



USA***Volleyball***

**2023-2024 SEASON
CLUB DIRECTORS
and
MEMBERSHIP
HANDBOOK**

2023-2024 GULF COAST REGION - USAV Directors and Membership Handbook

OPERATING CODE

I. REGIONAL ORGANIZATION

- A. **Board of Directors:** Members of the Board of Directors are elected for a term of three years as provided for in the Region By Laws.

I .Ten Members will comprise the Board.

- a. Nine Members will have voice and vote.
- b. One Member will have voice only. This will be the past commissioner.

2. Duties of Board of Directors.

- a. **Board Member One**, will be the Regions Officials Chairperson.
Duties to conduct Adult and Junior Officials Clinics/Training/Recruitment/ Rating/ and provide Advancement for Regional Members as USA Volleyball Officials. Coordinate tournament officials for regular season and Regional Championships. Represent Region at National Annual Officials meetings and ROD meetings when necessary. In the absence of the Officials Chair the Regions Assignor can proxy this Board position vote.
- b. **Board Member Two**, will oversee Structure and Function of all Region activities.
- c. **Board Member Three**, will oversee Compliance, Financial Operations of Region and Insurance of all Region activities.
- d. **Board Member Four**, will oversee Adult Membership Growth and Activities.
- e. **Board Member Five**, will oversee Junior Membership Growth and Activities.
- f. **Board Member Six**, will oversee State Reps, concentrating on creating enhanced networking for membership growth.
- g. **Board Member Seven**, will oversee Media Relations and Sports Information Services, along with networking with 2 and 4 year college programs for scholarship opportunities for Junior Members and Adult Members with College eligibility remaining.

- h. **Board Member Eight, will** oversee Beach Programming and Beach Membership Growth
- I. **Board Member Nine, the** Region Commissioner is empowered to promote, arrange, and conduct volleyball operations and is authorized to enforce all policies, rules, and guidelines of the GCR Region and USA Volleyball.
- J. **Board Member Ten,** past Commissioner will serve as a consultant for operational, accountability and compliance aspects of Region Operations.

2. Board of Directors Term of Service.

- a. **Board Member One,** yearly as determined by GCR BOD Executive Committee – which is represented by BOD Position 2, 3 & 5 and Commissioner-Voice and Vote
- b. **Board Member Two,** 3 year term, expires 2025- Voice and Vote
- c. **Board Member Three,** 3 year term, expires 2023- Voice and Vote
- d. **Board Member Four,** 3 year term, expires 2024- Voice and Vote
- e. **Board Member Five,** 3 year term, expires 2023- Voice and Vote
- f. **Board Member Six,** 3 year term, expires 2024- Voice and Vote
- g. **Board Member Seven,** 3 year term, expires 2025- Voice and Vote
- h. **Board Member Eight,** 3 year term, expires 2023 - Voice and Vote
- I. **Board Member Nine,** 3 year term, expires 2025 - Voice and Vote
- J. **Board Member Ten,** term expires when a new commissioner is elected – Voice

B. Region Officers: Region officers are elected for a three-year term.

a. Commissioner Term of Service

- a. **Commissioner,** 3 year term expires 2025

C. Executive Branch: The Region executive Branch consists of the elected officers of the Region and shall act as directed by the Region Board of Directors.

B. Region Elections:

1. **Board of Director Positions,** as terms expires, elections will be held in December of that year in conjunction with Regional start of each new club season. Board of Director positions are voted on by all Club Directors. All registered members 21 years and older of the Gulf Coast Region are eligible for election to a Board Position. No Club or Division at any one time can hold more than two Board Positions.

2. **Commissioner Position,** as term expires, will be held in December at the annual Board of Directors meeting. Commissioner position is voted on by the nine Gulf Coast Region Board of Directors. To be eligible for the position of Commissioner, one

must be an acting Board Member. Unless by unanimous vote of the BOD and in the best interest of the region a non-board region member can be selected. In the event a Commissioner cannot perform their duties, BOD Position #2 will serve as Commissioner until an election can be held.

3. Installation of newly elected officers will be annually on the first Saturday in the month of January.

II. PLAYER, TEAM and PARENT/SPECTATOR ELIGIBILITY

- A. Player Eligibility: Each player engaged in USAV sanctioned play is required to register as an athlete in the current season in which they play. He/She must conform to the definition of an eligible athlete as stated by the International Olympic Committee and must comply with the Rules and Regulations of said body. Each player **must** be a registered USAV member. A team that plays a member that is not registered is subject to sanctions and fines. Fines will be imposed at \$200.00 per instance and must be paid by club/team director before team will be allowed future participation in GCR/USA Volleyball Sanctioned Tournaments. A player can only begin tryouts/practicing when that members 2022-2023 GCR On Line Registration has been paid by credit card and a membership card has been granted to that member. If a junior member that member must present the Club Director with a Notarized Medical Release Form prior to any club event. All Adult Members working with Juniors must have cleared a yearly background screen and have passed and been certified in USA Volleyball's required SAFE SPORT/Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) online training prior to conducting any club events, this includes Club Directors, Coaches, Chaperones, Club Staff, Region Officials and all other Region Staff members who have direct contact with Juniors.
- B. Team Eligibility: All teams must send complete roster verification forms, team registration form and team fee's \$90.00 prior to the start of the regular Gulf Coast Region event season which will be Wednesday, January 4, 2023. Or December 16, 2022 if that team is participating in the "Volley-Jolley" Christmas Tournament.
- C. Senior Teams: A senior team may be composed of composite USAV members. Such teams must submit a roster of players to the Region Commissioner prior to participating in tournaments sanctioned by the Gulf Coast Region.
- D. Parent/Spectators: All parents of Junior Members in the Gulf Coast Region must sign the Gulf Coast Region Parent/Spectator Code of Contact form. This form must be carried in each Coaches folder along with the Medical Release form and other membership verification forms for that team. Region staff or any appointee of the Commissioner present at a Gulf Coast Region event, if just causes arise, will ask for the Parent/Spectator Code of Conduct Form for any parent that does not represent the standard of Goodwill that the region requires at events. Failure to have a valid and properly signed and currently dated Parent/Spectator Code of Conduct Form for each parent of a participating child in that event is a violation of region policy and will be subject to region sanctions and penalties not to exceed \$100.00 per occurrence.

III. CLUB ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

A. **Start of Club Organizational Meetings:** Clubs must confirm their annual participation in the Gulf Coast Region (GC) as a member club on or after August 1st of each calendar year. Each member club may begin general distribution of community information on the third Sunday of October each calendar year to announce a Parent only organizational meeting. Organizational meetings can begin for the 2023-2024 Club season on October 15, 2023 at 2:00pm cst.

B. **Tryouts:** A club may not solicit information directly or hold tryouts for any potential member that remains involved in their respective State Athletic Association Volleyball season of play. Once that members grade school season ends and there is no further potential advancement by that members team in State Athletic Association regular season or playoffs then that member may tryout. The Gulf Coast Region determines a season has ended when an athlete has lost a final match either in the Area/District playoffs, Regionals, Sub-State, Super Regionals or State Championships or did not advance from the regular season. When tryouts end for an athlete there will be allowed an acceptance period for that athlete that will be seven days. Tryouts period is generally considered the date from the conclusion of that athletes school season up to the third Wednesday of each November and the acceptance period is the seven days following the third Wednesday and up to the fourth Wednesday (Wednesday before Thanksgiving). The exception to this dated timeframe will be for athletes that are coming from winter sports or those families that have made a late decision for their child to play. "NO athlete should be left behind", our mission is to create access for all populations in the sport.

