

court connection

PRESENTED BY NORTH COUNTRY REGION VOLUME II ISSUE III

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Cassie and Ellie Sieling at the 2019 USA Volleyball Junior Beach Championships

SIELING SISTERS INVITED TO USA VOLLEYBALL BEACH HIGH PERFORMANCE TRAINING TEAMS

The 2020 volleyball season marked a lot of resilience and adaptation for many in the volleyball world. Two North Country Region junior members did not allow postponed tryout dates to get in the way of their goals to be a part of USA Volleyball's High Performance Program.

Each prepared a video to serve as a tryout for the USAV High Performance Beach Evaluators and Coaches. They were recently named to national training teams. Cassie was placed on the U17 A2 roster and Ellie on the U17 A3 roster. **READ MORE on PAGE 3.**

$$V = Q + S$$

(VALUE) = (QUALITY) + (SERVICE)

\$ (COST)

Commitment Driven

With so many unknowns, the Region is committed to providing you value for your membership and will continue creating unique, safe & trendsetting opportunities for all our members.

NORTH COUNTRY REGION
USA VOLLEYBALL

Reinvesting in You

When you invest in an NCR-USAV Membership or attend an NCR Event, you receive a tangible return on your investment - the Region, a non-profit entity, reinvests time, efforts & finances back into creating opportunities for YOU!

Growing the Game

During a difficult season, NCR responded by creating innovative opportunities for our members to connect, learn, train, play, officiate & grow including personal meetings with USAV national players & creation of the Rally Together blog & the FFPL. Further leading-edge ideas are in process including Power Leagues, King of the Court competitions & the DPL.



Personal Service

Region Staff responds to your needs & concerns personally & promptly, walking you through whatever is needed to promote a successful experience.



National Team Connections

NCR is the ONLY local entity with the ability to connect you directly with National Team Training, Educational & Competitive opportunities under the guidance of National Team Coaches & Officials.



Register today and become our newest member!

If you wish to learn more about our team and our services, please visit our official website at ncrusav.org or contact us!

2+2=4

Education

Multiple educational opportunities are offered to players, officials, coaches & club directors, many of which are FREE, and all of which relieve coaches & club directors of this additional responsibility.



Strategic Collaborations

Streaming, highlight videos, recruiting & fundraising services are just a few of the philanthropic partnerships facilitated for NCR members and NCR affiliated clubs.



2021 Tournament Information



FIND AN NCR TOURNAMENT [CLICK HERE](#)

Under the guidance of USA Volleyball, our clubs and teams can be assured that when they compete, the competition level is **APPROPRIATE**, play is **FAIR** and opportunities are **LIMITLESS**

- athletes are playing at their appropriate age level and are following the eligibility rules set forth for the sport of volleyball by USAV
- officials, coaches and athletes receive ongoing training on the rules of the sport of volleyball as provided by USAV
- because of the rigorous standards that NCR members are held to, our teams are able to register for non-USAV tournaments - thus providing additional playing opportunities
- however, because teams participating in our tournaments are required to meet such rigorous standards, NCR does NOT allow non-USAV teams to compete
- only USAV member athletes, coaches and officials are directly connected to USA Volleyball thus providing them with access to opportunities to play, coach or officiate at the highest levels of our sport if that is their personal goal



USAVolleyball

USA Volleyball National Qualifiers
[CLICK HERE](#)

18s Girls Junior National Championships
April 23-25, 2021 Columbus, Ohio



Girls Junior National Championships
June 26 -July 5, 2021 Las Vegas, Nevada



Boys Junior National Championships
June 30 - July 7, 2021 Kansas City, MO



continued from Page 1 (Sieling Sisters)

What names do you like to go by?

Our names are Cassie and Ellie Sieling and our beach nicknames are Fire and Ice! (Ellie has red hair and Cassie has blonde hair).

Where were you born (City, State)?

We were born and raised in Bloomington, MN.

High School?

We go to Jefferson High School and are currently juniors there. (Bloomington, MN)



What year did you start playing volleyball? Where?

We started playing indoor volleyball in 2nd grade. We started playing at higher level clubs when we were 13 and we now play for Vital. We also started playing beach volleyball when we were 13. We have never played for a beach club before.

What do you like most about beach volleyball?

