

2021 General Assembly Recap – Sept 19, 2021

Thank you to everyone that attended the General Assembly. We know your time is valuable and we are grateful that you take the time to attend. It is an important meeting for information distribution, discussion and feedback.

All the documents and forms needed for 2022 season can be found on the AZ Region website Handbook and on the dedicated page for club directors – www.azregionvolleyball.org/jrforum

What's New for 2022 Season document is posted on the Jr Forum webpage

Uniforms – Rodney Krenz - Oddities

Rodney warned that there are problems in the supply chain that is resulting in delays in receiving product or all sizes for uniforms. If a club wants their uniforms before January, they need to get the order going **NOW**. Even common colors are delayed or not all sizes available as product is not getting from the manufacturers to the distributors. Most of the uniform product comes from outside of the US.

Coach's Education – Eric Hodson

- CAP with USAV is no longer. They are redesigning the coach's education program. With that said, the AZ Region values coaching education and will put on our own events to keep our coaches learning and growing.
- Education Weekend will take place on Dec 10 - 12 at the Region Facility. The cadre list is still being developed but those already accepting the invite to present are: John Kessel, Marouane Jafir, Rob Gray and Jeff Lui. A limit of 75 coaches will be accepted to attend the event.
- IMPACT OnDemand is available on the USAV Academy for all new coaches and those that need a refresher.

End of Season Date – Harold Cranswick

It has become increasingly difficult for the AZ Region to hold players to a club until the end of the Jr Nationals if there is no programming for the team in the current club after the Region Championships and the club contract does not have an end of the season specified for that team in their contract.

It is very important for the club to put in their player contract how long the athletes are expected to remain with the club for the season. If there is no programming communicated to the families, parents make other plans for their athletes which may not include the club.

The only way the Region can hold a player to the club is if it is specified in the contract when that end date is. If the club wants the Region to hold the athletes to the club through Jr Nationals to recoup payment owed, it needs to be specified in the contract. The club can always give a release prior to that date if needed. The club can also just release all players by putting in a date that is just after the Region Championships. However, if no programming is

scheduled for the team and no end date is in the contract parents think they are free to go to another club for programming.

If a player does go to another club before the end of Jr Nationals, the Region still needs to release the player in SportsEngine. Notification should be made to the Region as to when the end of season is for their teams.

Players leaving a debt with a club – Becky Hudson

This is an ongoing problem. With that, the AZ Region has added to Good Standing Guidelines and Financial Responsibility Policy that if a player leaves a debt with the club and goes to a different club the next season, the club owed has 1 year from the end of the season that the player was with their club to file in Small Claims Court and get a judgement against the player. If the Region is presented with a Small Claims Court judgement against the player/parent, the Region will put a Region Hold on the player's membership until they have made restitution, made financial arrangements with the club or a period of 2 years has passed. The player would be ineligible to participate with any club until this is rectified or 2 years has passed.

Non-Participating Team Registration – Becky Hudson

USA Volleyball requires that a player register where they live. Therefore, any club or team that wants to play in USAV sanctioned events needs to register where they live or the club resides. The Arizona Region has to service the players and clubs that register with the Region – we are responsible to train them, to register them, to verify information on them, to hold them responsible for their behavior and we are held accountable by USAV for them.

The Region has had requests to register teams and players but they just want to go play in qualifiers – they don't want to play in our Region tournament schedule. Because of our responsibilities for these teams and not really knowing who they are a new Non-Participating Team Registration Agreement has been created for the clubs to know what their responsibilities and restrictions are and what will be done on their behalf by the Region. With that, the team registration fee for those teams not participating in our tournament schedule is increased.

The club only needs to sign the Non-Participating Team Registration Agreement if they have teams that will be registering with the Region but not participating in our tournament schedule. If all of the club's teams will be participating in the Region tournament schedule, the form is not necessary.

17s Eligible with a July or August birthdate in SportsEngine – Lisa Naughton

There is a new glitch in the SportsEngine system along with the new age definitions. The membership season runs from Sept 1 through Aug 31. The age definitions run from July 1st through Aug 31st of the following year. Therefore, any 17s eligible player by age definition whose birthday is in July or August will be required to purchase the 18s membership and complete SafeSport. The Region will then need to be contacted to "gift" the player the 17 and under membership so they can be put on a 17s roster.

