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"LEAVE EARLY (NOT COMPLETING TOURNAMENT)"

(by Commissioner)
Fine equal to the tournament entry fee, not to exceed \$50.00,
to be paid to OKRVA prior to acceptance of team into future
tournaments.

"FAILURE TO HAVE OR USE CERTIFIED OFFICIALS OR
CANDIDATES IN GOOD STANDING AT TOURNAMENTS"

(by Commissioner) Fines as follows: \$20.00 if missing 1st official
\$20.00 if missing 2nd official, \$20.00 if missing 3rd official
for a maximum fine of \$50.00

"FAILURE TO SHOW AT TOURNAMENT WITHOUT PROPER
NOTICE UNDER THE RULES"

(Forfeiture by Tournament Director, fined by Commissioner)
Forfeiture of entry fee, plus a fine equal to 1/2 of the entry fee
to be paid to the OKRVA before acceptance of the team into
future tournaments.

"PARTICIPATION IN UNSANCTIONED OPEN
TOURNAMENT"

(Disqualification by Commissioner)

Disqualification of team from sanctioned competition until reinstatement is applied for and granted through the commissioner's office.

“OUT OF UNIFORM”

(by First Referee)

Forfeiture of first point per game played while out of uniform.

“FACILITY: -FAILURE TO PROVIDE SAFE FACILITIES”

removal from approved list of facilities until SPONSORS:

(By Commissioner) violations have been corrected.

“FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED REPORTS AND

REMITTANCE TO REGION IN A TIMELY MANNER

- Host organization must pay a fine of \$50.00 to the sanction is given violator for another (By Commissioner)event.

“PROVIDING DRASTICALLY UNEQUAL FACILITIES FOR ONE OR RE DIVISIONS OF PLAY DURING SAME

TOURNAMENT (by Commissioner)- Host organization must refund 1/2 of the entry fee to each team playing unequal facilities and a letter written to OKRVA (By Commissioner) certifying to that effect before sanction is given violator for another event.

“FAILURE TO PROVIDE TROPHIES OR AWARDS EQUAL

TO 10% OF THE GROSS AMOUNT OF THE ENTRY FEE

COLLECTED- Fine 10% of the total entry fees, payable before sanction is given violator for another event. (By Commissioner)

Any player found to be playing who has not registered in accordance with the rules will cause his/her entire team to be disqualified from further participation in that tournament. All matches will be defaulted and paid fees forfeited.

It is illegal for a registered player to participate in any unsanctioned open competition during the current six-player season. This does not apply to "closed" events. To be on the safe side, contact the regional commissioner concerning any unsanctioned tournament you may wish to enter. Failure to observe this rule may make you ineligible to play in future sanctioned tournaments.

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Any time it is discovered that an ineligible player (e.g. not registered, wrong team, wrong division, wrong category, wrong classification, etc.) has participated in (or is participating in) a tournament it should be brought to the attention of someone on the OKRVA board of directors as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of the board member to see that the board is made aware of the infraction so it may take the necessary disciplinary action. Players discovered playing on a team in violation of the rules will cause that team to forfeit all games in which that player participated as evidenced by the scoresheets and rosters.

OTHER INFORMATION

Cash Awards. Tournament awards shall not be paid to individuals as cash. If cash awards are given, they shall be given to the team (or club) as a reimbursement of tournament entry fees. Cash awards are strictly prohibited to Junior, Collegiate, or High School players. Sponsorships. Teams may obtain any sponsor they wish with the following limitation : If the National USAVB has a contract with a sponsor, the OKRVA, its clubs and teams are prohibited from soliciting that particular sponsor without first obtaining permission from the National USAVB. If the OKRVA, its clubs or teams have a current contract with a sponsor which subsequently signs up with the National USAVB, the current contract will remain in force and effect until its stated expiration date and will not be renewable without first obtaining permission from the National USAVB.

It is prohibited for Junior teams to obtain sponsorships from companies or individuals which sell or distribute alcoholic beverages or tobacco in any form.

