



***Southern Region
Volleyball Association***

REGION INDOOR HANDBOOK 2023 – 2024

Updated through 09/15/2023

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Copies of Forms, By-Laws, Articles of Incorporation and other information may be obtained on our web site: www.srva.org.

SOUTHERN REGION VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

Region Address: 105 Rounsaville Court, Roswell, GA 30076

ELECTED OFFICERS:

COMMISSIONER / PRESIDENT:	Steve Kenyon	Commish@srva.org	850-409-0708
VICE PRESIDENT:	Jim Kirkpatrick	VicePres@srva.org	256-348-9579
SECRETARY:	Brenda McIntosh	Secretary@srva.org	678-795-0224 844-219-2976

APPOINTED POSITIONS:

REGISTRAR:	Brenda McIntosh	Membership@srva.org	678-795-0224
JUNIOR CHAIR:	Keith Weller	JuniorsChair@srva.org	423-332-2112
INDOOR OFFICIALS' CHAIR:	Mark Prater	OfficialsChair@srva.org	770-883-7868
BEACH OFFICIALS' CHAIR:	Andy Miller	BeachOfficialsChair@srva.org	404-718-0620
JUNIOR TRNMT ASST:	Stephanie Finn	JRTournamentAsst@srva.org	
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR:	Tracy Stevens	SocialMedia@srva.org	
ADMINISTRATIVE ASST	Jacob Prater	AdminAssistant@srva.org	
PLAYER REPRESENTATIVE	Jim Lawson	Player-rep1@srva.org	
PLAYER REPRESENTATIVE	Anthony Marshall	Player-rep2@srva.org	
HP PROGRAM DIRECTOR	Mary Beth Peake	HP-MaryBeth@srva.org	
HP ASSISTANT. PROGRAM DIRECTOR	Shawn Davis	HP-Shawn@srva.org	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

<u>ALABAMA</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>GEORGIA</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>TENNESSEE</u>	<u>Term</u>
Jim Kirkpatrick	7/1/21 – 6/30/24	Garrett Bitter	7/1/23 – 6/30/26	Deidre Brown	7/1/21 – 6/30/24
Apple Kridakorn	7/1/23 – 6/30/25	Emily Brown	7/1/22 – 6/30/25	Shawn Davis	7/1/21 – 6/30/24
Rose Powell	7/1/23 – 6/30/25	Colleen Craig	7/1/22 – 6/30/25	James Lawson	7/1/21 – 6/30/24
		Stephanie Finn	7/1/23 – 6/30/26	Heather LeMay	7/1/21 – 6/30/24
		Shelby Foyer	7/1/22 – 6/30/25	Anthony Marshall	7/1/23 – 6/30/26
		Duane Hill	7/1/21 – 6/30/24	Marsha North	7/1/22 – 6/30/25
		Steve Kenyon	7/1/21 – 6/30/24	Keith Weller	7/1/23 – 6/30/26
		Kevin McClure	7/1/23 – 6/30/26		
		Brenda McIntosh	7/1/21 – 6/30/24		
		Christopher Miller	7/1/23 – 6/30/26		
		Sally Polhamus	7/1/23 – 6/30/26		
		Mary Beth Peake	7/1/23 – 6/30/26		
		Mark Prater	7/1/22 – 6/30/25		
		Michelle Prater	7/1/23 – 6/30/26		
		David Schnieders	7/1/21 – 6/30/24		
		Scott Thompson	7/1/22 – 6/30/25		
		Bob Watson	7/1/22 – 6/30/25		

**SOUTHERN REGION VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION
OPERATING CODE**

I. MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION AND FEES:

A. MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION: Member classifications for the current season have been established by the Southern Region Board of Directors as follows:

Classification of Members	Description of Membership benefits	Fees
ADULT REGULAR MEMBER, ADULT & JUNIOR TEAM COACH, NON-PLAYING JUNIOR COACH, CLUB DIRECTORS & CLUB STAFF	Fee includes; sports accident/liability insurance; participation in sanctioned tournaments, official's clinics and online Impact clinics. <u>DOES NOT INCLUDE THE COST OF THE YEARLY USAV BACKGROUND CHECK.</u>	\$35.00
OFFICIALS	Fee includes USAV Rule Book; sports accident/liability insurance; participation in sanctioned tournaments, official's clinics and online Impact clinics. <u>DOES NOT INCLUDE THE COST OF THE YEARLY USAV BACKGROUND CHECK.</u>	\$35.00
JUNIOR MEMBER	Fee includes sports accident/liability insurance; participation in sanctioned tournaments and official's clinics	\$55.00
JUNIOR BOYS MEMBER	Fee includes sports accident/liability insurance; region newsletter; participation in sanctioned tournaments and official's clinics upon payment of applicable fees.	\$35.00
JUNIOR OUTDOOR/SUMMER PLAYER	Junior Player who wishes to <u>ONLY</u> participate in <u>sanctioned outdoor events & summer activities</u> . Fee includes sports accident/liability insurance and auditing of official's clinics.	\$25.00
ADULT PLAYER, COLLEGIATE PLAYER	An adult/collegiate player or an athlete who wishes to affiliate with USAV.	\$30.00
EVENT WORKERS MEMBERSHIP (JUNIOR TOURNAMENT EVENT STAFF, TRAINERS, SITE DIRECTORS, LINE JUDGES, ON SITE TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION ONLY!!)	<i>Individuals working SRVA/USA Volleyball sanctioned events. It does not allow for participation in a player role or as a rostered adult for any Region/USA Volleyball sanctioned event. <u>DOES NOT INCLUDE THE COST OF YEARLY USAV BACKGROUND CHECK.</u> Allows for free access to <u>MANDATORY SafeSport Training.</u></i>	\$15.00
YOUTH MEMBER	11 years old and under during the entire membership season Regionally sanctioned play only (indoor/outdoor). NOT eligible to play in national level events (Qualifiers, JNC, National High Performance teams/camps, etc.)..	\$20.00
U8 YOUTH MEMBER	8 years of age and under during the entire membership season Regionally sanctioned play only (indoor/outdoor). NOT eligible to play in national level events (Qualifiers, JNC, National High Performance teams/camps, etc.)..	FREE
JUNIOR TRYOUT	Fee includes sports accident/liability insurance; allows <u>ONLY</u> for participation in Region sanctioned club volleyball tryouts. Fully upgradeable to regular membership. <u>Tryout membership fee is credited towards upgrade price</u>	\$10.00

