

2010 PRE-SEASON INFORMATION

TO: Great Plains Region Members

Below is a synopsis of changes for the upcoming season. Refer to the 2010 Great Plains Region Handbook for a complete listing of all regulations. Handbooks will be available by December 1.

New for 2010:

1. All adults affiliated with a junior team will be required to sign the National Club Personnel Code of Ethics form when registering. This signature will be done online the same as your signature for the Waiver and Release of Liability.
2. 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.
3. A new national ranking system by USA Volleyball has been implemented in helping rank qualifiers and the National Championships. Only tournaments designated by USA Volleyball will have their results entered. Team names cannot change after January 1, 2010.
4. New start date for the 2010 USA Volleyball season is September 1. In the past we had an early registration period starting September 1 but the membership was not current until Nov 1. Now when you register after Sept 1, you will immediately be able to print your membership card when the membership is activated. Make sure to print this card if you are attending tryouts. Memberships will still expire on Oct 31 of the following year regardless of when you registered for the current season.
5. Tryout information has been added to the Club Application. 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 club director is not registered by October 31, 2009, club administrator access will be automatically disabled.
6. Per a recent decision by the Great Plains Board of Directors, the Great Plains Region will no longer suspend players for unpaid club debts. This decision does not effect 2009 information received from club directors prior to August 31, 2009.

CONTINUING REGION POLICIES

1. All signatures required for a background screening will be 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 questions. An electronic signature will be accepted and the background screening process will begin as soon as the membership is paid and processed. No paper application will be needed.
2. **Credit cards** will be accepted for registration. Instructions for use can be found on the website. A discount will be given for cash payments.
3. **Tournament entry fees** for junior tournaments will remain the same - \$150 for gold level and \$100 for silver/bronze level.
4. Tournament fees for the Regional tournament held on Saturday March 27 and Sunday 28 will be \$150 for gold tournaments and \$100 for silver/bronze.
5. Tournament fees for the Bid tournament on Saturday April 10 and Sunday April 11 will be \$150.

6. The sanction fees (that a tournament director must pay to the region) for gold teams in a tournament is \$10. The sanction fee for Silver/Bronze teams is \$5.

REGISTRATION

1. **Registration fees** remain the same.
 - a. The registration fee for most junior players and all adults affiliated with a junior team is \$51.50, if paying by credit card. The fee for members paying by cash or check is \$50, which includes \$1.50 cash discount.
 - b. There is a reduced registration fee of \$22 for age 11 and under junior players, who are not playing in any national event (qualifiers are national events). The regular junior registration fee of \$50 must be paid by all members, regardless of age, if a player plays at a national event.
 - c. The registration fee for boys of any junior age (by USAV definition) is \$20.
2. All members will register individually and send payment to the Great Plains Region office. There are no papers to print or send to the office. Checks should include in the member's name in the memo section.
3. Players should be registered before attending tryouts. A current 2010 membership card should be presented at each tryout.
4. Checks will not be accepted from clubs to pay for multiple player or coach registrations.
5. Registration for the 2010 season will be available September 1st.
6. 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.

CLUB DIRECTOR ACCESS

1. Club directors must have a current individual registration and must submit a completed Club Profile form before club director administrative access can be granted.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Once the club director's membership is active, a certificate of insurance will be sent. If you need additional certificates, you need to request them from the office. Do not make a copy of your certificate. The certificate must be sent directly from the office. See Insurance Certificate Form on the Forms page to request additional certificate of insurance.
5. 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.

WAIVERS

1. Waivers are only allowed for teams outside the large metropolitan areas for players who do not meet the age requirement and/or for players that want to compete with their classmates.
2. Waivers are intended to allow teams in geographical areas with a limited player base the ability to form a team.
3. Teams with waived players may only play in Great Plains Region silver and bronze division tournaments. Teams with waived players who want to play in out-of-region tournaments must check with that region to see if they allow waived players.
4. A waiver form must be completed for ALL waived players.
5. 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 completed waiver form is required.
6. Waived players are not allowed to play in national events.

COACH REQUIREMENTS

1. 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.
2. All coaches must be IMPACT certified before they are eligible to coach.
 - a. IMPACT clinics are being offered right now.
 - b. Attendance at an IMPACT clinic between May 1 and November 30 is free.
 - c. Attendance at an IMPACT clinic between December 1 and April 30 cost \$25.00.
3. An IMPACT schedule will be posted to the Great Plains website. A limited number of IMPACT clinics will be held this year. Plan accordingly.
4. 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).
5. Junior age members (under age 18), who will be coaching are not required to be IMPACT certified or have a background screening, but must have an eligible adult coach on the bench at all times. However, if a junior age coach turns 18 at sometime during the season, all of the coach requirements must be fulfilled.
6. All coaches must attend a rules clinic each year.
7. Eligible coaches must wear their name badge at all times when their team is playing at a tournament.

TRYOUTS

Tryout information should be completed and returned to the office prior to your club's first tryout date. There is no fee for reporting your tryout. A club does not need to have tryouts (or report them).

1. The **tryout date for 10 – 14** age groups is the first Saturday in November (which this year will be November 7, 2009).
2. The **tryout date for 15 – 18** age groups is the first Saturday after the completion of the Nebraska State High School Volleyball Championships (which this year will be November 21, 2009).
3. Commitment forms or letters of intent cannot be signed by players or parents/guardians (and therefore are not binding) until the first tryout date for a specific age division.
 - a. Clubs cannot require or accept any monetary deposits from individuals until the tryout date.
4. If a player is in attendance at a tryout, the letter of intent cannot be signed until after the tryout is finished. The player and parent/guardian must know the exact age division and level of the team they will be assigned to.

