

SAFETY | SERVICE | EDUCATION | OPPORTUNITY | GROWTH

court connection

NorthCountry

REGION VOLLEYBALL



WELCOME - KAYLEE HANGER



Kaylee Hanger joined North Country Region November 2025. Kaylee brings experience in sponsorships, operations, indoor and outdoor volleyball, and event management.

UPCOMING EVENTS

REGION QUALIFIER

February 7-8, 2026

Over 100 North Country Region teams will battle to earn a bid to compete at the **2026 USA Volleyball Junior National Championships**.

ALL STAR TRYOUTS

Boys - January 10, 2026
Apple Valley, MN

Girls - February 06, 2026
Minneapolis, MN

Girls & Boys - March 27, 2026
Moorhead, MN

Girls & Boys - April 24, 2026
Sioux Falls, SD

COACH CLINIC

January 9-10, 2026
Minneapolis, MN

Hugh McCutcheon and Mike Wall former and current USAV National Team coaches will lead this GMS coach clinic.



NCR - Boys RTDP | September, 2025 | University of Minnesota

NCR Creates First of its Kind -Region Team Development Program

Modeled after USA Volleyball's National Team Development Program (NTDP), North Country Region brought a similar experience in 2025 to invited Region junior level girls and boys. The unique program's focus is learning with an emphasis on applying USA Volleyball training methods and concepts.

NCR's Region Team Development (RTDP) participants experienced a full weekend of on court training, game scenarios, and classroom volleyball school. While intense, the program is supportive with a growth mindset. Girls RTDP was held in late spring at Monticello High School with Jesse Tupac and his University of North Dakota volleyball staff. Boys RTDP was hosted in September at the University

of Minnesota. Lead coaches were Corey Marks, Rockhurst University, and Jorge Callazo, University of California San Diego.

Coaching staffs were selected by 1) knowledge of USAV training methodologies, 2) willingness to be part of new programming, and 3) recommendations from colleagues around the nation. NCR Region coaches were also invited to participate. Coaches who participated were able to be active on court, participate in RTDP staff discussions, and network with attending coaches.

RTDP provides a pipeline for NCR athletes and coaches to advance their skills and knowledge towards participation in USAV's National Team Development Program.

RTDP Information: www.ncrusav.org/rtdp

Message from the Region Commissioner

North Country Region's Newsletter, Court Connection, has returned. We are thrilled to be able to share Region and USA Volleyball news, events, and information. More importantly, the Region looks forward to a connection with our Region volleyball community.

Eligibility and Safety

New SafeSport Code for 2026

Having taken effect Jan. 1, 2026, the SafeSport Code sets consistent standards for responding to and resolving claims of abuse and misconduct within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement. As members of USA Volleyball, it's essential that we all comply with the policies and procedures outlined in the Code.

The SafeSport Code defines the U.S. Center for SafeSport's authority, the prohibited categories of abuse and misconduct, and the process for addressing and resolving claims.

[CLICK HERE TO READ UPDATED SAFESPORT CODE](#)



How to Set a Positive Vibe and Tone on Your Team

[CLICK HERE FOR ACCESS](#)

NCR Region Bid Breakdown

NCR Girls Junior National Championship Bids			
	National Bid	American Bid	Freedom Bid
Girls 11s	0	1	Not Applicable
Girls 12s	1	2	Not Applicable
Girls 13s	1	2	Not Applicable
Girls 14s	1	2	1
Girls 15s	1	2	1
Girls 16s	1	2	1
Girls 17s	1	2	1
Girls 18s	1	1	1

NCR Boys Junior National Championship Bids	
Age Divisions	USA Bid
Boys 14s	1
Boys 15s	1
Boys 16s	1
Boys 17s	1
Boys 18s	1

Earning a bid to compete at USAV Junior National Championships is analogous to being selected to compete in an NCAA Tournament. It is special! Each Region is allotted a specific number of bids in each age division. Allotment is based on a Region's previous season membership numbers.

NCR All Star Tryouts - January



The NCR All-Stars Indoor High Performance program allows outstanding junior volleyball athletes to train under experienced coaches and compete against the best players from across the country. For region athletes, this is a unique opportunity to showcase skills, gain exposure to college scouts, and represent North Country Region on the national stage in the only international junior volleyball event in the United States - the USA All-Star Championships. MORE INFORMATION: <https://www.ncrusav.org/all-stars>

Officiating and USAV Rules of the Game

15 Substitutions
15 subs will be used at all events in the 2025-26 season USAV scoresheets will be updated and posted soon to the North Country Region and USAV websites.
RATIONALE: Create opportunities for more players to enter the match and allow more playing time for players.

Screening
Serving team is forbidden to raise their hands above the head during service until the ball has passed beyond the net. A warning given will be given by the first official if deliberate screening is suspected.
RATIONALE: Modified to enhance fair play and as a safety precaution.

Libero Designation
A team can designate zero, one, or two Liberos for each set.
RATIONALE: Create more flexibility in team lineups and allow teams to use more players in the Libero position if desired.

Double Contacts
At the second hit of the team, the ball may contact various parts of the body consecutively, provided that the contacts occur during one action, and the ball is next touched by a teammate.
RATIONALE: To allow multiple contacts on a team's second hit if the ball is next contacted by a teammate. To allow more exciting rallies and reduce the number of rallies ended by a fault.

J.O.T. EVENTS

Junior Officiating Training (J.O.T.) are NCR hosted one day junior tournaments born out of a want and need to assist NCR coaches and players with applying USAV Rules of the Game. North Country Region provides an NCR-USAV Certified Official to work directly with work teams, provide in person assistance, and share evaluative officiating feedback. If your team is looking for a lower priced tournament and officiating assistance, then register for a J.O.T. tournament and grow your team's game.

Respect the game. Let the officials and work teams concentrate on the game. Spectators and fans support the team and each player.

Get Involved!

Interested in joining a club, officiating, volunteering at an event, or starting something new? Check out our website and contact memberships@ncrusav.org.