OTHER FEES:		
Club Transfer Fee	See II. E. Below	\$50.00
SRVA Returned Check Handling Fee	See II. A.	\$20.00
Late Tournament Registration Fee	Charged to any team registering after a tournament deadline	\$25.00
National Tournament Penalty Fee	For any team that fails to register properly for a national tournament with SRVA. See X. A.	\$100.00
Tournament Director Late Fee	Failure to supply Region with gym locations and directions two weeks prior to the tournament. See IV. D.	minimum \$100.00
Failure to Officiate	Team fails to officiate after their play is completed.	\$100.00
Failure to Attend Tournament	Team fails to attend tournament without proper notification. See XII. D	\$100.00
Failure to Accept bid at Bid tournament	. See X. C. 3. c.	Natl team entry fee

B. DIVISIONS OF COMPETITION (Indoor & Outdoor): USAV Divisions of sanctioned competition are:

- 1) MEN’S DIVISION: Teams comprised ONLY of eligible male athletes.
- 2) WOMEN’S DIVISION: Teams comprised ONLY of eligible female athletes.
- 3) MIXED-SIX/COED DIVISION: Teams comprised of eligible female and male athletes which are consistent with USAV Rules of Competition. Junior players may participate in adult coed tournaments with parent’s written permission.
- 4) JUNIOR DIVISION: Teams comprised of eligible members in the approved age division for male and female members.
- 5) OUTDOOR: Grass, sand or similar tournaments usually consisting of 2 to 4 player teams and primarily playing during the summer months.

II. REGISTRATION OF MEMBERS AND TEAMS:

A. MEMBER/TEAM REGISTRATION

The registration process for clubs, teams and individuals is accomplished through SportsEngine.

SRVA reserves the right to publish officiating, coaching, background check and SafeSport information. Membership is not active until SRVA receives confirmation that all requirements have been met from USAV and is valid through August 31. Each indoor team must be comprised of at least six regular members. Indoor club affiliation is separate from beach club affiliation.

All individuals associated with junior activities such as Club Directors, Club Administrators, Team Reps, Coaches, Chaperones, Trainers, Officials, and any junior Tournament Director/Site Director/On-Site Tournament Administrator/Manager must complete SafeSport Core training or SafeSport Refresher courses. They must also consent to a background screening as required by completing and submitting the required forms through their SportsEngine account. These forms must be submitted and their application accepted/passed/cleared before the applicant may participate in sanctioned junior events and/or activities (a minimum of one week should be expected to complete the screening). An individual whose background check is **declined/failed** must immediately cease all participation in SRVA/USAV sanctioned junior events and/or activities until such time as their appeal is approved. The background appeals process is available on SRVA.org.

Coaches - IMPACT or equivalent certification approved by USA Volleyball is required

To be approved each **junior** team must have a minimum of 6(six) approved players and have an Adult Head Coach who is a registered member of the Southern Region, who has passed the background screening process, and has completed SafeSport and Impact training on their roster in the current governing season.

A Coach who meets these requirements must be present during all play and officiating assignments. Each junior Club Director/President (and Chaperones at National Jr. events) must be SRVA members who have passed the background screening process and have completed SafeSport training.

Cancellation and refund requests will be administered using the most current SRVA cancellation and refund policy. This policy is available on the region website.

Any individual/team/club who submits a check or other form of payment that is not honored by their bank, will be charged a \$20 handling fee. The individual/team/club will also be required to replace the original amount of the payment and to reimburse SRVA for any bank fees or other charges incurred as a result. SRVA will not allow participants with an unresolved bounced check to participate in SRVA activities. This would apply to the entire club and its teams if the club director or their representative bounces the check.

B. MEMBER/TEAM REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Junior member registration confirmation must be received by the Region Office no later than one day prior to the tournament in order to be eligible. Junior teams must be approved before registering for a tournament. Junior tournament registrations will not be accepted for any team until their team has been properly approved.

C. SPECIAL REGISTRATION RULES FOR SRVA TOURNAMENTS:

1. A junior member cannot register and compete with **BOTH** a junior and an Adult Regular Team. Any junior member who competes on an adult team (except in an adult coed tournament) will not be eligible to play in any junior tournament. In the spirit of grass-roots development, this rule applies only to junior girls and not to junior boys. Junior girls' teams are prohibited from competing in adult tournaments.
2. **JUNIOR TRYOUT/COMMITMENT POLICY:** SRVA's intent is to allow players to tryout with multiple clubs.
 - a. Tryouts for Girls' youth and junior athletes for the next USAV season may take place at any time after the completion of the prior season's **final** Girls' USAV Junior National Championships (**Indoor**).