Ellie- my favorite thing about beach volleyball is that it's my favorite sport but I get to play it outside and in the sun! I love how there are so many different factors like the wind that aren't incorporated in indoor volleyball.

Cassie- my favorite thing about beach volleyball is that it is just two people on the court so you touch the ball every single play.

What are your volleyball goals for high school? Club?

Ellie- my goal is to win our conference and the section finals! We might not be able to if our season gets shut down soon :(For club season this year, we are travelling a lot and playing in higher level tournaments. I am really excited for our club season and want to aim for first place in a lot of our tournaments.



Cassie- my goal for high school is to win our section final (even if we don't have the state tournament). My goal for club season is to place in at least the top 5 in all of our tournaments because we are playing a lot of tournaments with good competition that will push us, but I think our team will be very good this year!

Favorite beach volleyball moment(s)?

Ellie- one of my favorite tournaments was the USA 16U Beach Nationals at Manhattan Beach, CA. Cassie and I tied for 17th but this tournament was a turning point for us. We hadn't even learned to block yet and we saw how much we still had to learn. I think that tournament pushed me to be a better beach player and work harder.

Cassie- my favorite tournament we've played in is Seaside (in Oregon). We had trained a lot since our last out of state tournament, and we had gotten way better at blocking. Ellie and I just played so well together, and we ended up getting 2nd. This was a big accomplishment because I realized that even though we don't get as much training as the other girls who play all year round, we can still play at their level and stick with them.

The Sieling Sisters seem to be moving towards beach volleyball as their path to the podium. Is this true? If so, then what pulls you toward beach more than indoor?

Moving on to being college athletes, we want to be able to play indoor and beach during our career. We love both sports too much to just play one in college!



Junior Club Director



MEMBER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM RESOURCES

The Region continues to update, create, and provide resources to club directors and administrators to assist with learning USA Volleyball's Member Management System (MMS). One of the roles of the Region is serve as a conduit for a Region member to purchase his/her NCR and USA Volleyball membership.

SportsEngine and USA Volleyball along with three Region Commissioners have worked three years for this launch. While not yet perfect, the MMS serves the club director:

- by allowing the club to invite participants and therefore have more control of the club sign up/registration process
- by allowing the club director to view who has or has not completed roster eligibility requirements
- by providing a method to only roster once with USA Volleyball and utilizing the approved roster to submit to tournaments via AES and other event management platforms
- by establishing a simple way to communicate with club participants through SportsEngine messaging capabilities

North Country Region has been and continues to be very VOCAL with the MMS Committee about where the system can improve and how SportsEngine customer service can be a more robust partner in assisting each member with the System.

Please continue your feedback both the positive and the critical. We do pass much of it forward to SportsEngine to assist them in their process of making the user experience more intuitive and more enjoyable.

SPORTSENGINE (SE) ASSISTANCE

CLICK BELOW FOR MORE ASSISTANCE

Club & SE Governing Season Set-Up Guide

USAV Organization Admin Guide (Freemium)

USAV Organization Admin Guide (SE Premium Customers)

Individual Task Information

Assigning Roles to Club Staff Members in SE

Assigning "Governing Season Admin" Role to NCR

My SportsEngine Access

Getting Started in SE Governing Season

Creating Team Names/Rank in SE Governing Season

Creating & Submitting Rosters in SE Governing Season

Roster Creation - Video Assistance

Creating Groups from Member Directory

ADVANCED EVENT SYSTEMS (AES) ASSISTANCE

Integrating & Syncing AES with SE Governing Season - Phase 15

Individual Task Information

AES Account Creation

Creating Team Names/Rank in AES

Integrating Club SportsEngine & AES Accounts

Integrating SE Governing Season with AES

Pairing Club's AES Teams & Governing Season Teams



Official News

Growing and Supporting Officials

The **2021 season** marks the Region's second year of a strategic plan to support and grow the Region's pool of certified officials. We nearly met our goals for 2020 despite the slow down and eventually cancellation of Events due to Covid 19.

Beth Modaff - NCR's Officials Coordinator serves the Region as the lead contact for officials and officiating education.

Travis Karlin - NCR's Officials Chair. The role serves as a non-voting, compensated position on the Region's Board of Directors. The Officials Chair works directly with USA Volleyball Officials Director and NCR's Official Coordinator to ensure that information is communicated and officiating courses are pertinent to our Region officials and members.