The OKRVA works very closely with area collegiate and high school coaches, as well as the USAVB and local organizations which are promoting and enhancing the sport of volleyball. If you require other information or you

would like to have an officials clinic, a players skills clinic, or just a list of resources, call any of the persons listed above.

TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

Organizations wishing to host Sanctioned OKRVA tournaments must obtain an application form from the regional commissioner or tournament coordinator, fill it out and mail it to the tournament coordinator 30 days in advance of the event. This application will be returned to the applicant with a sanction number and a copy of the Tournament Directors' Guidelines Manual after the tournament coordinator has inspected the site and after any conditions which are considered to present a hazard to participants, spectators or staff have been listed on paper and corrected by the facility operators or accepted in writing by the tournament coordinator.

- A. Teams must call the tournament director before 10:00 p.m. Wednesday preceding the tournament to determine their playing schedule.
- B. Teams may withdraw from the tournament without penalty up to 10:00 p.m. Tuesday preceding the tournament. Teams withdrawing after that date might be required to forfeit their entry fee.
- C. All entries not accepted by the tournament director will be returned and entry fee refunded.
- D. Rosters must be verified, corrections made and uniform numbers submitted by the team representative prior to the team's first match.
- E. All OKRVA Rules will be enforced.
- F. Each team is required to have at least 3 certified officials (two certified referees and one scorer), or candidates in good standing at each tournament to accept the assigned officiating duties. These persons are the only persons who are allowed to perform the assigned refereeing and scoring duties.

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ADULT REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 1. Regional championships shall be held for men's and women's divisions and in AA, A, BB and B classifications on a separate date than the Junior Regional Championships. Both Championship will "flip flop" between the Tulsa area one year to the Oklahoma City area the next year.

WAIVERS

The Regional Commissioner has the ability to grant a waiver to any of the preceding rules and regulation within the Oklahoma region only. An application of a waiver, will only be considered once received in writing. There is no guarantee that any request will be granted.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR GUIDELINES (SEE OFFICIAL USAVB GUIDE &RULE BOOK & THE OKRVA TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES MANUAL FOR FURTHER INFORMATION)

- I. Prior to their tournament, each tournament director must submit to the OKRVA Tournament Coordinator:
 - A. An application for sanction to conduct a tournament to the regional tournament coordinator at least 30 days

prior to the tournament date. A generic copy of this application form is included in this handbook.

- B. A request for any waivers to the tournament sanction rules.
- C. Any other request, such as application for certificate with additional named insured, at least 30 days in advance of the tournament.

2. Tournament Requirements:

- A. There should be a non-playing tournament director for tournaments utilizing three or more courts.
This tournament director shall have the responsibility for keeping the tournament on schedule and the results properly recorded.
- B. There shall be a PROTEST COMMITTEE appointed prior to each tournament.
- C. Each tournament site must have two courts available for each classification held. If the classification has not been filled by the deadline for entering the tournament, the tournament director may add other classifications not to exceed 5 teams per court.

Tournament sites with only one court available shall be eligible to hold a single classification sanctioned tournament but shall advertise their tournament as being held on one court.

- D. Each tournament director shall advise teams of the conditions of acceptance into their tournament if different than the following:

ORDER OF ACCEPTANCE OF TEAMS INTO TOURNAMENT

1) OKRVA teams ranked in the tournament classification.

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2) OKRVA teams in the next lower classification than the tournament classification if no other lower classification tournament has been scheduled.

3) Out-of-region teams in the next lower classification than the tournament classification.

4) In any combination classification tournament, or open tournament, teams from the highest classification shall be accepted first. For example, in an AA/A tournament, AA teams shall be accepted first, then A teams. Likewise, in a BB/B combination tournament, BB teams shall be accepted first. Then the lower classifications shall be filled one-by-one with the same consideration being given to each team. After all OKRVA teams are accommodated out-of-region teams will be accepted beginning in the higher classification and in the same preferential order as presented above.

5) Teams in classifications higher than the highest tournament classification shall not be accepted.

6) Invitational tournaments shall be exempt from the above acceptance order. Date of postmark shall govern which entry has been received first.