- b. Once an Athlete or their Guardian has accepted a club invitation in SportsEngine that acceptance will be binding for the entirety of the current club season which begins on September 1st of each year. **This is the only commitment that the Region accepts as binding for the season.**
 - c. Athletes may only affiliate with one indoor club during the USAV indoor club season which ends at the completion of the **final** USAV Girls' Junior National Championships (**Indoor**).
 - d. Requests for transfers to another indoor club will be handled in accordance with the Southern Region Athlete/Member Transfer Policy.
 - e. All personal business/legal commitments made between the club and a player's family will remain the responsibility of the related parties. The Southern Region will not be responsible for enforcing private agreements. Contracts between a club and family are independent of any Region obligations and policies.
 - f. It is the responsibility of Tryout Hosts and Participants to be careful not to violate any high school or collegiate rules that may apply.
 - g. A tryout fee no greater than \$75 may be collected.
 - h. All club websites must prominently post the SRVA tryout policy or a link to it entitled "Link to the SRVA Tryout Policy" where their tryout information is located.
 - i. All clubs will also be required to acknowledge the SRVA rules/policies as defined in this Handbook and certify that the SRVA Tryout/Commitment policies were followed as a part of the recruiting/forming the teams being registered BEFORE any team registration can be processed further.
 - j. Violations of the Tryout/Commitment policies may be subject the club and possibly any athletes involved in the violation to suspension from SRVA along with a non-refundable revocation of all team (possibly club) fees submitted.
3. CLUBS: Teams in a volleyball club must abide by the following policies:
- a. Each team must submit registration forms and fees for the current season.
 - b. Players on each team in a club may move laterally and upward in team classification in order to compete with other teams in their club until team rosters are frozen by USA Volleyball. See Section V. G. regarding Rosters.
 - c. For the purposes of adult competition, all adults will be considered part of a single "club", allowing for free movement of players between teams and divisions. Adult teams may still form and compete as a unit, however, rosters must be sent with SRVA Regional Championship tournament entry forms.
- D. TEAM CLASSIFICATIONS: Classification of **JUNIOR** teams is determined by the current age group definitions for junior volleyball. There will be no exception to the age group rule. Athletes may play upward in age classification if they choose to do so.
- E. ATHLETE/MEMBER TRANSFERS: An athlete may represent only one club in the same season. A junior cannot transfer clubs without the permission **of their current club by being released in SportsEngine.**

All permanent transfers are subject to all SRVA related fees and USAV rules limiting player participation in qualifiers, Nationals or other tournaments.

III. CENTRAL REGISTRATION FOR TOURNAMENTS

- A. All tournament entries and fees must be received by the Region Commissioner or their designee. **This requirement does not apply to tournaments that have been granted a waiver from using the SRVA central tournament registration system.**
- B. A junior team may not register for a tournament without listing a rostered Head coach who has passed a background check, has completed SafeSport training and is Impact certified. Also a coach who has passed a background check, has completed SafeSport training, and is Impact certified must accompany every junior team during all tournaments. Violation of this policy will subject the club, club director, club administrator, team rep, coach, chaperone and/or trainer to possible sanctions.
- C. INDOOR TOURNAMENT ENTRY DEADLINES: The registration deadline for an indoor adult tournament will be determined by the tournament host. The registration deadline for a one-day indoor junior tournament is ten (10) days prior to the tournament date.

The registration deadline for ALL multiple-day indoor junior tournaments is fourteen (14) days prior to the tournament date. See Section X. C. for registration periods and deadlines for the SRVA Junior Indoor Regional Championships. A registration received in the Region Office after these dates will be accepted ONLY at the discretion of SRVA, and SRVA reserves the right to refuse registrations and cancel/combine classifications with less than four entries at any time after the entry deadline. In the event that more registrations are received than space is available, teams will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis based on the date when all entry requirements are met.

Requirements include registration for the tournament and receipt of entry fees. In the case that multiple team registrations are received on the same date and exceed available space, electronic means can be used to establish the order in which all of the entries were received.

Host teams may enter their own registered teams in their own tournaments prior to the opening of tournament registration.

A \$25 late entry fee must be paid by any team that enters an indoor tournament after the deadline. This fee must be paid prior to the indoor tournament and will be retained by SRVA.

ADULT INDOOR TOURNAMENT FEES – For events hosted by SRVA there will be a charge of \$25 per player for each adult tournament in which they participate

For adult tournaments, registered junior boys teams will pay a \$ 200 entry fee, instead of the \$25 per person fee.

- D. A decision on pool assignments for an indoor tournament will be made on Monday prior to the tournament. Classifications with insufficient entries as of the tournament registration deadline may be cancelled. **Or with participant agreement combined with other classifications for pool play.**
- E. On Tuesday prior to the indoor tournament, pool and gym assignments and any available directions to the designated playing sites will be posted on the web site (www.srva.org) or otherwise disseminated.

IV. TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION

- A. Tournament Directors should submit a request for an indoor tournament using the SRVA online system four (4) weeks prior to the tournament date. The sanction fee will only be waived if the tournament does not occur due to lack of entries or inclement weather. The Region Commissioner may waive the four week requirement. [See also IV. G.]

It is required to disclose on the tournament sanction request:

1. If outside food will be prohibited from events.
2. Any policy requiring teams to stay in certain hotels to register for the tournament.
3. If admission fees will be charged for tournament attendance.
4. If paid referees will be provided.
5. Which of the following play formats will be used
 - a. Standard.
 - b. Gold – Silver.
 - c. Modified Gold – Silver (4 team pools).
 - d. Wave Format (3 team pools).

*Note: Tournaments that will be using an alternate play format (other than listed above) must apply for a waiver see section IV.G.

6. If they will be using tie breakers (the default is will not).
 7. If they will be using the SRVA Refund policy as listed in IV.H.
 8. If there are any specific health & safety requirements which must be met for participation.
 9. If there are any specific health & safety requirements which must be met for attendance as a non-participant.
- B. The following materials may be downloaded from the SRVA web site (www.srva.org) by the Tournament Director, or if not on the website, **electronic copies** will be provided by the SRVA:
1. Additional copies of the Region Handbook, if needed.
 2. USAV approved scoresheets, lineup sheets & libero tracking sheets.
 3. Pool play, playoff sheets for the tournament and team rosters for non-waivered tournaments.