Rationale: The Gulf Coast Region is not a stand-alone entity, rather a resource that families and communities can affiliate with to extend their respective school's student athletes training in Volleyball thus enhancing the level of play for each school program.

Violation Penalty: The Gulf Coast region will impose a \$ 500.00 fine and a two year probation period for any club in violation of this policy.

Summer Tryouts: Beginning in the summer of 2022 the Gulf Coast Region has allowed summer tryouts. This has multifaceted benefits for GC membership. One it allows junior athletes to participate under their current USAV membership. Two it allows junior athletes the opportunity to concentrate on their upcoming grade school season. Three it allows club directors the opportunity to facilitate earlier program/team needs. The dates of the allowable summer tryout period are: the beginning date of summer tryouts can commence the day after the last day of USA Volleyball's GJNC or BJNC in all divisions and must conclude the day before the first allowable practice date of each states grade school season. The AHSAA, the FHSAA and the MHSAA sets these first practice dates annually as they set their yearly calendar. It is the responsibility of each club that conducts summer tryouts to know these dates. The Rationale and cost of Violated Penalty remain the same as aforementioned for the Fall Tryout Season.

IV. REASSIGNMENT of CLUB, CLUB RELEASE and CLUB TRANSFERS

A. **Reassignment of a Club:** Can be made at the request of a parent via email during the open tryout period. A member upon initial membership registration may of selected one club but during the

tryout period decided on another club having not made a verbal or written commitment to the first club where tryouts took place. Once the acceptance period concludes the originally selected club must confirm that reassignment to another club is endorsed via email response.

- B. Club Releases and Transfers: Once a tryout period has concluded and acceptance of a club has been finalized with a contractual commitment, the only pathway a member can move to another club is by virtue of a Release then a Transfer. To activate a Release and Transfer the member must ask for a Release from their original Club and satisfy all negotiated contractual performers with original club. Upon satisfaction the original club may verify a release of member to the region office via email. Once a release is activated a transfer to another club may be requested by the member. Member would email region office this request and which club member would like to transfer to, to the region office. The region office will formalize an email to that requested New Club asking if the New Club would accept the member's request to join that club, what team of participation the member would be on and what the financial arrangements will be. The acceptance and arrangements are then emailed to the member/parents for acknowledgement and agreement. Once the agreement is acknowledged by member/parents by email reply to region the region will then email club of choice to ask if they do accept this member into their Club. Region will then email member/parent with agreement statues of the contract and team placement. Transfer is finalized by member/parent upon an email reply of acceptance to region with contractual performers and line items agreed upon.

V. RECRUITING

It is the responsibility of each Club, that Club's Director, Coaches, Chaperones, Board of Directors, other designated appointees and most importantly the Parents to conduct themselves in a manner as to support all clubs that may draw from the same community of players. At NO time during the year may any of the aforementioned individuals directly contact a family that has an active contract with a third party Club with the intent of swaying that families player into playing with said club. Active contract is to be interpreted as a membership year. A Club Director however may receive text, emails and/or voice communications with parents whom their player has ended a contract with another club and may share their Club information with that parent. This communication must be initially made by a parent. Open tryout period after the school season concludes allows families to be informed and gather information about all clubs in their region.

If a Club is found to be in violation of the Gulf Coast Region's recruiting policy and after having received a formal complaint, will invoke the Region's Due Process Procedures for Serious Matters. If formal Complaint is upheld and it is found that a Club or it's representing members (Director, Coaches, Chaperones, Board of Directors, other designated appointees and or Parents) was indeed in violation. Then the Gulf Coast Region will impose either individual and or club sanctions and fines not limited to a term probation as well as a \$500.00 fine. In extreme cases of disregard the offending club will be removed from being a member of the Gulf Coast Region for a term to be determined by the Region's Review Board. If immediate expulsion of the Club from the Region is the Review Board's final decision, the Region shall not be responsible for any outstanding contractual obligations that remain between the families and the expelled Club, however the region will work in good faith to try and place players in training and competition opportunities.

VI. REGION TOURNAMENTS

- A. **Sanctioned Season:** The sanctioned season begins September 1 of a given year and ends August 31 of the following year. All tournaments must be sanctioned (including friendship tournaments) by the Region Commissioner and all participants registered with the Gulf Coast Region - USAV. Adults may conduct friendship tournaments from September 1 until October 31. Juniors may conduct Friendship tournaments from November 12 until December 12 of each year
- B. **Membership:** Individual memberships are valid from the date of registration until August 31st of that season. With registration beginning September 1st of each calendar year
- C. **Sanctioned Tournaments:** Tournament Directors must submit an "Application for Sanction of Event" form to the Region Commissioner at least three weeks prior to their tournament date, along with appropriate fees. Tournament Directors may not waive USAV guidelines.
- D. **Officiating Responsibilities:** Seven people are needed to officiate a match, it is a team responsibility to have players on its roster who are certified USAV Junior and/or Coach and/or Adult officials. Each Junior team playing in sanctioned tournaments is required to have at least one certified Adult referee and three certified Junior scorers, 2 linespersons, a visual Scoreboard keeper and a Certified Adult Table monitor, who may be the Coach who has gone through On-line Officials training or any appointed Adult who is a USAV member and has attend on-line officiating training. Both Adult & Junior tournaments will use working teams, however a certified USA Volleyball Provisional or higher ranked official will R1 all Junior Tournaments. **The R2 in Junior Age Divisions 12, 13 & 14 & under can be a certified coach or adult or an age division player.** If an age division player is the R2 the coach must be seated at the scorers table directly behind or adjacent to the junior R2.
- Each adult team must have at least two certified USAV referees and two certified scorers present at the tournament to be responsible for the team's officiating work assignments. Plus the necessary lines persons.
- E. **Uniform Rule:** During the sanctioned season, all teams must abide by the USAV rule which states that team uniforms must be similar, clean, and of the same color, and must conform to USAV regulations regarding size and location of numbers. Teams not abiding by the uniform rule by March 1 of the current season will not be permitted to play until a fine of \$200.00 is paid. If the team corrects the uniform violation before the end of the tournament, the fine will be withdrawn. Further clarification of modified uniform rule, during the "fellowship" sanctioned season from September 1 and ends December 31, teams must have shirts with different numbers. During the sanctioned season, all teams must abide by the USAV Uniform rules.
- F. **Official Uniform Numbers:** Players' jerseys must be numbered from 1 to 99. The number must be placed in the center of the back. For the front it is required that the top of the number be no more than 12.5 cm (5") down from the shoulder seam and that the medial edge of the number be in the midline of the jersey. The numbers must be a different and contrasting color to the jerseys with a minimum height of 15 cm (6") on the front and 20 cm (8") on the back. Each uniform jersey must use the same color and number

height for all team members. The stripe forming the numbers shall have a minimum width of 2 cm($\frac{3}{4}$ "). The Solid Color Uniform rule of USA Volleyball is in effect and should be reviewed and illustrated in any uniform worn for USAV/GCR Sanctioned events.

For all sanctioned USA Volleyball competition, uniforms must be identical with the exception of the Libero(s) Uniform which must contrast in color.