GROW YOUR OFFICIATING GAME AND BUSINESS

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)




2021 USAV OFFICIALS NATIONAL TRAINING CAMP



hosted by NCR-USAV
February 5-7, 2021
Bloomington, MN

Register today!



EARN EXTRA MONEY Let the Region be a part of your journey to being a USA Volleyball Certified Official.

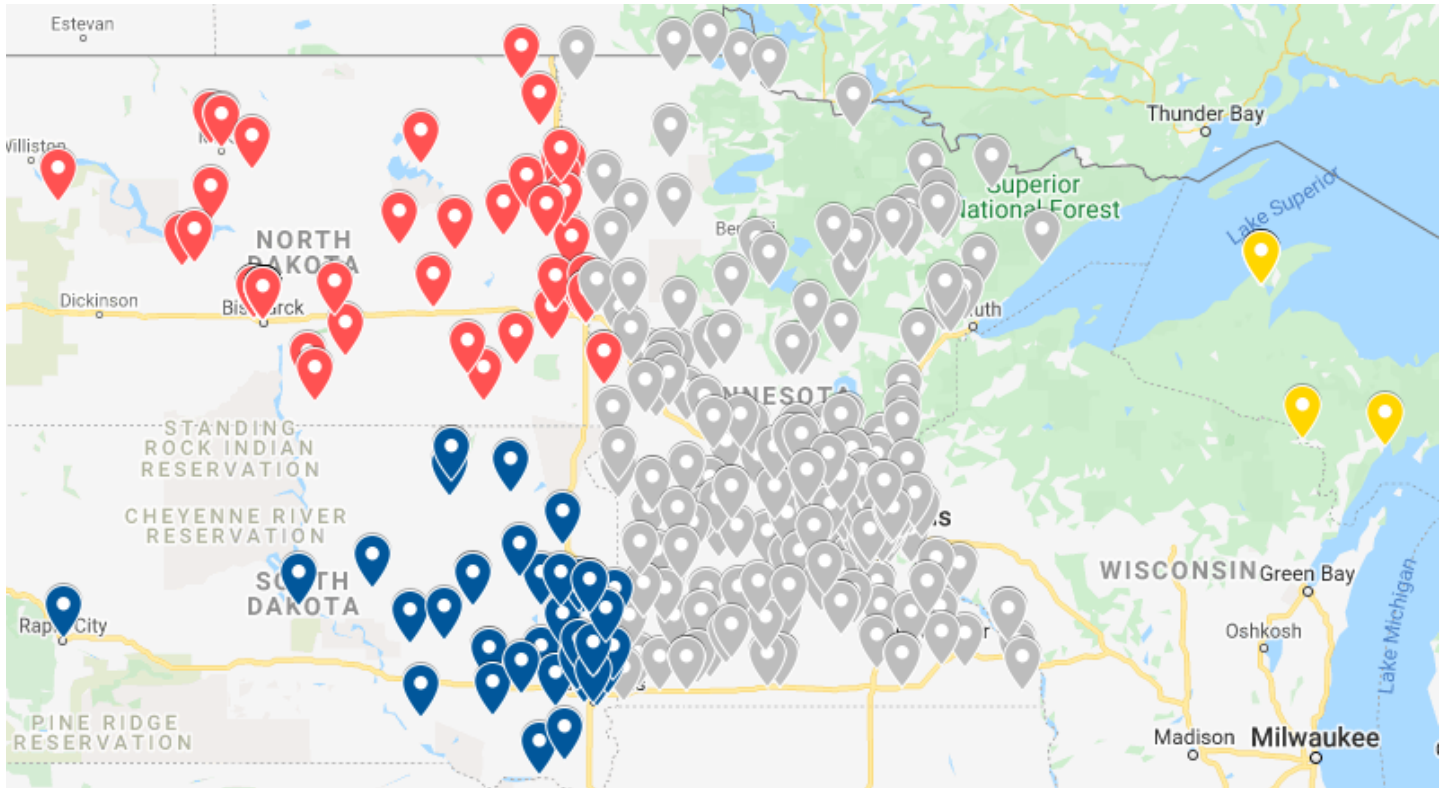
- personal support from the Region
- annual rules meeting
- training opportunities
- average minimum pay for a day's work \$100

Opportunities for Paid Officials: North Country Region has multiple opportunities for officials during the 2021 club season.