- C. The Tournament Director must conduct the tournament in accordance with USAV/SRVA guidelines and the following policies:
1. Teams will register through the central registration process unless waived by the Region Commissioner or their designee. Tournament hosts/directors may request a waiver from using the SRVA central tournament registration system through the region Commissioner or their designee. They must comply with all other SRVA tournament requirements, including sending in required info/material/reports and posting results of matches between SRVA teams unless waived by the Commissioner or their designee.
Additionally, to receive this waiver, Hosts/Tournament Directors must agree to:
Pay all required fees as noted in Section IV.G below
 2. Only registered USAV members may participate in the tournament.
 3. USAV/SRVA approved volleyballs, scoresheets, lineup sheets, team roster forms, pool play and playoff sheet formats must be used. For 12 and under divisions, a "Lite" ball will be required.
 4. SRVA tournament officials who are paid must be in-process or certified and must have met **all other SRVA/USAV requirements to be eligible**. Payments to paid referees must be made within two weeks after the tournament is completed.
 5. The host will provide one suitable game ball per court, properly marked courts, and suitable and safe equipment. Proper padding on net supports, cables and referee stands is required.
- D. Tournament Director deadlines for submitting tournament information to the Commissioner or their designee:
1. An indoor Tournament Director must submit their play site(s) with directions and/or address(es) to the Region no later than two weeks prior to a tournament, with an exception for sites lost/replaced AFTER the deadline. Failure to do so may be charged a minimum fine of \$100, up to the full amount of the performance bond, to be retained by SRVA.
 2. Indoor Tournament Directors must post results into the SRVA online system no later than Monday following the tournament. For multi-day tournaments ending on Sunday it is recommended that results be posted by the following Monday but are not required to be posted until the second Monday following the tournament.
 3. The Tournament Report and any modified team rosters must be received either by the Region Commissioner or their designee no later than the fifteenth (15th) day after the tournament ends. (mail or electronic submission are acceptable) The first day of the 15 day period is the day after the final day of tournament competition. Tournament score sheets and all signed rosters must be maintained by the Tournament Director until the end of the season and produced if a question arises.
- E. Tournament fees for non-regional championship events will be set by the Tournament Director. Tournament fee structures will be set at the time of the request for tournament sanction. A requested change to a tournament fee must be submitted to the Region Commissioner no less than twelve calendar days before the tournament date. Any team that has registered and paid for a tournament shall not be required to pay any fees in excess of their original registration fee.

- F. Indoor tournament entry fees, less a performance bond and sanction fee, will be remitted to the indoor Tournament Director after all tournament entries have been received and pool assignments finalized. **If all** requirements are met within the established deadlines (see IV.C.1 and IV.D.), and there are no violations of region policy or unresolved issues regarding region policy, the Region will return the bond within thirty (30) days after the completion of the tournament; otherwise the performance bond is forfeited to the SRVA in amounts decided by the Region Commissioner (see also IV.G.). Performance bond reimbursement is forfeited if the required materials are not received by the SRVA within fifteen (15) days after the tournament date. The indoor Tournament Director, as established on the sanction request form or sanction approval notice, will be notified of the tournament report requirement at the time the sanction is granted and/or prior to the tournament date, or no part of the bond may be withheld, unless a violation other than failure to file a report has occurred.
- G. **SANCTION FEES AND BOND AMOUNTS:** Following are the performance bond amounts as well as non-refundable tournament sanction fees for all single day tournaments to be paid to SRVA.

	<u>Sanction Fee</u>	<u>Performance Bond*</u>
10 teams or less	\$25.00	\$100.00
11 to 20 teams	\$50.00	\$200.00
21 to 30 teams	\$75.00	\$300.00
31 to 40 teams	\$100.00	\$400.00
41 to 60 teams	\$150.00	\$600.00
More than 60 teams	\$200.00	\$750.00

An extra \$100 sanction fee (less than 61 teams) and \$200 for tournaments (more than 60 teams) teams will be charged for multiple-day tournaments.

The Commissioner has the authority to refuse to grant a tournament sanction (approval) due to past poor performance or charge a higher bond up to triple the current bond amount, and SRVA may retain the entire excess bond amount.

All Tournaments granted a waiver from using the SRVA central tournament registration system or requesting a play format not listed in IV.A.5.a – d shall pay a deposit (\$950 – single day or \$1,150 – multiple day) in advance of the granting of the tournament sanction and waiver, and after the tournament will pay the same sanction fee as a non-waivered tournament.

H. **TOURNAMENT REFUND POLICY:** Requests for refund of tournament entry fees will be honored if received seven (7) days prior to the tournament date for adults, ten (10) days prior to the tournament date for one-day junior events and fourteen (14) days for multiple day junior tournaments. Refund requests received after this deadline date will be paid only if a team is secured to fill the vacancy in the tournament. Tournaments which are cancelled will have the tournament entry fees refunded at 100%.

1. A waived tournament must submit their refund policy prior to a sanction being granted, if they will not be using the above SRVA refund policy. Their refund policy must also be clearly posted on the tournament registration website.

