

2012 PRE-SEASON INFORMATION

TO: *Great Plains Region Members*

9-12-11

Below is a synopsis of changes for the upcoming season. Refer to the 2012 Great Plains Region Handbook for a complete listing of all regulations.

New for 2012:

1. We have a new website. www.greatplainsvolleyball.org We hope you like it. If you have trouble finding something on the website, please let us know. Email addresses for all staff members will remain the same.
2. **Member Registration for Tryouts** - As long as you have completed your online registration application, you are not required to pay your region membership before tryouts. You may print your registration confirmation to take to tryouts. Once you have been selected for a team, you will then log back into your account and pay for the membership. You can also go back to your main info tab and select your club name if you initially chose 'undecided'. You may still pay for the membership when you register. All refund policies are still in effect.
3. There are 2 new registration categories: **8 & under, membership is free** and college player (only), membership is \$15. (An adult player that registers under the college player membership must be currently enrolled in a college. This membership is for players only. If a college player wants to coach, they must upgrade to a full membership.)
4. **2012 handbook** will be available by November 1. Copies of the handbook, along with new rulebooks will be available for pick up at state volleyball in Grand Island.
5. **New tournament request application.** We have a new tournament request application that can be found on the Great Plains website under Juniors/Junior Forms.
 - a. Deadline to request tournament dates is Sept 30.
6. Some tournaments will charge an **admission fee** this year. If a tournament charges an admission fee, the fee must be stated on the tournament sanction request form when the tournament is sanctioned. The admission fee will be noted on the tournament schedule.
7. Per a recent Board decision, all matches at Gold tournaments will have a **paid first referee**.
8. **Tournament entry fees** for junior tournaments will be - \$200 for Gold level and \$100 for silver/Bronze level.
9. The **Regional tournament** will be held on **Saturday March 31 and Sunday April 1**. Entry fees will be \$200 for Gold tournaments and \$100 for Silver/Bronze.
10. The **Bid tournament** will be on **Saturday April 28 and Sunday 29**.

11. The sanction fees (that a tournament director must pay to the region) for Gold tournaments is \$10 per team plus a \$50 officials fee per team. The sanction fee for Silver/Bronze tournaments is \$5 per team.
12. If a club has a considerable number of teams, the club director can contact Bill Stanley, the registrar, to assist in setting up the team names and team codes. Just send an email with the team names and the respective team rank.
13. A team cannot be reactivated if it has the same team code as a currently activated team.
14. **NEW RULES from the Domestic Competition Regulations (formerly the USAV rulebook)**
 - a. Liberos are designated for the MATCH. And a team may designate two.
 - b. Adults (ONLY) may wear jewelry that does not cause injury.
15. Per a recent Board of Director's decision, the **use of the Libero has been modified** for use at tournaments in the Great Plains Region ONLY. These rules will not be used at any national tournaments nor the region bid tournament.
 - a. A team may choose to use either 2 Liberos for the MATCH (refer to the rule 19 in the 2011 – 2013 rulebook on the Great Plains website under the Officials/Rules tab – USAV rules, page 57) OR
 - b. A team may choose to designate one Libero per SET (the same way the Libero was used last year in the Silver/Bronze divisions).
 - c. The Libero may serve in one position at all levels, including Gold.
 - d. Further instructions regarding these policies will be coming soon.

CONTINUING REGION POLICIES

Note to all 14 & older high school players:

1. Many clubs and facilities are offering scrimmages, clinics and training opportunities during the fall season. If you are in high school and play on any level team for your school, make sure you know the NSAA policies on outside participation during your sport season. (www.nsaahome.org)
2. Team names cannot change after January 1, 2012.
3. All players and coaches must be registered before attending tryouts. If after attending a tryout, a member realizes they cannot begin the season, a refund may be requested by using a form on the Great Plains website under the Membership tab. Requests for refunds must be made by December 31. Requests for refunds after December 31 may be granted, if requested within 30 days of membership activation.
 - a. Any registered player that has participated in practices is not eligible for a refund even though they were not able to play during the season.
4. Uniform numbers are required when adding a player to a roster.
5. There is a section on the website for clubs and facilities to list **pre-tryout clinics**. Pre-tryout clinics must be open to everyone.

6. The charge for a required background screening is included in all memberships and is not an additional cost paid by the individual member. Memberships that require a USAV background screening are adults affiliated with a junior program, officials and chaperones/parent. Anyone registered as a Chaperone/Parent may not sit on any team bench during competition, but may help the team with officiating duties and team warm-ups. Background screens are required every two years.
7. A parent needs to register as a member if they want to help with officiating duties or be on the court prior to a match to help with shagging/warm-ups.