- G. **Eligibility for Region Championships:** To be eligible for Region Championships, a team must have participated in at least two (2) Gulf Coast Region USA Volleyball Sanctioned tournaments in their age division or an age division one year higher.
- H. **USA Volleyball Tournament Guidelines:** All sanctioned tournaments must be conducted in accordance with the USAV guidelines. Tournament Directors are required to enforce all USA Volleyball rules and regulations. Those who fail to do so are subject to loss of tournament date(s), sanctions as well as a fine of \$500.00 imposed on the club.

VII. REGION CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS

- A. **Tournament Site:** The location of the tournament will be determined by the Executive Branch on the basis of availability and suitability of appropriate facilities.
- B. **Tournament Director:** The Region Commissioner will serve as Tournament Director or appoint a qualified individual to conduct the Region Championships Events as well as the Commissioner will appoint a Tournament Arbitrator.

VIII. PROTESTS

- A. **Tournaments:** Protests arising with respect to eligibility, rules interpretation, or decisions of the officials must be deduced by the "Protest Committee" assigned by the Tournament Director and must be made in accordance with current USA Volleyball rules.
- B. **Other Protests:** Protests other than those described above involving the USA Volleyball and Gulf Coast Region Operating Codes must be made in writing to the Region Commissioner.

IX. ELIGIBILITY

- A. **Regional Competition:** All teams and players must be currently registered with USA Volleyball and the Gulf Coast Region or affiliate Region of USA Volleyball and a member in good standing, to participate in Region Tournaments.
- B. **USAV Policies:** Players and organizations desiring to participate in USAV tournaments must support the purpose and policies of the USAV & GCR as stated in its Articles of Incorporation, By Laws, and Operating Code. Such teams and players must meet the requirements for competition promulgated by the USAV Committee on Player and Team Eligibility.

X. TEAMS PLANNING TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ADULT OR JUNIOR
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

- A. Each team must inform the Regional Commissioner in writing of their intention to participate. The region will provide the necessary information needed to enter and how the entry fee coverage considerations will be utilized.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AND DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES

Introduction

It is the responsibility of the Gulf Coast Region - USAV Board of Directors to administer volleyball within the Gulf Coast Region. On occasion, Region members may violate, or be accused of violating, Region rules as spelled out in the Handbook, United States Volleyball Association rules as described in its Handbook, or the USVBA Code of Conduct for players or coaches. Such alleged violations may require action by the Region. These due process rules are hereby established to protect the due process rights of any accused member of the Region, the safety of Region members, and the integrity of the Region.

Routine Matters

Some actions or alleged actions by individuals or teams result in automatic sanctions in accordance with Region Handbook (e.g., failure to have certified officials by specified dates, failure to appear at an event for which a team is pre-registered, untimely withdrawal from a tournament, failure to fulfill work/officiating obligations, use of alcohol or controlled substances at a tournament, etc.,). The appropriate officer of the Region Board (e.g., the Chairman of Referees may prohibit an individual from officiating if he/she has not qualified as an official or is not in the process of timely qualifying) or the Commissioner, after considering the evidence of wrongdoing, may administer such automatic sanction. If there is no clearly appropriate Board officer, the commissioner shall administer the automatic sanction.

The Commissioner, after considering the evidence, shall have authority to impose sanctions for routine wrong doing by Region members not otherwise provided for by the Handbook (e.g., minor damage to equipment or facilities).

The first level of appeal from sanctions for routine matters shall be the Commissioner, who may request that such appeal be in writing. The Commissioner may either rule on the appeal or delegate the appeal to the Review Board (described below) for more formal consideration. If the Commissioner rules on the appeal and the relevant person or team wishes to appeal further, such appeal shall be to the Review Board.

Serious Matters and Appeals from Decisions on Routine Matters

A Review Board consisting of three persons shall have responsibility for action on alleged wrongdoing of a serious nature by Region members or for appeals from sanctions for wrongdoing otherwise deemed routine. The Commissioner shall chair the Review Board and shall be a voting member unless he or she ruled on the first level of appeal from a sanction for routine matter; in the latter case, the Commissioner shall remain the administrative chair of the Review Board but shall not be a voting member. If necessary to replace the Commissioner with a third voting Review Board member, such member of the Region Board shall serve as is jointly selected by the accused individual or team representative and the Region Board Representative (defined below); if an agreement cannot

be reached, such Region Board member shall serve as a voting member in place of the Commissioner as is selected by blind lottery from among the Region Board members. One member of the Review Board shall be a Region Board member selected by the accused individual or team representative. The other member of the Review Board shall be such Board member as is most appropriate to the situation at issue as determined by a majority of the Player Representatives and Junior Coordinator. If more than one Region Board member is unwilling or unable to serve if selected under any of the above described methods, the Commissioner and the accused may agree on a method for selecting a Review Board member from among the Region's general membership.

For matters to be considered by the Review Board, notice shall be provided to the accused in writing as soon as reasonably possible. Oral notice may precede written notice for expediency. Written notice shall include a copy of these due process procedures and shall describe the alleged wrongdoing, the range of possible sanctions, and shall suggest a date, location, and method (in person or by telephone conference if acceptable to the accused) for the hearing. The date and location shall be established as much as reasonably possible to accommodate the accused. If the accused does not cooperate in establishing such date and location, the Review Board shall schedule the hearing at its convenience and the accused shall be so advised in writing.

The exact format of the hearing may vary as arranged with the accused, but it generally shall include an initial statement summarizing the allegations, presentation of evidence of the alleged wrongdoing, and presentation of evidence of innocence or of mitigating circumstances.

After the hearing concludes, all interested parties shall be dismissed and the Review Board shall consider and discuss the evidence. As soon as possible after the hearing (but not necessarily the same day), the Review Board shall reach a decision which it shall formalize in writing delivered to the accused. A decision of a majority of the Review Board members shall control and any dissent shall be noted in the written decision.

Final Appeal

Appeals from decisions of the Review Board shall be to the entire Region Board. An appeal hearing to the Region Board shall follow the same format as described above for the Review Board. The administrative chairman of an appeal hearing shall be such Board member as is selected by mutual agreement of the accused and Commissioner. If no agreement can be reached, the administrative chairman shall be such Region members as is selected by mutual agreement. If no such further agreement can be reached, the administrative chairman shall be such Region Board member as is selected by blind lottery. An accused must provide written notice to the Commissioner of an intention to appeal a Review Board decision within sixty days after such decision has been mailed by certified or registered mail or delivered by hand delivery to the accused. Otherwise, the accused shall not be entitled to an appeal.

An appeal hearing shall occur within thirty days after notice of intent to appeal has been mailed unless the appellant and Commissioner agree otherwise. Any decision and sanction of the Review board shall remain in effect until the appeal hearing. For the appeal hearing to be effective, it shall be necessary that a quorum of Regional Board members be physically present; proxy votes shall not be permitted. Appeal hearings shall be recorded on audiotape.

Miscellaneous

The Region Board is not a court of law but, rather, a non-profit, private group of volleyball players, coaches, and organizers elected by the Region membership to administer volleyball within the Region. It is the duty of the Region Board to strive to obtain just and full results when a Region member or team is accused of wrongdoing relevant to volleyball within the Region. As a private body, the Region Board does not follow the Federal Rules of Evidence but shall accord weight to evidence based on its substance and on common sense.

Note that the Review and Region Boards have the authority to suspend membership privileges for more than one year.