5. If a club is having a tryout for only a specific number of player slots or specific positions, that information should be disclosed prior to the beginning of the tryout.
6. A sample letter of intent for use by clubs/teams can be found on the Great Plains website in the forms section.

RECRUITING POLICY

Club personnel cannot contact (i.e., phone calls, letters, flyers, emails, face-to-face, etc) a player from another club after the Sunday before NSAA district competition begins (Nov 1, 2009) until the established tryout dates (November 7 for 12's to 14's and November 21, 2009 for 15's to 18's).

Club personnel cannot initiate contact with an athlete outside of their club at any school, regardless of age.

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

A listing of all qualifier and National Championship dates will be listed on the Great Plains website on the tournament schedule page.

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

The **2010 Great Plains Regional Tournament** is open to all teams in all divisions, Gold, Silver and Bronze divisions. The tournament will be held on **Saturday, March 27th for 10's – 14's** and on **Sunday, March 28th for 15's – 18's**. The deadline to register is February 26. The entry fee is \$150 for the Gold Division and \$100 for the Silver/Bronze divisions.

1. All teams must play in their registered age division at the Regional Championship tournament.

BID TOURNAMENT and TEAMS PLAYING at NATIONALS

1. The **Great Plains Bid tournament** (qualification for the region's allotted bids at the USA Volleyball National Championships) will be held on **Saturday, April 10** and **Sunday, April 11**.
2. The Bid tournament is open to all teams who want to register and fulfill the entry requirements
 - a. Teams choosing to play in the bid tournament, must also register for the USAV National Championships and submit the entry paperwork and the \$900 entry fee to the region office by the bid tournament entry deadline.
 - b. The entry fee for the Bid tournament is \$150.
 - c. The deadline for entering the Bid tournament is March 12.
3. **COMPLETION OF ALL JNC PAPERWORK UPON ENTRY TO BID TOURNAMENT** - Any team that is entering or has plans to enter the USAV Junior National Championships must have completed 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 Great Plains office by the Bid Tournament registration deadline of March 12, 2010.
4. **ACCEPTING A TRICKLE DOWN BID** - 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 (regardless of the club/team affiliation for the next year) will be suspended from participating in all regional and national qualifying events for the following season.

5. All teams that qualify for the **Open division** at the USA Junior Championships or qualify for a National or American position at the USA Junior Championships at a Qualifier will have their entire entry fee (\$900) for the USA Volleyball National Championships paid.
6. A \$500 reimbursement will be paid to any other region team that qualifies for the USA Volleyball National Championships at the region bid tournament or through the reallocation process.

ON-LINE TOURNAMENT ENTRY SYSTEM

The tournament entry system will be used by all teams for entry into all sanctioned tournaments within the region. 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. The tournament entry system will also allow tournament directors to send group emails to all teams entered. All tournament results will be reported to the region office.

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 on-line membership database. No other tournament rosters will be accepted at tournaments.

Before a team can register for tournaments online, a team roster (to include an IMPACT certified coach) must be built in the online registration system (the region is currently using two separate database systems – the tournament entry system and the USAV membership registration system). Teams cannot register for tournaments in the tournament entry system until a team roster is built in the membership registration system. Rosters cannot be built until members are registered. Once a roster is complete in the membership registration system, a team will be added to the tournament entry system as an 'accepted' team.

TOURNAMENT SANCTION INFORMATION

1. **REQUEST for TOURNAMENT SANCTION** – Tournament sanction requests turned in before October 16 require a sanction fee of \$10 each. Sanction fees for any tournament requests after October 16 is \$25. A sanction request for each tournament session will require a separate deposit check for \$100. (Tournaments that request two sessions per day must submit a separate \$100 deposit for each session requested. The region will not accept a single \$200 check for a split session.)
2. Gold, silver and bronze level tournaments will be offered.
3. Gold tournaments will play match play and will only be a single session. Entry fee for Gold tournaments may not be more than \$150.
4. Silver/Bronze tournaments will play pool play, followed by a single elimination bracket.
5. Tournaments cannot start before 8:00 am and the last match must start before 8:30 pm.

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

1. **Club Profile Form**
 - a. Must be completed before a club is listed as an approved club on the website.
 - b. Is used to assist parents looking for information about a club.
2. **Letter of Intent** form is available to any club that wants to use it.

NEW USAV RULES

Copies of the new USA Volleyball Rulebooks are available at the office and at rules clinics. Some changes for the 2010 season are:

1. Coaches (head coach and one assistant) may give instructions to their team while standing or walking within the free zone in front of their bench . . . no closer to the court than 1.75 meters (5'10") from the sideline.
2. For junior competition, the coaches must sign the scoresheet after the match to verify the results.
3. Casts, even if padded, are forbidden, (rule 4.5.1)
4. If a player's equipment falls to the floor and creates a safety hazard, play is stopped and a delay sanction assessed. (rule 4.5.2)
5. It is LEGAL to touch the opponent's court with any part of the body above the feet provided that it does not interfere with the opponent's play. It is still a centerline violation when the feet have completely crossed the center line. (rule 11.2.2.2)
6. Contact with the net by a player is not a fault, unless it interferes with the play. (rule 11.3.1)
7. A player interferes with the opponent's play by (amongst others) (rule 11.4.4):
 - a. touching the top band of the net or the top 80 cm of the antennae during his/her action of playing the ball, or
 - b. taking support from the net simultaneously with playing the ball, or
 - c. Creating an advantage over the opponent, or
 - d. Making actions which hinder an opponent's legitimate attempt to play the ball.
8. Players may touch the post, ropes, or any object outside the antennae, including the net itself, provided that it does not interfere with play. (rule 11.3.2)
9. The actual request for substitution is the entrance of the substitute player(s) into the substitution zone, ready to play, during a regular interruption. (rule 15.10.3)