V. CONDUCTING SANCTIONED INDOOR TOURNAMENTS

- A. There must be a non-playing and non-coaching adult Tournament Director or non-playing non-coaching adult Court Manager at each site who is responsible for conducting the tournament in accordance with USAV/SRVA policies. They must be registered USAV members, background checked and have **completed SafeSport training** for junior events.
- B. Pool play, playoff schedules and officiating assignments must be displayed at the gym site and must be explained in the meeting of team representatives.
- C. Tournament sites and equipment must meet requirements for safe and enjoyable competition. All net supports, cables and referee stands must be padded. Referee stands must meet the requirements as outlined in the Rulebook.
- D. If necessary, games may be played to 21 points when time is a factor in conducting the tournament. Scores will start at 4-4.
- E. Once pool play begins, it must be completed using the same scoring format.
- F. Team Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Managers must be registered USAV members, Background checked, **completed SafeSport training** and Impact certified for all junior events. Persons who are not USAV members may not be on the roster or team bench.
- G. Each Team Captain or Coach must complete a team roster form or update and/or verify the roster supplied by SRVA before competition starts and submit it to the Tournament Director or Court Manager. Roster changes that move a player to another team cannot occur within a single tournament.
- H. Double elimination tournaments are not sanctioned because of the limited play potential for teams. Round-robin formats are approved.
- I. When round-robin competition is scheduled, a maximum of five (5) teams will be accepted for each court unless the Region Commissioner waives this policy.
- J. JUNIOR tournaments are divided into Power, Club and Local classifications. Pool play may be either 2 sets or 2 out of 3 sets to either 21 or 25 points. The Region Commissioner may waive these rules if necessary for the proper administration of the tournament.
- K. Unless otherwise approved, the top two (2) teams in each pool will advance to the playoffs. For Gold/Silver format the top four teams in each pool will advance to the playoffs.
- L. When four-team pools are scheduled, a Championship and Consolation playoff format may be used. The recommended format is pool play followed by a single elimination playoff seeded according to pool play records.
- M. Any optional/experimental rule included in the current year USAV Rulebook may be used for a tournament provided it was announced prior to the tournament date and it is applied for the duration of the tournament.

N. SRVA SPECIAL COMPETITION RULES:

1. Twelve and under girls' teams may play in girls SRVA tournaments/events and the 12 and under Power, Club and Local SRVA Junior Regionals with boys participating in no more than two of the six legal positions on the court at any time. This would include a boy who is playing in the libero position. However, boys may not participate with these teams in the Bid Division of the SRVA Regional Championships or at any USAV national bid tournament, national qualifier or national championship event.
2. For twelve and under club in-region tournaments, players may serve from behind the end line or a shorter line whose back edge is no more than 9'10" from the back edge of the end line. Within a single term of service, player(s) serving from the shorter line may serve up to three times successfully and if the term of service continues to a fourth service attempt, this serve and all subsequent attempts within that term of service must be from behind the end line. This shorter service line is ignored after each service for the remainder of the rally.
3. **It is the direct responsibility of a club or coach to remove any rostered participant from USAV-sanctioned activities if the participant is known to have COVID and/or have been in direct contact with someone known to have COVID in accordance with CDC guidelines. Failure to preclude such a rostered participant from participation may result in sanctions.**
4. **Any age Boys' teams may play in boys SRVA tournaments/events and if offered the boys Power, Club and Local SRVA Junior Regionals with girls participating in no more than two of the six legal positions on the court at any time. This would include a girl who is playing in the libero position. However, girls may not participate with these teams in the Bid Division of the SRVA Regional Championships or at any USAV national bid tournament, national qualifier or national championship event.**

VI. INDOOR TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING

- A. Matches will not be scheduled on a time basis. Matches must be started as soon as possible after completion of the preceding match. Teams must be aware that matches are scheduled in this manner.
- B. Teams must be ready to play or officiate when their assigned matches are sequentially scheduled. Because of the variation of time required for matches, a time schedule will not be posted (see Section XII. A. regarding sanctions for failure to officiate).
- C. If a lunch break is scheduled, it should be scheduled at the completion of a specific match. The time for the coin toss and start of warm-up for the first match after lunch must be clearly understood by teams and officials. If ALL teams in the affected pool agree, the lunch break may be waived.
- D. Approved pool play formats have officiating assignments scheduled. If a team is officiating a match prior to playing the next match, the First Referee must give the team a reasonable amount of time to complete their officiating duties prior to conducting the coin toss and starting the warm-up period.
- E. Pool play, playoff schedules and officiating assignments must be explained during the meeting of team representatives prior to start of play and must be readily available to participants during the day.

- F. In playoff matches, a team just finishing a match must be offered a minimum rest period of ten (10) minutes before the coin toss for the next match is conducted.
- G. Warm-up periods will be scheduled with teams on the court separately. Each team will have the court for two (2) minutes of shared ball handling, followed by four (4) minutes each of individual team warm-up, including serving. The serving team will have the court for the first 4 minute warm-up period. The timed warmups will begin at the conclusion of the coin toss and captains' meeting.
- H. Team(s) that do not arrive on site or provide notification to the tournament contact or to the Region regarding a late arrival by the time of the first match each tournament day may be removed from the schedule for the tournament if necessary. Playing assignments missed as a result of the late arrival even if proper notification is made, will be treated as forfeits. If the team subsequently arrives without providing proper notification and the tournament schedule was not adjusted, they can participate in the remainder of their matches with any penalties for missing officiating assignments being applied as described in Section XII.A.

VII. DETERMINATION OF PLAYOFF TEAMS IN INDOOR TOURNAMENTS

The following determination of playoff teams will be used in **ALL** regular season tournaments that have indicated that they **WILL NOT** use tie break matches. Gold/Silver format tournaments and when determining reseed matches in four team pools will always use this process.

A. **IF TWO TEAMS ARE TIED** for the tournament championship, or when reseeding four team pools to play extra/cross pool matches to meet the SRVA requirement that each team play at least eight sets per tournament, **NO PLAYOFF SET IS NECESSARY. INSTEAD**, determine the higher-seeded team by:

1. The result of the match between the two teams, first on sets won and lost.
2. If the two teams are still tied, use the point percentage process [see below] using the match between the two tied teams. The team with the highest point percentage has the highest finish in the pool.
3. If the two teams are still tied, the higher seed is determined by:
 - a. Best set percentage record using total sets played, and if still tied
 - b. Highest point percentage using total sets played.
4. If still tied, a coin toss will determine playoff positions.
5. **IF THREE OR MORE TEAMS ARE TIED**, use steps 3 and 4 above. The team with the highest set/point percentage has the highest finish in the pool, the team with the second highest set/point percentage is second in the pool, and so on. If after Step 3 two teams are tied, that tie will be broken by the head to head results between those teams. All teams proceed to the tournament championship based on their finish using steps 3 and 4 above.