For serious matters, unless the safety of Region member is at risk, physical or other substantial injury has resulted, or the accused was clearly caught in the act of a serious wrongdoing relevant to volleyball, no penalty, sanction, or fine shall be imposed against the accused without a hearing by the Review Board. In the instances cited, however, a temporary sanction may be imposed by the Commissioner after careful consideration of the evidence and situation; any such action shall be stated in writing delivered to the accused.

The United States Volleyball Association now provides that the only appeal from a decision of the Region Board shall be to the United States Volleyball Association National Ethics and Eligibility Committee and only for a determination of whether the accused received due process.

If an individual moves into the Region, or a team attempts to register in the Region, subject to the sanctions of another Region which has procedure for appealing from sanctions, the Gulf Coast Region shall respect and observe the other Region's sanction for the balance of its term (regardless of whether the individual or team exercised such appeal process).

DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Human relations complaints and incidents have been rising nationwide since 2004. The recent focus on sexual harassment has raised attention in this area as well. The volleyball community cannot isolate itself from these social trends. Despite our efforts and commitment to provide an environment that is free from sexual harassment and/or unwanted sexual attention, people will occasionally behave inappropriately. To help combat sexual harassment in our activities we have developed a Gulf Coast Region Sexual Harassment Policy so our members will better understand when harassment occurs and what steps to take. This policy should be considered as an extension to items 7 & 8 of the USA Volleyball Participant Code of Conduct. Please review the policy below and provide the Region office with any suggestions you may have.

GULF COAST REGION - USAV SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

The Gulf Coast Region - USAV is committed to maintaining an athletic environment that is free from sexual harassment and/or unwanted sexual attention.

Harassment can occur between any combination of members of the volleyball community --

coaches, players, parents, organizers. It generally occurs when one person, the harasser, holds a position of real or perceived authority over another individual.

Sexual Harassment may involve:

- Suggestive comments about physical appearance
- Leering or staring
- Use or display of sexual material, not legitimately connected to coaching volleyball
- Sexual teasing
- Jokes with sexual themes
- Unwanted physical contact
- Promises or rewards in return for sexual favors
- Sexual assault

Gulf Coast Region members may not engage in sexual harassment of another Gulf Coast Region member. Unwelcome and unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature such as sexual jokes, gestures, graffiti, posters, writings, touching, or other physical contact may constitute sexual harassment when;

1. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for participation, team selection decisions affecting such individual.
2. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's opportunity to participate in volleyball events or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

Members encountering behavior perceived as harassment may seek to resolve the matter in direct conversation with the individual understood to have engaged in the harassment. In the case of Junior members, it should be taken to the team coach or club director. If it is felt this approach is not likely to be productive, or if such approach has been tried and failed, the person harassed should make a report to the alleged harasser's team or club director.

A report of sexual harassment will remain confidential to the extent that maintaining confidentiality is not inconsistent with investigating the report of harassment, eliminating or remedying any sexual harassment found to have occurred, or preventing future harassment.

Gulf Coast Region may, in its discretion, restrict from sanction events any member alleged to have committed sexual harassment, pending an investigation of a sexual harassment report.

Any member who engages in sexual harassment, who fails to cooperate in an investigation of sexual harassment, or who otherwise violates or acts in a manner inconsistent with this policy, may be immediately dismissed as a member of the Gulf Coast Region.

BACKGROUND SCREENING POLICY

It is the policy of the Gulf Coast Volleyball Region that any entity (club or individual) intending to hire or use registered individuals in any sanctioned junior volleyball event and/or activities will accept and abide by a background screening policy each calendar membership year. Full Screen every second year and a Supplemental Screen during the interim year. The following individuals will be screened: Club

directors, club administrators, team reps, coaches, chaperones, trainers and/or managers, officials, volunteers that have direct contact and supervisory responsibility with Junior Membership 18 years of age and younger. This policy has been enforce for yearly screens in USAV since 2007 and has been in force for all Adults coaching juniors in the Gulf Coast Region since the same date of 2007. All Adults will accept and abide by a background screening policy. The entity will enforce the policy and penalties resulting from a negative background screening report. Failure to do so is grounds for automatic suspension of membership privileges to participate in the Gulf Coast Region sanctioned junior events and/or activities. All disqualified individuals have the right to dispute the findings of the background screening directly with the screening agency.

SAFE SPORT AND MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES (MAAPP)

The Gulf Coast Volleyball Region and all of its member clubs, officers and participants will practice USA Volleyball's Safe Sport Standards. It will be the responsibility of each Club to Educate it's Staff, Athletes and the Athlete's Families on the strategy and tenants of the Safe Sport initiatives. It will be the responsibility of the Region to guide each Club with the resources necessary to Educate their Club.

The Gulf Coast Region and USA Volleyball commitment to creating a safe and positive environment for the participants' physical, emotional and social development includes policies addressing certain types of abuse and misconduct and certain policies intended to reduce/eliminate, monitor and govern the areas where potential abuse and misconduct might occur. Each of these policies contain specific definitions to inform club participants, volunteers, staff workers, coaches and employees of the boundaries of acceptable and unacceptable behavior.

Education is the key component of the Gulf Coast Region's and USA Volleyball's abuse and misconduct prevention strategy. Awareness training conducted by each club providers relevant members of that club with information necessary to more effectively monitor their organization, minimize the opportunities for physical, emotional and sexual abuse and other types of misconduct. Each Clubs emphasis on awareness training demonstrates the priority it places on the safety of it's participants.

The Gulf Coast Region and USA Volleyball Safe Sport program requires that all Clubs report abuse, misconduct and violations of its safety policies. Each State Laws require the same reporting standards. To do so each club participant, volunteer, staff worker, coach and employee should have a basic understanding of sexual abusers and the actions that offenders use to seduce their victims. Each club participant, volunteer, staff worker, coach and employee should also have an understanding of the various other types of abuse (physical, emotional, bullying threats, harassment and hazing) and the effects such abuse has on it's victims, how to spot such abuse and how to prevent abuse from occurring in their program.

Gulf Coast Region Safe Sport Resources can be found on the region Website
www.gulfcoastvolleyball.org

USA Volleyball Safe Sport Resources can be found on their Website www.usavolleyball.org or on the online SAFE SPORT certification site at

<https://www.teamusa.org/usa-volleyball/about-us/safesport/safesport-training>

Each Adult member who directs and oversees event activities of Region Juniors must take the Safe Sport Online training yearly as well as USAV and Gulf Coast Region course work and on site offerings by the same. It will be the responsibility of each Club to have a SAFE SPORT representative whom will work closely with the Region's SAFE SPORT Ambassador to ensure that all Adult Members in their Club who work directly with Junior Members are not only certified but practice SAFE SPORT standards with each leadership opportunities.

GUIDELINES FOR USAV SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS

I. TOURNAMENT DATES

- A. Provisions for assigning a tournament schedule will be determined at the Fall Meeting of the Region Board of Directors. Clubs in good standing will be given first priority on dates corresponding to previous season's schedule. Dates not applied for by September 1st will be assigned on a first-come-first-served basis.
- B. Other tournament dates may be scheduled and added to the season's schedule through approval of the Region Commissioner.

II. TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION

- A. Tournament Director must submit an "Application for Sanction of Event" form with the proper sanction fee to the Gulf Coast Region. Adult - \$ 200.00
Junior - \$ 300.00 Single Day Event, \$450.00 Two Day Composite Event,
\$ 600.00 Two Day Event. The Commissioner will sanction all events.
- B. Following approval of the sanction request, the Tournament Director can begin to receive Tournament entry forms and entry fees from teams that wish to participate in their tournament.
- C. The Tournament Director is required to conduct the tournament in accordance with USAV guidelines and these policies:
 - 1. Only USAV registered teams and players may participate.
 - 2. Only USAV approved volleyballs, score sheets, and lineup sheets may be used.
 - 3. All teams entering Gulf Coast Region tournaments will be required to officiate as scheduled by the Event Schedule of Play as well as the Tournament Director . Failure to provide officials will result in an officiating fee fine of \$100.00. Each team representative will provide the name(s) of the officials on the team entry form. If names are not provided,

the officiating fee will accompany the entry fee. This fee is retained by the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director will provide certified officials to referee (R1 & R2) and score to fulfill requirements of the paying team. Linesman, Scoreboard Operator, Libero Tracking Chart will be provided by the team scheduled to officiate. In Junior Tournaments R1 will be provided and paid for by the Tournament Host. However the \$100.00 fee remains applicable if the work team cannot provide a certified R2, Libero Tracker, Lines persons and Scorekeeper.

4. Only certified USAV referees are permitted to serve as First Referees.
5. All match assignments shall be made by the Region Officials Assignor. The assignor will be the exclusive point of contact for tournament officials. A host club must meet the following time frames for delivery of information to assignor.
 - A. Contact assignor three weeks prior to tournament and provide
 1. Map to tournament sites
 2. Number of courts expected to use
 3. Age divisions and number of pools to date
 4. Accommodation facility if applicable
 - B. Follow-up with assignor two weeks prior to tournament and provide updates of aforementioned requested information.
 - C. On Monday week of provide the following:
 1. Map to accommodation facility and check-in protocol
 2. Final team counts, gym location of age groups
 3. Style of play and scoring format to be used in tournament
 - D. On Wednesday week of provide the following:
 1. Final pool brackets and final playoff brackets available to assignor D.
- D. Tournament Directors must email entry forms and event information no later than two weeks prior to the tournament date. Other requirements are:
 1. Indicate classifications of teams eligible.
 2. Email entry forms to all eligible teams in Region. With AES registration form can be a friendly reminder of how to register through AES
 3. If more than one classification of teams is scheduled, indicate that playoffs will be conducted for each.
 4. Determine time of captain's meeting and first pool match.
 5. Indicate/list awards to be given.
 6. Indicate specifics about facility care, map to facility and facility demographics.
- E. No later than Tuesday after the tournament, the tournament Director will submit the following to the Region Office & Commissioner. Failure to submit the following on date requested, are subject to loss of future tournament date(s), sanctions as well as a fine of \$ 100.00 imposed on the club.

1. Tournament reporting forms.
 - Tournament Results form
 - Tournament Financial Report form
 - Team Rosters from all participating teams
 - Pool Play Brackets with scores & final brackets with scores
 - Incident Report form (if any)
 - Medical Claim form (if any)
 - Team fee per team of \$25.00
 - Region Equipment Fee (if applicable)
 2. Report of violations, problems, and teams out of uniform.
- F. All Beach Tournaments that are considered Club Hosted events (Community Beach Tournaments) will adhere to the same tournament administrative guidelines as Club Hosted Indoor Tournaments. Those guidelines are listed in parts I-II-III-IV-V-VI in this section -

Guidelines for USAV Sanctioned Tournaments

III. CONDUCTING REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- A. In conducting sanctioned tournaments, there should be a non-playing Tournament Director at each site who is responsible for keeping the tournament on schedule and properly recorded.
- B. A tournament schedule, including playoff schedules, shall be posted prior to the first match so that all teams will be informed of their playing schedule and officiating duties.
- C. Unless otherwise assigned, third place teams in pool play will officiate semi-final matches and the losing teams in the semi-finals will provide officials for the finals.
- D. Teams not in compliance with registration requirements will be fined \$100.00 and face possible suspension from play for 30 days. Second offense, team suspension for one calendar year.
- E. Only certified USAV referees or certified coaches may be assigned as First Referees in sanctioned USAV competition.
- F. Tournament sites and equipment must meet requirements outlined in the USAV Official Volleyball Rules.
- G. Tournament Directors must require written entry forms accompanied by the appropriate fee. Telephone entries will not be accepted. Failure of a team to meet the entry requirements should be reported to the Region Commissioner in writing.
- H. A "Protest committee," composed of three persons, must be appointed to hear and rule on protests.
- I. Tournaments authorized for more than one classification must provide playoffs for each classification. For instance, a tournament authorized for Open/A/BB/B teams must determine a winner in each classification. Ideally, a pool for Open/A/BB and B could be scheduled.

- J. Each team must fulfill its officiating responsibilities as assigned by the tournament Director. Any team failing to fulfill such duties will be subject to suspension from play by the Region Commissioner.
- K. Substitution rule (12 Total) will be used during all Regional tournaments.
- L. No more than five (5) teams per court will be scheduled.
- M. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited at USAV events in gyms, locker rooms, parking lots, and facilities. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification of the member from the tournament.
- N. Club Directors must complete and submit a team roster form with current player and team registration numbers so that questions of eligibility may be resolved.
- O. All games will be 25 points rally scoring, with a 15 point deciding game, unless otherwise specified.

IV. ENTRY FEES AND DEADLINES

- A. Entry fees for the Region tournaments shall be no more than \$275.00 per team (junior tournaments) and \$200.00 (adult tournaments) for a one day tournaments. Two day tournaments fee of entry must be presented to the commissioner for approval. Tournaments are not to be solely profit motivated.
- B. For the tournament entry fee, the host must provide:
 - 1. One new game ball per court (USAV approved).
 - 2. Official equipment: Approved Officials Stand and Playing Standards
 - 3. Properly marked courts and adequate nets with secure antennas.
 - 4. Appropriate awards for first and second place teams in each classification. Where there are four teams or less, first place only.
 - 5. USA Volleyball Certified Provisional or Higher RI Official for all Junior Tournaments. Certified Adult R2's for all 12, 13 & 14 and under divisions can be used. 15 and older divisions it is strongly suggested that the coach or other certified adult calls. Per Region policy a junior can call the R2 position in a 2023/2024 event but must of complete the online Officials training and that players coach must be seated at the scorers table
- C. Entry fees higher than those above MUST be approved by the Region Commissioner and the approval must be indicated in all the tournament information mailed by the host.
- D. Teams failing to show for a tournament without notifying the Tournament Director must be reported to the Region Commissioner in writing and will forfeit their entry fee.
- E. The Region Commissioner, Referee Chairperson and Region Officials Assignor are to receive all announcements and written information relevant to the tournament. An up-to-date directory of team representatives will be provided to the Tournament Director by the Region Commissioner.
- F. Tournament entry fees are non-refundable if cancellation is requested 7 days before the start date of tournament

V. NATIONAL USA VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- A. Entry Fees - It is the commitment of the GCR to assist Junior and Adult Regional Championship Teams in their efforts to attend the National Championship Tournaments, by reimbursing the entry for junior participation in their respective tournament and partial reimbursement for adult participation in their respective tournament.
- B. Entry Fee Reimbursement -To be eligible to receive the reimbursement for National Championship Tournaments in the Adult and Junior Division a Team/Club must:
 - 1. Participate in all schedule matches and work duties fulfilling these duties in accordance to USA Volleyball and the Gulf Coast Region Policy and Procedures.
 - 2. Submit an article to the Region Office about the National Tournament experience:
 - a. Number of Players and Parents in travel party
 - b. Highlights of Tournament / Place of Finish/ Total Tournament field
 - c. Places traveled to

Once the aforementioned has been received by the Region Office a reimbursement check will be presented to the Club/Team.