 NCR 2020-2021 OFFICIATING OPPORTUNITIES	
 1/23-24/2021 REGISTER IN AES	 2/6-7/2021 REGISTER WITH MVOA
 3/6-7/2021 REGISTER IN AES	 3/6-7/2021 REGISTER IN AES
 4/24-25/2021 REGISTER WITH MVOA	 4/24-25/2021 REGISTER WITH MVOA
 4/24-25/2021 REGISTER WITH MVOA	 5/15-16/2021 REGISTER WITH MVOA

NORTH COUNTRY REGION PARENT & PLAYER RESOURCES

4 STATES | 14,500 + MEMBERS | OVER 250 CLUBS



QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CLUB AND YOURSELF

- What is the club's philosophy? To win? To Improve? To have fun?
- How do you select your players?
- What age groups do you offer? How many teams do you have at each level?
- Is your club compliant with USA Volleyball - NCR safety protocols?
- Who are the coaches for my child/s age level? How many coaches per team?
- How is playing time allocated? Can athletes play up?
- What are your club dues? Is there a payment schedule? What is the refund policy?
- What is covered in the club dues?
- Are there any other financial obligations? Travel arrangements?
- Is there a fundraising opportunity?
- Will you allow the athlete to play the position he/she wants? Is it up to the coach to make the decision?
- Do your players keep the uniforms?
- Does the club offer private lessons, strength training, speed/agility training?
- How often is practice? Are practices mandatory?
- Are players allowed to play other sports while in your club?
- What if my child misses a tournament or a practice?
- How long is your season? Do you offer beach opportunities?
- How far will the team travel?
- Is the club a non-profit organization and established as such with the state government?
- Is there a board of directors?

Collect this information for several clubs so you can discuss and make a great choice!

NORTH COUNTRY REGION PARENT & PLAYER RESOURCES

CLUB BUDGET EXAMPLE

- Annual club fee (ask what sort of payment plans are offered).
- Uniforms (sometimes included in annual fee)
- North Country Region - USA Volleyball fee
- Travel, Lodging, hotels, airline tickets, food
- Team wear - extra gear that is not required but is great to have - club/team hoodies, t-shirts, hats, etc
- Team related gatherings - food, hair ties, backpacks,, fun team projects

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

- What does my child want to get out of the club experience?
- Does my child want to play in high school? At what level in high school?
- Does my child want to play volleyball after high school? If so, what level?
- What is my child's priorities for time management: school, free time, job, other hobbies
- Is my child able to keep up with school work
- Can our family afford the program we choose
- How important is it that we, as parents, travel with our child? Can we save money if our child travels with the team?

COMMON CLUB VOLLEYBALL MYTHS

Myth 1 - It's about the club, not the coaches. The reputation of the club your child plays for is important, but it does not guarantee the coach your athlete will play for is skilled and/or right for you. Understand the philosophies, reputation, style, and character of the coach your athlete will be playing for. Interview the coach if necessary. Speak with other players and parents who played for the coach in the past. Also ask yourself, is this person someone you want your child to spend time with? Is this a person of integrity and character?

Myth 2 - The more expensive the club fees the better the club/coaching and the more you get. After all isn't the saying "you get what you pay for...." true? Not always. Some clubs charge more because they must cover their overhead (salaries for full time employees), turn a profit and/or pay more for gym rentals. Other clubs charge more because they were formed by a sports complex as a way of filling gym time.

Myth 3 - Playing club for your high school coach's club ensure playing time on the high school team. Fact: the best players will play regardless of the club they play for. Sometimes playing club for your high school coach can be a negative. High School coaches sometime 'pigeon hole' or 'slot' players into the certain positions based on their biases or need they are trying to fill for the high school team and not necessarily the best position for your child. It is sometimes a good idea to get a fresh look from a different coach.

Myth 4: Playing in tournaments across the country provides more exposure to college coaches. While it is true many college coaches attend national tournaments, a LARGE majority of the players from this area who continue to play in college did not participate in national tournaments.

USA VOLLEYBALL JUNIOR PLAYER AGE DEFINITION

For use during the 2020-2021 Season

To determine the correct age division, please find the Month of Birth in the left column and then the year of birth in the same row. The heading of the column matching the Year of Birth is the correct age bracket.