The following determination of playoff teams will **ONLY** be used in regular season tournaments that have indicated that they **WILL** use tie break matches.

Teams qualifying for the playoffs, but tied for position only, shall not compete in a playoff set to determine position. Rather, each team's position shall be determined by the priority system described below. However, no teams shall be eliminated from the playoffs based solely upon points or a point system, except for a tie between only two teams or the Gold/Silver format tournaments. If there are more teams tied for the playoffs than there are positions, the tied teams will compete in a minimum number of playoff sets so that no team will be eliminated from the playoff based on points.

B. Any one-set playoff necessary to determine which team will make the playoffs will be conducted in accordance with the current year USAV Rulebook. If no specific instructions are included in the rulebook, then a one-set playoff will be to 25 points, switch sides at 13, win by 2 with no cap.

C. **IF TWO TEAMS ARE TIED** for the tournament championship, or when re-seeding four team pools to play extra/cross pool matches to meet the SRVA requirement that each team play at least eight sets per tournament, **NO PLAYOFF SET IS NECESSARY. INSTEAD,** determine the higher-seeded team by:

1. The result of the match between the two teams, first on sets won and lost.
2. If the two teams are still tied, use the point percentage process [see below] using the match between the two tied teams. The team with the highest point percentage has the highest finish in the pool.
3. If the two teams are still tied, the higher seed is determined by:
 - a. Best set percentage record using total sets played, and if still tied
 - b. Highest point percentage using total sets played.
4. If still tied, a coin toss will determine playoff positions. If a two-way tie will eliminate a team from the highest level of play, and the pool play format was only two sets per match without a deciding set, this step will not be utilized and a one set playoff will be required to determine the finish of the teams.
5. **IF THREE OR MORE TEAMS ARE TIED FOR THE SAME NUMBER OF PLAYOFF POSITIONS**, for the tournament championship, use steps 3 and 4 above. The team with the highest set/point percentage has the highest finish in the pool, the team with the second highest set/point percentage is second in the pool, and so on. All teams proceed to the tournament championship based in their finish using steps 3 and 4 above.

D. When **THREE OR MORE TEAMS** are tied for one playoff position for the tournament championship [Example: two teams advance to the playoffs for a tournament championship, and three or more teams are tied for the second position]:

1. **If three teams** are tied for one playoff position, the highest team seeding is determined by using the best set record using total sets played. Then if there is still a tie for the highest position, use the point percentage procedure using total sets played to rank the tied teams against each other. If still tied, two coin tosses will determine the bye, with the two teams listed **lowest** on the original pool sheet taking part in the first coin toss, and the winner of the first toss takes part in the second coin toss with the team listed **highest** on the original pool play sheet, and that second coin toss winner receives the bye. Then, two 25 point sets are required. The highest seeded team receives a bye, and plays the winner of a 25 point set between the other two teams to determine the team that advances to the playoffs for the tournament championship.
2. **If four teams** are tied for one playoff position, the team seeding is determined by using the best set record using total sets played. Then if any ties remain, use the point percentage procedure using total sets played to seed the remaining tied teams against each other.

If still tied, three coin tosses will determine the ranking for the tiebreaker sets. The two teams listed as the **lowest** teams on the original pool sheet take part in the first coin toss and the loser of that toss is #4. Then the first toss winner takes part in the second coin toss with the team listed **next highest** on the original pool sheet and the loser of that toss is #3. Then the winner of the second coin toss takes part in the third coin toss against the team listed as the **highest** team on the original pool sheet, and the winner of that coin toss is #1 and the loser is #2. Then, three 25 point sets are required. Team 1 plays team 4 in one 25 point set, and team 2 plays team 3 in one 25 point set. The two winners play one 25 point set to determine the team that advances to the playoffs for the tournament championship.

Note: Officiating support teams are provided by the lowest seeded non-playing team for the first playoff match, then the loser of the previous playoff match for all subsequent playoff matches.

E. **IF THREE, FOUR OR FIVE TEAMS** are tied for two playoff positions:

1. Determine the seeding among the tied teams using the best set record using total sets played. The highest ranked team is awarded the first position in the playoffs for the tournament championship.
2. If any or all teams are still tied, use the point percentage procedure using total sets played.
3. If four or five teams were originally tied, and any are still tied after applying 1. and 2. above, a coin toss will determine the schedule below for the playoff positions for the tournament championship.
 - a. When **three** teams were originally tied, the two remaining lower seeded teams play one 25 point set to determine which team receives the second playoff position for the tournament Championship.
 - b. When **four** teams were originally tied, team 3 plays team 4, then team 2 plays the winner of the 3 vs 4 set, using single 25 point sets. The winner of this second set receives the second playoff position for the tournament championship.
 - c. When **five** teams were originally tied, team 2 plays team 5, team 3 plays team 4, and the winners play each other, using single 25 point sets. The winner of this third set receives the second playoff position for the tournament championship.

Note: Officiating support teams are provided by the lowest seeded non-playing team for the first playoff match, then the loser of the previous playoff match for all subsequent playoff matches.

F. If more than **FIVE** teams are tied for two positions:

- a. Same procedure as E. 1. through 3. above. The highest ranked team is awarded the first position in the playoff for the tournament championship.
- b. The remaining teams play the minimum number of 25 point sets to determine the second position.

Note: Officiating support teams are provided by the lowest seeded non-playing team for the first playoff match, then the loser of the previous playoff match for all subsequent playoff matches.