VI. AIDS & COVID - THE UNIVERSAL PRECAUTION FOR COACHES

- A. Using Barrier Precautions - Wear rubber gloves whenever touching open skin, blood, body fluids, or mucous membranes. Change gloves after contact with each athlete. You may wear a mask or protective eye wear if the care you are giving is likely to produce droplets of blood or body fluids. These barriers will prevent exposure of the mucous membranes of the mouth, nose, or eyes to the blood or body fluid.
- B. Washing Hands - Wash your hands with soap and water immediately after exposure to blood or body fluids, even if you used gloves.
- C. Cleaning Surfaces - Any surface (i.e., counter, floor, pool deck, wrestling mat) must be thoroughly washed after blood has come in contact with it. Use a household bleach solution of one part bleach to 10 parts water as a cleaner.
- D. Disposing of Sharp Objects - You will not be involved in the use of hypodermic needles. However, you may need to dispose of scalpel blades or callus cutters. Place all sharp implements being discarded into a red container specifically designed for disposal of the implements.
- E. Avoiding Contamination - Do not allow athletes to share towels contaminated with blood or bloody body fluids. Provide a receptacle lined with a plastic bag to isolate contaminated washable items before laundering.
- F. Disposing of Soiled Linens - Discard towels and clothing contaminated with blood or bloody body fluids in a receptacle designed for that purpose. These materials should be

double-bagged and handled as infective material by laundry personnel. The items should be washed in detergent with hot water.

- G. Covering Wounds - Be sure that all athletes' wounds are well covered before practice and competition. Not only will the bandage protect the injured site, but it will also decrease the probability of others coming in contact with the athlete's blood.
- H. Providing CPR - Although saliva has a very low risk of AIDS virus transmission, the use of breathing bags and masks allows additional protection in that CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) can be performed effectively without mouth-to-mouth contact.
- I. Providing Care when You have an Open Wound - If **you** have an open wound (especially on the hands) avoid providing first aid care of another's injuries involving bleeding and body fluids until your wound is healed. If you must care for an athlete, wear gloves.
- J. Where Can I Get More Information On AIDS? - there are numerous sources of additional information about AIDS & COVID. Your doctor and other health providers can answer your questions, the Center for Disease Control has website information that can be found at www.CDC.com
- K. Wearing of protective face coverings and gloves is always recommended as a safety measure for those that are subject to immune deficiencies

NOTE: Adapted from guidelines provided by the U.S. Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control.

VIL CONCUSSIONS AWARENESS & RECOGNITION

- A. What is a Concussion - It is an injury that changes how the cells in the brain normally work.
- B. What are the Causes - A person receives a blow to the head or body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the skull.
- C. Recognizing a possible Concussion - Impact of the blow to head or body as well as any change in behavior, thinking and physical functions. A person may lose consciousness or remain alert and conscious.
 - 1. Signs observed by coaching staff
 - a. Appears dazed or stunned
 - b. Moves clumsily
 - c. Can't remember events before or after
 - d. Unsure of game score or situation
 - 2. Signs reported by athlete
 - a. Headache or "pressure in head
 - b. Double or blurred vision
 - c. Balance problems
 - d. Memory problems

e. Sensitivity to noise and light

D. Concussion Action Plan

1. Remove athlete from play
2. Evaluate right away by a trained appropriate health care provider
3. Inform immediately athletes parents about the concussion and give facts
4. Only allow athlete to return with permission of health care professional

E. Prevention and Preparation

1. Educate athletes and parents about concussions
2. Insist that safety comes first
3. Teach athletes and parents that it's not smart to play with a concussion

F. Concussion Education Materials

1. Center for Disease Control Website www.cdc.gov/concussion/sports
2. USA Volleyball Website www.usavolleyball.org
3. Region Website www.gulfcoastvolleyball.org

VIII. TOURNAMENTS AND METHODS OF PLAY

- A. Double elimination tournaments are not recommended because of the limited play potential for weaker teams. Round-robin tournaments are recommended because all teams are guaranteed a reasonable number of games and because it is more practical for assignment of officials.
- B. A multi-court round-robin in the same classification requires a championship playoff. A single court round-robin in the same classification does not require a playoff.
- C. When round-robin competition is scheduled, a maximum of five (5) teams will be accepted for each available court.
- D. When round-robin play qualifies teams for playoffs, it is suggested that all teams entered and playing shall advance to the playoffs. If pool play eliminates teams then the top two must advance to playoffs. In all formats ties for advancement and or elimination must be decided by a one set playoff for advancement to a gold medal flighted championship.
- E. When two four-team brackets are used, a championship and consolation pool may be formed from the first round-robin competition. When two four-team brackets are used with teams of different classifications, playoffs for each classification shall be scheduled.
- F. On two day tournaments ALL efforts should be made for ALL teams to play at least two contest on the second day.
- G. Finals should be scheduled to begin no later than 6:00 p.m.

IX. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING

A. Scheduling of matches must be realistic. Time allotments recommended with 10-minute warmup periods of 4-4-2:

Two 25-point games	40 minutes
Two or three 25-point games, 15 pt deciding game	52 minutes

B. Three additional minutes of warmup time shall be allotted for the first match for each team except in facilities that provide an adequate warm up area not in conflict with playing areas.

C. Teams must be ready to play when their matches are sequentially scheduled, regardless of the time. EXCEPTION: The first match of the day for each team when a specific time is given on the tournament schedule.

D. In scheduling warm up time, it is required that one team be scheduled on the court at a time for a specified period with the serving team using the court for the first period. Serving if deemed by tournament director can be shared.

E. Forfeit times and procedures as outlined in the current USAV rules will prevail.

F. Officiating assignments, when possible, should be made so that a team officiates after playing a match, rather than before playing. The following schedules are examples:

5 Teams (1 Court) 10 Total Matches	4 Teams (1 Court) 6 Total Matches	6 Teams (2 Courts) 15 Total Matches	
		Court 1	Court 2
1. 2-5 (3) 6. 4-5 (1)	1. 2-3 (4) 4. 1-3 (4)	1. 4-6 (1)	1. 3-5 (2)
2. 1-4 (2) 7. 2-3 (4)	2. 1-4 (3) 5. 3-4 (2)	2. 1-6 (4)	2. 2-5 (3)
3. 3-5 (1) 8. 1-5 (2)	3. 2-4 (1) 6. 1-2 (3)	3. 1-4 (6)	3. 2-3 (5)
4. 2-4 (5) 9. 3-4 (5)		4. 4-5 (1)	4. 3-6 (2)
5. 1-3 (4) 10. 1-2 (3)		5. 1-5 (3)	5. 2-6 (4)
		6. 1-3 (5)	6. 2-4 (6)
		7. 3-4 (1)	7. 5-6 (2)
		8. 1-2 (3)	

X. DETERMINATION OF PLAYOFF TEAMS

The tie-breaking procedure to be used in the Gulf Coast Region is the method outlined in the USAV Rule Book.