SafeSport focus for 2022 is Emotional Misconduct – Cindy Kirk

This year we will look at the ways we can help our members be confident and strong when faced with our emotional wellbeing. In the belonging we need to include, not exclude others. 2022 will be a year to open up our lives to others who may not be emotionally ready to do things on their own.

SafeSport Refresher Courses - Cindy Kirk

US Center for SafeSport requirement for SafeSport Training has evolved. The first course to be taken will be the SafeSport Core Training. After that there are up to 3 Refresher courses that can be taken. Regardless of where the person is in the number of Refresher courses taken, every 4th year the Core training will again be required. Each year some sort of SafeSport training will be required whether it be SafeSport Core Training, Refresher 1, Refresher 2 or Refresher 3. The Core training takes about 2 hours, the Refresher courses take from 20-30 minutes. All courses are free.

New Divisions at Girls Qualifying and National Championship Events

USA Volleyball has added 2 new divisions to the Girls JNC. The Liberty Bid will be earned at a National Qualifier only. The Freedom bid will be earned at a Region Qualifier only. The Arizona Region will award 3 bids at our NCQ. 1st place will earn the National bid, 2nd place will earn the American bid and 3rd place will earn the Freedom bid. The National bid is the only bid the AZ Region can give out for the 11s. There is no Freedom bid for 13s. The order of strength of the divisions and the ages offered will be:

Open – 13s – 18s

National – 11s – 18s

USA – 12s – 18s

Liberty – 13s – 18s

American – 11s – 18s

Freedom – 14s – 18s

Patriot – 13s – 18s

Girls 18s JNC will be held in Phoenix, April 22-24.

Seeding Form – Due date is Dec 1st

Registration materials are due Dec 16th. But to get the seeding off the ground before Christmas, we want the seeding forms to be sent in or inputted into the online form NO LATER than Dec 1st. There is a QR code on the Jr Forum webpage that can be used to access the online form.

14 Open teams in the Region

Teams entering the Region Open Division no longer have to play in Open Division at a National Qualifier. They should determine if they really are Open caliber teams and then self-select the Open Division. 13s are still not eligible for Open Division play in the AZ Region.

Official Shortage

As was done last year, if a team has to cover the R1 position during their ref assignments, the team will be credited \$24 per match that they had to provide the R1. All coaches should be prepared to R1 at any tournament. We have been very short of officials already for the Boys tournaments. If the coach is also a certified referee and in Arbiter, we will pay the coach their regular match pay for every match that they R1 during their team ref assignments or additional matches at the tournament.

End of Season for all ages is July 4 – the last day of the Girls JNC. The end date for each club should be included in their player contract.

Returning Policies for the Season

- Purple Card Policy for spectator behavior
- Pack It in, Pack it out – please encourage all your parents to take home all that they bring to a tournament – do not leave a pile of trash behind – even in the trash cans. It is very difficult for a site director to work the entire day and then have to clean up the parking lot. The sites are also charged for additional trash pick-ups. The idea is that it is much cleaner and easier if everyone takes their own trash home to recycle, reuse or dispose of.
- Food and Beverages in the Gym – 13-point penalty assessed against a team for any food or drink in the gym by their players, coaches and spectators.
- Coach's meetings have been reinstated. Coaches should be checked in and attend the Coach's meetings to avoid an 8-point penalty against their team for delaying the tournament. All teams should be on site for the first match start time. All it takes is a no-show team and every team is playing or reffing the first round.

Items Discussed by the Group -

- What to do if a team misses a Region tournament to attend a National Qualifier – a suggestion was put forward to think about holding seed for teams that travel to National Qualifiers.
- Tournament Divisions – a suggestion was put forward to eliminate Championship Division in the AZ Region play.
- Gate Fees at tournament sites – there is the possibility of a gate fee for spectators at one of our gyms this season. This is not being put out by the Region and the Region would get NONE of the gate fee. The Region has not imposed a gate fee at our events, like other sports. We have always felt that it is expensive enough to

participate in club volleyball, we did not want to extract any more money from the parents. It is our goal to keep the cost to the parent as low as possible to allow more to play our sport.

- Jr Committee Restructure – want to make sure we hear from all the voices that are represented by our Junior Girls clubs. Metro, Rural, Small to X-Large club size.
- Seeding Committee – those interested in helping with Seeding the girls' teams should contact Cindy Kirk now so that dates and expectations can be distributed.