Note:

Point percentage is determined by dividing each team's total points scored by the total points scored by all the team's opponents in that pool using all sets played. The team with the highest point percentage has the next highest finish in the pool.

Set percentage is determined by dividing the sets won by each team by the sets lost by that same team using all sets played.

VIII. AWARDS

The host will provide appropriate awards for First Place in each division in which there are four or more teams.

IX. REGION SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS

A. The JUNIOR sanctioned indoor season begins on **December 1** and ends at the conclusion of Junior Nationals. During this period, any tournaments that **will** be counted toward the Southern Region indoor two-tournament requirement must be sanctioned by the Southern Region and conducted in accordance with Southern Region tournament guidelines. Summer/Outdoor, Coed, Reverse Coed, and Fellowship tournaments may also be sanctioned by the Southern Region but will not be required to follow the indoor officiating and jersey number rules. **Note: Summer/Outdoor, Coed, Reverse Coed, and Fellowship tournaments will not count toward the Southern Region indoor two-tournament requirement.**

B. OFFICIATING RESPONSIBILITIES: Since a minimum of six persons are needed to officiate a volleyball match, it is a team responsibility. Teams entered in sanctioned tournaments must abide by the following:

1. Only currently certified Referees and Scorers, or "In-Process" Referee and Scorer candidates, may officiate as paid officials in sanctioned tournaments. Adult teams participating in sanctioned tournaments **MUST** have at least one qualified or higher Referee and at least one qualified or higher Scorer on their team roster who **ARE PRESENT AND OFFICIATING** or the team may bring with them non-playing qualified or higher officials that will meet the SRVA officiating requirements. In an adult tournament where a First Referee and Scorer are provided, the teams do not have to provide qualified or higher officials. To compete in SRVA Adult Regional Championships a team must have one qualified or higher Referee and one qualified or higher Scorer on their team roster, or the team may bring with them non-playing, qualified or higher officials.

2. **JUNIOR REFEREES AND SCORERS** can officiate in junior events Power, Club or Local Division(s) only if they become QUALIFIED by attending a SRVA officiating clinic each year.
 - a. A first referee must be at least 15 years of age (unless they are granted a waiver by the SRVA Officials Chair). All junior players under the age of 15 who show potential as a Referee and are approved by the Officials Chair to be an R1 will have the opportunity to referee with their coach assisting on the floor.
 - b. An adult coach must be present (Near the Court) during all Power, Club or Local Division(s) officiating assignments.
 - c. Junior club adult members who attend an SRVA officiating clinic, have a current background check and have completed SafeSport training become qualified to officiate in junior events only.
 - d. To become an In-Process or Certified Official, adults must be regular members.
 - e. **For all SRVA Bid Division officiating assignments, the team provided R2 must be a regular adult member who has attended a SRVA officiating clinic, has a current background check and has completed SafeSport training.**
 3. Failure to meet the above requirements will result in sanctions which could include suspension and/or fines.
 4. The Tournament Director is not responsible for providing officials for teams. It is a team responsibility and the team must secure the necessary officials for the tournament. **This only applies to 3, 4, and 5 –team pools on a single court and 6 team pool on two courts. Other play formats may require additional officials and the team cannot be expected to cover all officiating duties.**
- C. UNIFORM RULE: During the sanctioned season, all juniors teams must abide by the USAV uniform rule and for local tournaments, the same color shorts must be worn, regardless of style, cut and trim. For adult tournaments, matching shorts are not required.
1. **It is the responsibility of the First Referee and the Tournament Director to enforce the uniform rule and to notify the offending team that all games played while out of uniform will be forfeited.**
 2. **The legality of a team’s uniform(s) is not grounds for a protest by their opponent. The determination of a team’s uniform legality is the responsibility of the match referee(s), head referee(s), and/or tournament staff.**

X. INDOOR REGION CHAMPIONSHIPS

- A. QUALIFICATION OF TEAMS FOR INDOOR REGION CHAMPIONSHIPS: A Junior team must have participated **or be fully registered in a timely fashion in** at least two sanctioned regular season SRVA indoor tournaments to be eligible to compete in the applicable Indoor Regional Championship. Teams bumped from an indoor tournament due to court space limitations or cancellation of an indoor tournament by SRVA will count as a tournament if the team has registered and paid the entry fee by the tournament registration deadline. **If a team fails to participate in a second regular season SRVA tournament their entry in the applicable region championship may be rejected.**

All teams that qualify to enter the Junior Regional Indoor Championships will be accepted provided enough gym space is available to accommodate the teams. If gym space or court availability becomes a limiting factor, teams will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Participation in SRVA indoor tournaments and USAV Junior National Qualifiers will be considered in seeding of SRVA regional tournaments.

A team with more than one USAV/SRVA sanction will not be eligible for any Region Championship.

A junior team that is ranked in the top 10% of their age division within 3 weeks of the tournament date, must participate in either the Power or Bid divisions of the Indoor Regional Championships, they cannot participate in the Club **or Local Divisions**. **However, moving teams will only occur if space is available in the next higher division. In addition, once play schedules are set, moving teams will not apply.**

A Local Division will be offered at the SRVA Regional Championships for teams that are at a level lower than our Club Division. These divisions will be utilized if at least 8 teams are entered at least 4 weeks prior to the event. If any Local Division does not achieve at least 8 entered teams, those teams will be entered into the Club Division based on their original entry date.

Teams that enter the Local Divisions cannot have a region ranking in the top 50% of the respective age group **within 3 weeks of the tournament date. However, moving teams will only occur if space is available in the next higher division. In addition, once play schedules are set, moving teams will not apply.**

The Region indoor junior bid division winner will be eligible for reimbursement of the national entry fee, if at least six players on the roster at the Indoor Region Championships are also on the roster for the Indoor National Championships. Any reimbursement of entry fees to any SRVA team attending a USAV or other approved national championship that otherwise qualifies for reimbursement will be based on proper fulfillment of tournament play schedule and officiating requirements, and will be denied if there are any disciplinary problems (including but not limited to disqualification or expulsion from competition) or, in the case of junior competition, failure to follow the Impact certification policy.