XI. CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES

- A. Open Division: Teams of consistent national level caliber.
- B. AA Division: Teams in this classification shall be adjudged to be the superior talent in a Region and, under normal circumstances, be of National caliber level. Teams in this classification should have the competency to play high level inter-regional competition.
- C. A Division: Teams with players of advanced skills, not yet of Open Division caliber and well above the current level of play, shall be adjudged to be in this Division of play.
- D. BB Division: Teams with skilled players but not as advanced in technical and tactical skill as A Division.
- E. B Division: Teams of players who are knowledgeable about the game but lack the physical diversity of height and speed as exist in Divisions A & BB.

GULF COAST REGION MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Regular Member

All players, coaches, managers, referees, scorers, chaperones, and trainers who wish to participate in USAV sanctioned events.

Junior Athlete

The following age groups shall be in effect for players other than college students who, regardless of age, are not eligible to compete in sanctioned Junior Volleyball events, unless amended by action as specified in article X, E2, e(l) of the operating code. Athletes need not be currently enrolled in high school except as noted below.

BOYS AND GIRLS DIVISIONS

18 and Under Division: Players born on or after **July 1, 2005**, or high school students in **grade 12** or below during the current academic year and are 19 years of age or younger of the current season.

17 and Under Division: Players born on or after **July 1, 2006**

16 and Under Division: Players born on or after **July 1, 2007**

15 and Under Division: Players born on or after **July 1, 2008**

14 and Under Division: Players born on or after **July 1, 2009**

13 and Under Division: Players born on or after **July 1, 2010**

12 and Under Division: Players born on or after **July 1, 2011**

11 and Under Division: Players born on or after **July 1, 2012**

BOYS ONLY

As stated in the Board of Directors directive on June 30, 2020, to allow only regionally waived boys in the **14 and Under** age groups to participate at the USA Volleyball Junior National Championship Tournament using the following age/grade definitions:

14 and Under Division: Players born on or after **July 1, 2008** (15 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the eighth grade (8th) during the current academic year. (This exception is based on the net height difference of 7' 4 1/8" to 7'11 5/8" between the 14 and under division to the 15 and under division)

Classification of Teams

Regular Team: May be composed entirely of regular members or a combination of regular members and junior members.

Junior Team: All members of the team must meet the age requirements. A junior age player may be a member of a regular team and pay the junior player fee.

Junior Team in Adult Tournament: 18 year old Junior Teams may play in adult tournaments. They are entitled to enter on a first-come-first-served basis in **Open, A, BB** and **B** Divisions and will be entitled to awards. They may enter the adult regional championships by invitation as an exhibition team, but may not be eligible for awards or championship privileges. 17's and below may not play in adult tournaments--exception: Junior Boys.

Adult Club Team: Adult teams may play under the club concept. Clubs are formed to provide players a better opportunity to play and attend more tournaments. A club may not consist of more than 30 members. Players in the club must consist of members from the same metropolitan area. Players may move from one team in the club to another, providing the teams are the same level (**B, BB**, etc.). An **A** player should not move down to **BB** or **B** teams. Each team (playing unit) must register with the region and provide a list of players. EXAMPLE: Club Pensacola has 28 members and four teams; therefore, we shall have Club Pensacola with Team Red, Team Blue, Team White or any team name desired. Each team (playing unit) shall register with the Region office under the club with its team name.

Adult Club Team: The purpose of the club concept is to allow some flexibility for

players in the same club that may not have sufficient players on one team to enter a tournament to move players from another team in the same club in order to field a team.

HOW TO REGISTER IN THE GULF COAST REGION

Register Online at: www.gulfcoastvolleyball.org

Contact Region Registrar: Email: gcrcommish@gmail.com
Region Office
251-979-4287

Contact Region Office: Philip Bryant, Commissioner
Gulf Coast Region, USAV
Post Office Box 1985
Orange Beach, Alabama 36561
Phone: (251) 979-4287
Email: gcrcommish@gmail.com

Adult Regular Member/Junior Coach	\$75.00
Adult / Junior One Event	\$30.00
Official	\$90.00
Chaperone	\$65.00
Junior Member	\$95.00
Background Screen for Junior Club Coach, Region Official, Club Staff and Region Staff-screen every	\$50.00

2023-2024 ON-LINE MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION IN THE GULF COAST REGION

This season the region will be exclusively continuing on line registration. The steps will be as follow.

- A. Region Participant will input the data onto the online registration server. Membership will pay for all member categories on-line with choice of Credit Cards (Visa and Mastercard).
- ALL MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE**
- B. Director can go on-line to update data, run roster reports, secure USAV #'s, export AES registration for National Tournament registration, etc.. The region will no longer send roster reports to directors, unless requested.
- C. Junior Club Directors will have their Adult Members perform all background screening

online. Adult Membership of Junior Clubs will:

1. Go online and submit Full or Supplemental Background Screening Consent Form.
2. All results will be emailed to region office.

D. Adult and Junior Membership Fee: All Members must register online and pay by credit card at time of registration. During the registration process a junior regular member may mark undecided, if they plan to attend multiple team tryouts. Once selected they may change the club affiliation to reflect chosen club.

E. **All fees paid online for membership are non-refundable**

Additional information concerning registration may be obtained from the Region Registrar or Regional Office.

Junior Team Registration Fee - \$90.00 per Team

All teams must register prior to any play. The sanction season begins November 1 and ends August 31. All team rosters will be frozen at the Regional Championships on the Thursday proceeding play.

A Junior Member in a club can move from team to team within that club, however must participate in at least two GCR Tournaments to be eligible for participation in the regional championship.

WHAT YOU RECEIVE AS A CLUB of USA VOLLEYBALL and the GULF COAST REGION

Officiating Clinics: Clinics are held throughout the Region at selected sites as requested by Club Director.

Sanctioned Tournaments: You and your team may participate in a full schedule of indoor and outdoor tournaments in the Gulf Coast Region and adjoining regions. Your support helps upgrade the quality of competition in our Region.

USAV Rule Book: Each Regular Adult Team receives two copies of the USAV Rule Book. Each Junior Team receives one copy per team.

Gulf Coast Region Member Handbook: Each club will receive a copy of the handbook which should be copied and distributed to each coach. It can be copied and distributed to club members at the club's discretion.

National USAV Online Magazine: Each Regular member will receive a subscription to USA Volleyball's Quarterly Magazine

Region Administration: Your membership makes it possible for the Region to provide administrative services, tournaments, and clinics necessary for the promotion and expansion of volleyball in the Region.

National Administration: Your membership gives vital support to USAV, its officers and staff, and makes possible the services necessary for the growth and development of volleyball in the USA.

Insurance: All Registered members are covered by USAV's Insurance Policy. That policy is listed on the forms page of both USA Volleyball and the Gulf Coast Region's websites

REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Season	Adult		Junior		TOTAL
	M	F	M	F	
2022	150	547	81	3568	4346

Season	Adult		Junior		TOTAL
	M	F	M	F	
2023	178	609	98	3969	4854

Region 2021-2022 Membership Goal was 4,300...WE DID IT by 46 members...GREAT JOB GC
Region 2022-2023 Membership Goal is 4,800...WE DID IT AGAIN by 54 members...AWESOME
Region 2023-2024 Membership Goal is 5,000 adult and junior members...WE CAN DO IT!!!!