E. Trophies or other awards given at tournament shall have a value of at least 10% of the gross amount of the entry fee received. This also applies to combination classification tournaments.

F. If awards are not given at a sanctioned tournament, or do not equal at least 10% of the total entry fees charged, OKRVA shall issue a sanction against the organization conducting the tournament. The amount of this sanction is specified elsewhere in this handbook.

G. A letter shall be written by the Regional Commissioner to organizations who have sub-standard or hazardous equipment set-ups stating that no OKRVA sanctioned tournament may be held at that location until they have applied for and received inspection and written approval of the corrected hazard.

H. Tournament sanction fees shall be payable to OKRVA.

I. Junior teams must play in Junior tournaments when there are other tournament(s) scheduled in conflict with the Junior tournament. Junior teams may play in all other tournaments and their entry shall be considered on a parity with all other regional teams. Junior teams shall not be bumped from a tournament nor their entry refused unless the field is otherwise full. Tournament directors shall be responsible for verifying compliance with this rule.

Junior 14 and Junior 12 boys teams may be accepted into designated and approved women's B classification tournaments.

J. A working schedule, including playoff games, shall be posted prior to the first match so that teams will be properly informed as to their respective responsibilities. Procedures for scheduling officials for the semi-final and final matches are published in later paragraphs.

K. Ground rules should be made clear to all participants before the tournament begins.

1. All entries should be by mail and on the proper entry form. Do not accept entries by phone. Teams should be accepted in accordance with the procedure previously outlined in this handbook. Written entries (FAX, letter, entry form, etc.) shall be the only entries accepted.

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2. Check with your local registration chairman or the regional or assistant regional commissioner to see if all teams and players who are entered in your tournament are properly registered.

3) If teams are entered from other regions, the tournament director must verify the player and team registration with that region's registration chairman or commissioner prior to acceptance of that team into the tournament. This is a mandatory requirement and is intended to maintain the eligibility of all participants at that particular tournament.

4. At the beginning of each season, OKRVA establishes the entry fees for tournaments. Requests for variances to these fees must be in writing with all supporting documentation to the Region. Please contact your tournament coordinator for these fees.

5.. It is the tournament directors option whether or not to notify each team representative of their teams' acceptance, or placement on a standby list.

Attention Team Representatives. It is your responsibility to call the tournament director if you do not hear for him/her. Never assume you are in a tournament! Never assume when you will play your first match.

6. Types of tournaments are :

A. Double elimination. Because of the obviously limited play potential for the weaker teams, this type of tournament is discouraged for play below the regional championship level.

B. Round Robin. Round robin schedules are more accepted because all teams are guaranteed a reasonable number of games/matches to play. It is also more practical for the assignment of officials. A multi-pool round robin in the same division/ classification will require a championship playoff. A single court or a single pool round robin tournament does not require a playoff.

7. When round robin competition is scheduled, a maximum of five teams per pool shall be accepted per available court for AA competition.

8. When round robin play qualifies teams for a championship playoff, no more than 50% of the teams entered and playing in a pool shall advance to the playoff bracket unless there is an obvious disparity in pool seeding. The championship bracket shall not exceed eight teams.

9. When two four-team brackets are scheduled, a championship and consolation pool may be formed from a first round robin competition. Subsequent competition, utilizing the top two and bottom two teams in each bracket will determine first, second, and third in the championship pool, and fourth place by winning the consolation pool. If this method is used, matches of two eleven point games are recommended.

10. In round robin play the following can be used:

A. If five teams are entered and a championship playoff is not scheduled, matches may consist of two 25-point games, best of three 21 point games, or best of three 25-point games.

B. If four teams are entered, matches may consist of any format as long as it meets a reasonable time frame, and is fair to all team entries commensurate with their entry fee and travel time.

11. Finals should be scheduled to begin no later than 8:00 pm and earlier if possible.

12. In the event a team must forfeit or default during a tournament, for any reason, all games won by them are to be counted.