	18 & Under ¹	18 & Under ²	17 & Under	16 & Under	15 & Under ³	14 & Under ⁴	13 & Under ⁵	12 & Under	11 & Under	10 & Under	9 & Under	8 & Under
July	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Aug	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Sept	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Oct	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Nov	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Dec	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Jan	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Feb	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Mar	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Apr	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
May	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
June	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013

¹ Players who were born on or after July 1, 2002 OR players who were born on or after July 1, 2001 and a high school student in the twelfth (12th) grade or below during some part of the current academic year.

² **Female Only** - Players who were born on or after July 1, 2002, (who are defined as 18 & under by the USAV Age Definition) and are in the 11th grade for the current academic year are waived to compete in 17 & under. (This age waiver is based on recruiting concerns for 11th grade girls previously required to participate in girls 18's qualifiers and the 18's GJNC.)

³ **Male Only** - Players who were born on or after July 1, 2006 OR players who were born on or after July 1, 2005 (15 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the eighth (8th) grade during the current academic year are eligible to play in the 14 & Under division. 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.

⁴ **Male Only** - Players who were born on or after July 1, 2006 (14 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the seventh grade (7th) during the current academic year are eligible for a Region approved waiver to compete in the boys 13's age group.

⁵ **Male Only** - Players who were born on or after July 1, 2007 (13 years or younger) who shall neither have completed nor are in a grade higher than the sixth grade (6th) during the current academic year are eligible for a Region approved waiver to compete in the boys 12's age group.

IS YOUR CLUB PREPARED?

QRG is Your Partner for All Things COVID

ESSENTIAL PPE PRODUCTS

Keep your players, parents, coaches and staff safe.



Hand Sanitizer

Many options available including individual sizes with custom labels to promote your club.

Face Masks

Disposable and reusable masks, imprinted with your logo or blank. Adult and youth sizes.

Signage

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Help remind people to stay 6 ft apart.



Touchless Door Opener

A great tool for players so they are not touching doors.



Mask Holder

A safe place to keep that mask when not wearing it.

MARKETING NEEDS

Branding & Graphic Design Services

We can help you with custom-designed artwork for your apparel, promotional merchandise, events and marketing collateral.

Promotional Merchandise

- Tryout T-shirts
- Water Bottles
- Branded Apparel

Parent Club Introduction Events

- Table Throws
- Media Banners
- Flag Banners

Fund Raising Events

- Tasting Cups
- Bean Bag Toss Games
- Golf Event Items

Did Your Team Qualify for Nationals?

We have cool items under 50 cents!

Ideas to Get Your Brand Out

- Window Decals
- Bag Tags

QRG

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GET STARTED

Contact us for additional information on using Sporfie for your team!

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Vertical Raise is the leader in team and club fundraising, with innovative campaigns that delight fans and exceed your fundraising goals.

We deliver powerful, touchless, online campaigns that raise more money with less work, provide higher and faster payouts, and let teams harvest social media like never before.

Contact North Country Region's Representative and Reference the Region to receive the best customer service!

Tony Camero
641-919-9630
tonyc@verticalraise.com
Fundraising
Coach, Vertical Raise, Inc

We are excited to announce our official fundraising partnership with Vertical Raise!

Vertical Raise offers **cutting-edge crowdfunding technology** designed to help teams raise **more money in less time** with **NO in-person contact**.

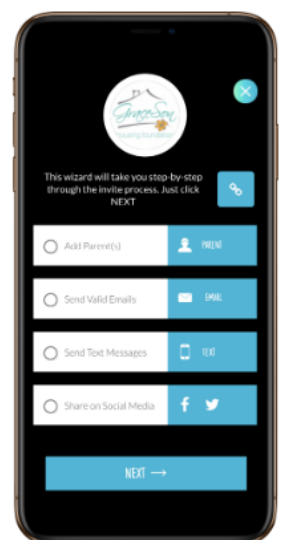
Here are a few of the reasons we chose to partner with Vertical Raise:

- Raise 3x more than outdated traditional fundraising methods
- Average donation is \$70 & average participant raises \$360
- Personalized donor landing page increases recognition by highlighting each participant
- Automated tracking system helps coaches monitor participation
- Mobile-friendly Invite Wizard provides 4 ways to reach out to our community
- Donors choose from 4 easy payment options including Apple Pay & Google Pay

Personalized Donor Landing Page



Invite Wizard gives 4 options to reach donors



[Find Out More!](#)