REGISTRATION

1. The start date for the 2012 USA Volleyball season is September 1. When you register, you will be able to print your membership card once the membership is activated. Activation is immediate if using a credit card. When paying by cash or check, the membership will not be activated until the money is received. Make sure to print this card or membership confirmation if you are attending tryouts. Memberships expire on October 31, 2012 regardless of when you registered for the current season.
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. There are no papers to print or send to the office. If a check is mailed for an individual's membership, the check should include in the member's name in the memo section. If mailing a check, don't forget to deduct your \$2.00 cash discount.
3. Registration fees:
 - a. Credit cards will be accepted for membership registration. Instructions for use can be found on the website. A discount will be given for cash payments.
 - b. The registration fee for junior players (12-18) and all adults affiliated with a junior team is \$62, if paying by credit card. The fee for members paying by cash or check is \$60.
 - c. There is a reduced registration fee of \$25 for age 11 and younger junior players (based on USAV age definition).
 - d. All members who register in the 8 and under age division or younger are free.
 - e. The registration fee for boys of any junior age is \$25.
4. Players and coaches should register before attending tryouts. A current 2012 membership card or membership confirmation should be presented at each tryout.
5. 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.
6. All adults affiliated with a junior team are required to sign the National Club Personnel Code of Ethics form when registering. This signature will be processed electronically in the same way as your signature for the Waiver and Release of Liability.
7. 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 is needed.

CLUB DIRECTOR ACCESS

1. 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 a previous club director is not registered by October 31, 2011, club administrator access will be disabled.

2. Club directors must have a current membership and must submit a completed Club Profile form before club director administrative access can be granted.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Once the club director's membership is active, a certificate of insurance for your club will be sent. If the practice/tournament facility you use requires a separate certificate, you need to request the certificate from the office using the Insurance Certificate Form on the Juniors Forms page of the website. Do not make a copy of your certificate. The certificate must be sent directly from the office to the facility.
6. 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.

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. Attendance at an IMPACT clinic between May 1 and November 30 is free.
 - b. Attendance at an IMPACT clinic between December 1 and April 30 cost \$25.00.
 - c. Attendance at an IMPACT webinar, run by the region is free to all current Great Plains members.
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 meet **officiating requirements** each year. These requirements may include attendance at officiating and scoring clinics and/or passing scores on exams. Coaches officiating requirements will be sent soon.
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 5, 2011).
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 19, 2011).
3. Tryouts may not start before 8:00 am. The facility may open one hour prior.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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 (Oct 31, 2011) until the established tryout dates (November 5 for 12's to 14's and November 19, 2011 for 15's to 18's).

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

WAIVERS

1. A waiver form must be completed for ALL waived (same grade or older age) players.
2. Waivered players must be added to a team's roster by the region. Uniform numbers are required to add a player to a roster.
3. Waivered players are not allowed to play in national events.

SAME GRADE WAIVER

If a team of players, all from the same grade, want to play together, but do not all qualify for the same age definition, a same grade waiver form must be completed. A team with waived players must play in the Silver and Bronze divisions of any Great Plains Region tournaments. Eligibility for tournaments in other regions is at the discretion of the tournament director according to the policies of the sanctioning RVA.

AGE WAIVER

An Age Waiver can be considered if a player is one age division too old and a team could not be filled if they live in an area of the state with a limited player base. A player that has been granted an age waiver may not play on a team competing in a division in which the player would normally be too old in any competition leading to the USAV Junior National Championships. The player and team can compete in Great Plains tournaments in the Silver or Bronze division only, including the Regional Championships. Eligibility for tournaments in other RVAs is at the

discretion of the tournament director according to the policies of the sanctioning RVA. Age waivers are not allowed in the major metropolitan areas (ie, Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, Kearney)

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

As soon as a current list of all qualifier and National Championship dates is received from USA Volleyball, the list will be posted on the Great Plains website tournament schedule page.

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

The **2012 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 31st for 10's – 14's** and on **Sunday, April 1st for 15's – 18's**. The deadline to register is March 2. The entry fee is \$200 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.
2. The Libero will be allowed to serve at the Regional Championships.
3. Teams may choose to use two Liberos for the match or one Libero per each set.

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 28** and **Sunday, 29**.
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 \$200.
 - c. The deadline for entering the Bid tournament is March 30.
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 30, 2012.
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 receive a reimbursement from the region for their USA Volleyball National Championships entry fee. The exact amount has not been determined at this time.
6. All other region teams that qualify for the USA Volleyball National Championships at the region bid tournament or through the reallocation process will also receive a reimbursement. The exact amount has not been determined at this time.

ON-LINE TOURNAMENT ENTRY SYSTEM (OTES)

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 **September 30** require a sanction fee of \$10 each. Sanction fees for any tournament requests after September 30 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 \$200.
4. Silver/Bronze tournaments will play pool play, followed by a single elimination bracket.
5. Single session tournaments cannot start before 8:00 am and the last match must start before 8:30 pm.
6. The morning session of a split session tournament must finish by 2:30 pm. The afternoon session of a split session tournament must finish by 9:30 pm.
7. **New regulations will be in place for the administration of split session tournaments.** See the Great Plains Region Tournament Manual in the handbook for further information (will be updated by October 1).

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.
3. **Certificate of Insurance Request**
4. **Refund Request**

CURRENT USAV RULES

Copies of the current USA Volleyball Domestic Competition Regulations (rulebooks) are available at the office and at rules clinics. The rulebook is new this year and will be used for two seasons. Previous changes still in effect 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 head coach of both the winning and losing teams 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)