13. Round Robin Schedules (printed in the Tournament Guidelines Manual)

These schedules have the key matches near the end of round robin play. The officiating and playing assignments taken together minimize the ref-play sequence and the play-play-play sequence (but do not entirely eliminate these sequences).

14. Determination of Playoff Teams.

a. Teams shall not be eliminated from playoff competition on a point system or other non-competition system.

b. Teams qualified for playoffs, but tied for position only will not compete in a playoff game to determine position but shall be assigned their playoff position by the priority system listed below:

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1) Results of the match between the tied teams, first on the won/lost record, and second on the point spread.

If still tied,

2) Comparison of the point spread based on the total round robin competition. If still tied,

3) By coin flip.

Point spreads shall be determined by subtracting the total points lost from the total points won.

c. If two or more teams are tied for a last playoff position, the minimum of one 25 point game shall be played, as follows:

1) Two teams tie for last position: one game.

2) Three teams tie for last position: Superior team by point spread among the 3 teams (of if tied, among all teams played) shall be the bye team and will play the winner of the game between the two remaining teams.

3) If more than three teams tie for last position consult the USAVB Guide for the proper procedure.

d. If three teams tie for two playoff positions, the team with the greater point spread among the 3 teams shall be awarded first place. The other two teams shall play one 25 point game for the remaining playoff position. If all three teams' point spread is the same, calculate the point spread among all teams played. If still tied, a coin toss shall take place with the winner drawing a bye and a one- game single elimination playoff among ALL 3 teams will occur.

All games played to break ties will be to 25 points, no cap.

15. Officiating the Tie-Breaking games caused by ties in pool play. If two teams are ties for the last playoff position, the tie breaking game to decide which team will go to the playoffs shall be officiated by the team finishing first in the pool. In the case of a three way tie for the last playoff position, the team awarded the bye shall officiate the first tie breaker game and the loser of that game shall officiate the second tie breaker game.

ROUND ROBIN POOLS, PLAYING AND OFFICIATING FORMATS

A. General Information:

If more than one pool is to be played, the pools should be made as equal as possible.

B. Playoff Officiating Formats:

1. Single Pool Finals. 1st place in the pool will play 2nd place. Officials will be provided by the loser of the last game in pool play. If this team is in the finals, then the team last officiating in round robin play officiates. If both of these teams are in the finals, the winner of the last round robin game officiates.
2. If Two Teams from Each of Two Pools Go to Playoffs. Officials of semi-finals are provided by the losers of the last round-robin game on the court upon which the semi-finals are played. If this team is in the semi-finals, then the team last officiating on that court officiates the semi-final on that court. If the last team officiating on that court and the loser of the last game on that court are both in the semi-finals, the winner of the last round robin game on that court officiates.
3. If Two Teams from Each of Three Pools Go to Playoffs. See Tournament Directors Guidelines Manual for Officiating Assignments.
4. If Three Teams from Each of Two Pools Go to Playoffs. See Tournament Directors Guidelines Manual for Officiating Assignments.

C. The publications, "Staging Successful Tournaments" by Doug Boyden and Roger Burton, and the "Operating Manual" of the Regional

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Operations Division of the USAVB, provided the guidelines for all play in the OKRVA, including tie-breaking matches and playoffs. Some modifications have been made to pool play to minimize the play-play-play and the ref-play sequences in the ROD Manual.

Each OKRVA member is entitled to a copy of this Handbook. Other information is available from the USAVB GUIDE, USAVB RULE BOOK, the OKRVA Tournament Directors Handbook and the Regional Operations Division Operating Manual. The Tournament directors' handbook has convenient playing schedules for tournament directors to follow for various numbers of teams and courts available for tournaments and a complete guide for conduct of a sanctioned tournament.

WAIVERS

The Regional Commissioner has the ability to grant a waiver to any of the preceding rules and regulation within the Oklahoma region only. An application of a waiver, will only be considered once received in writing. There is no guarantee that any request will be granted. It may be necessary for the person(s) requesting the waiver to appear before the Board of Director's at the next scheduled meeting before granting the request.

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