Where Regional Money is Spent

A certain amount of the fees collected are returned to USAV as admin fees the remainder are utilized in the Gulf Coast Region. Below are some of the earmarks that are sponsored by these funds:

1. Regional Championship Programs
2. Website and Marketing
3. Tournament Schedule
4. Officiating Clinics
5. Funding Teams to National and HP Championships
6. USAV Coaching Education Programs - CAP & BCAP
7. Region Sponsored Tournaments Indoor and Beach
8. Regional Championships
9. Awards
10. Junior Development
11. Officials Development and the GCR 3E Officials Mentoring Program
12. Grassroot Programs
13. Administrative Expenses and Insurance
14. Travel Expenses for the Regional Officials to Conduct Region Business
15. High Performance Program - Beach & Indoor
16. Beach Program
17. NCAA Collegiate Beach National Championship

GULF COAST REGION OFFICIAL'S REQUIREMENTS

Provisional Referee:

1. Attend a regional official's clinic and take online training modules .
2. Complete examinations when indicated
3. Receive a satisfactory rating as an official during two matches, one as a first referee and one as a second referee. Juniors would be rated on the R2 position

Regional Referee:

1. Attend a regional official's clinic.

2. Complete form "A" or "B" written examination with a grade of 80% or above.
3. Receive a satisfactory rating as an official during two matches as a first referee and two matches as a second referee.

GULF COAST REGION 3E OFFICIATING MENTORING PROGRAM **EDUCATE-EVALUATE-EMPOWER**

All Regional and Provisional Officials will join in and be an active and engaged participant in the Gulf Coast Regions Officials Divisions 3E Officials Mentoring Program on an annual bases. This program will require each official both the mentee and mentor to create a collegial value of time share and personal investment to perform at the highest level of officiating and scorekeeping and to educate themselves of the uniqueness of the sport of volleyball, to grow and develop through training and evaluation and to empower the development of all Gulf Coast Region members.

Regional Scorer:

Contact the Gulf Coast Region's Scorekeeper Chair

Gulf Coast Region Scorekeeper Chair
 Lori Lawley
 PO Box 7516
 Spanish Fort, AL 36577
 251-401-0360
 ladvball@yahoo.com

National Referee or National Scorer:

Contact the Gulf Coast Region's Official Chair

Gulf Coast Region Official Chair
 Heather Carnley
 117 Fairway Drive
 Daphne, AL 36526
 251-382-5637
 htcarnley@gmail.com

Recurring Requirements:

1. Referees must attend a clinic each season.
2. Referees must take online course as designed by Officials Chair and USA Volleyball
3. Referees must take a test annually.
4. Referees must take a test for upgrade, Provisional to Regional.
5. Scorers must score each season and test as needed.

GULF COAST REGION COACHES REQUIREMENTS

Junior Olympic Coach

1. Be a 2023-2024 GCR Member in good standing.
2. Complete the required online Officiating modules designed for Junior coaches.
3. Be at least IMPACT Certified prior to February of current season
4. Have on file with club director coaching application form, copy sent to region office.
5. Have verification of the required vehicle insurance if you are transporting J.O. players, filed with the regional office prior to any transportation of players.

- 6 Waive Privacy Act for permission to have a background check performed by USA Volleyball Screening Company (NCSI) yearly and pass the screening process yearly.
- 7 Take the USA Volleyball Online Safe Sport Training Seminar prior to on court participation.
- 8 Be at least IMPACT Coaching Education Certified
- 9 It is the responsibility of the club director to adhere and implement these requirements.

Adult Coach

1. Be a 2023-2024 GCR Member in good standing.
2. Attend a regional official's clinic and complete the require application and online Officiating modules designed for Adult coaches
3. Be at least IMPACT Certified prior to start of Adult season October of current season
4. Have on file with club director coaching application form.
5. It is the responsibility of the club director to adhere and implement these requirements.

GULF COAST REGION CHAPERONE AND VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

1. Be a 2023-2024 GCR Member in good standing.
2. Have the proper USA Volleyball chaperone and volunteer consent forms filled out in their entirety prior to participating in any USA Volleyball organized event, and presented to club director.
3. Waive Privacy Act for permission to have a background check performed by USA Volleyball Screening Company (NCSI) yearly and pass the screening process yearly.
4. Take the USA Volleyball Online Safe Sport Training Seminar prior to January 1st of each year
5. It is the responsibility of the club director to adhere and implement these requirements

GULF COAST REGION HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

The Gulf Coast Region is firmly committed to the promotion and success of the Region's High Performance Program in the disciplines of Court and Beach. It is the region's responsibility to staff and fund the High Performance efforts. The program is a membership benefit for junior players and coaches. Therefore some burden of debt service will rest with those members that participate in the GCR HP Program.

Director:

The Director will be an appointed position by the Executive Branch of the Region and will serve a year to year term from November to August. The HP Director will receive an honorarium for their services. The Director will be responsible for all HP yearly operations.

Advisory Board:

The GCR HP Director will chose an Advisory Board each December who will serve a term from January to August. They will assist the Director in creating the HP Program, assist in Player Development, Identification and Retention of HP talented players. It will be the responsibility of the Advisory Board to promote the HP Program in their club as well as other clubs and players in their geographic local

GULF COAST REGION MISSION of GOODWILL

The Gulf Coast Region is committed to the promotion of goodwill in all clubs. It is paramount to our success. Therefore, it is the region's position that all business arrangements between families and club, be disclosed and contracted in writing between all parties. Furthermore, it is the region's position that recruiting of participants from other clubs in any form is a violation of Gulf Coast Region and USA Volleyball policy. If found the purveyor of such, then elimination sanctioning will be imposed. It is the job of all leadership in the region, Club Directors, Club Staff, Region Staff and Officials to create a climate of shared responsibility, for the advancement of all Clubs and the sport of Volleyball.

GULF COAST REGION MISSION STATEMENT

As a member region of USA Volleyball the National Governing Body (NGB) of the sport of volleyball the Gulf Coast Region is firmly centered in the support of USA Volleyball programming in both the disciplines of Court and Beach Volleyball. It is within each discipline that the Gulf Coast Region provides foundation and advanced programming for all ages of Junior and Adult members. The Gulf Coast Region has a steeped tradition of placing allegiance and support for each grade school season, becoming a resource that families and communities can affiliate with to extend their respective student athletes training in Volleyball through region club's.....thus enhancing the level of play for each school program and the volleyball families they represent.

The Gulf Coast Region is committed to providing each member the opportunity to compete for and if selected to the Gulf Coast Region National High Performance program to compete at the highest level of training in Court and Beach that the region promotes.

The Gulf Coast Region is committed to providing membership training for our Grassroot ages of five to eleven year old's, by hosting Grassroot playdays throughout the regular club season and thus enabling this valuable age group to fall in "love" with the sport for a lifetime.

The Gulf Coast Region is committed to the advancement of members that serve the region as Volleyball Officials by providing prestigious event to call as well as providing upgrade advancement opportunities by virtue of hosting National training clinics and encouraging National level upgrades for both Court and Beach Officials.

The Gulf Coast Region is committed to the advancement of Coaching Education for adult members that coach and train our junior member athletes by hosting USAV Coaching Accreditation Programs as well as providing the emphasis of Safe Sport programming whereas all athletes are able to train and grow in the safest of environments.

The Gulf Coast Region has shared an amazing history of membership support and service to the game and are honored to usher in our fourth decade of programming for the Great Sport of Volleyball" as a USA Volleyball Region.

For additional information, contact the Gulf Coast Regional Office, (251) 979-4287

***gcrcommish@gmail.com
www.gulfcoastvolleyball.org***