Only the champion in each **Bid Division** will be eligible for reimbursement of their national entry fee.

SRVA will reimburse the USA National entry fee for Open Bid winners, 11 National and 12 National bid winners that were received prior to the SRVA Regional Championships, these teams are precluded from participation in the associated Region Qualifying Event. The SRVA will also reimburse the USA National entry fee for the winners of the SRVA Regional Bid Divisions.

Acceptance of a bid to Nationals must be submitted in writing or by e-mail sent to the region office by the Club Director.

Any junior team with no available competition in their classification for an Indoor Regional Championship must have participated in two sanctioned regular season SRVA indoor tournaments to be eligible for reimbursement if entry/play in their classification was offered by the region during the year.

B. ADULT REGIONAL INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

All teams that wish to enter the Adult Regional Indoor Championships will be accepted provided enough gym space is available to accommodate the teams. If gym space becomes a limiting factor, teams will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Entry fees for Region Indoor Championships will be determined by the Region Championship Committee(s). Paid first referees will be provided for the ADULT Region Indoor Championships if available. Teams must provide all necessary officials not supplied by the tournament.

All adult teams that attend the indoor USAV Adult National Championships will be eligible for monetary support from the Region on an equal basis (based on the adult national reimbursement budgeted amount), not to exceed \$900.00 or the team's entry fee for Nationals. In order to qualify for reimbursement of their USAV National Club Championship entry fee, at least 6 members of the team must have played in one SRVA adult indoor tournament during the same season in which the USAV National Club Championships are being held.

If a minimum of 4 players on the roster at the USAV Club National Championship have played in a SRVA tournament that season, then no greater than half of their entry fee will be reimbursed.

The requirement to play in one SRVA adult indoor tournament will be satisfied and all players on the roster will be considered to have played in a SRVA tournament if they registered in club division that is cancelled, and they pay at least a \$25 membership fee.

Age division, u-volley, coed, Special Olympic and reverse coed teams will be eligible for reimbursement if two-thirds of that team's roster at the USAV Club National Championship are SRVA members. The Region reserves the right to forfeit any Region Championship title and/or withhold authorization for any individual and/or team to participate in any national championship or invitational event if the team or any player on that team is found to have violated SRVA or USAV policies. Teams are responsible for any financial losses incurred

Any adult team with no available competition in their classification for the Adult Indoor Regional Championship must have participated in one sanctioned regular season SRVA indoor tournaments to be eligible for reimbursement if entry/play in their classification was offered by the region during the year.

C. JUNIOR REGIONAL INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. Although teams may register to play in the SRVA Junior. Regional Indoor Championships at the opening date of **waivered indoor tournament registration, their entries won't be approved until all requirements are met**, and entry into junior Regionals is not guaranteed. The tournament entry deadline for SRVA Junior Regional Indoor Championships is four weeks prior to the tournament date.
2. If the Club Region Indoor Championship is held first, the winners in each age group will qualify for the Power Region Indoor Championship. If the winner cannot attend, the runner-up may enter.

3. BID DIVISIONS PROCEDURES FOR THE SRVA JUNIOR INDOOR GIRLS REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS:

- a. There will be a bid division in the girl's 11-18 divisions.
- b. The Girls 18 bid division may be held prior to the SRVA Girls Junior Indoor Regional Championships.
- c. If teams offered a bid at an SRVA bid tournament do not accept that bid on the day of that bid tournament, they will be charged a financial penalty equal to the entry fee for the USAV Junior National Championships.
- d. For the junior 18's bid tournament only: in order to register for this tournament, a team must be registered for two SRVA-sanctioned tournaments, to include registration in a SRVA-approved 18's National Qualifier Bid Tournament. The team must eventually participate in two SRVA-sanctioned tournaments during the same season.
- e. Reimbursement of the USAV National Championship National Division entry fee will be awarded to the winner of this event. Also the American Division bid(s) and any reallocation or retained bids will be awarded from this event.
- f. At the associated Region Qualifying Event the Bid Division will play down to 8th place. If the SRVA receives enough bids to offer more than 8 bids in our bid tournaments, we will use the team rankings after the associated Region Qualifying Event to determine 9th place and lower.
- g. At the SRVA Bid Tournaments, bids available in each age group are awarded in order of level of bid and corresponding finish in our bid divisions.

D. Entry fees for Region Indoor Championships will be determined by the Region Championship Committee(s). Paid First Referees will be provided for the JUNIOR Region Indoor Championships (if available). Teams must provide all necessary officials not supplied by the tournament.

E. The Tournament Director will be the Region Commissioner, or a person appointed by the Commissioner and will be assisted by the Region Championship Committee(s).

F. POWER and BID DIVISIONS PROCEDURES for the Girls Indoor Junior Regional Championships:

1. These divisions will play match play (2 out of three sets) to 25 points.
2. In these divisions of the SRVA Junior (Indoor) Regional Championships,
 - a. If a division has **16** or more than teams entered, the fourth place team in each pool on the first day will be placed into a separate (Silver) playoff bracket.
 - b. The teams finishing in the top three positions of each power pool will advance to the championship division playoffs however only Bid Division teams will be eligible for the region bids to the USAV National Championships.
 - c. The tournament director or their designee may change play formats in situations where the playoff provisions necessitate modifications to allow for a reasonable playoff schedule.
3. Boys' indoor Junior teams that have received an Open bid to the USAV Boys National Championship will be allowed to play in the SRVA Junior Indoor Regionals.

G. CLUB & LOCAL DIVISIONS PROCEDURES for the Girls Indoor Junior Regional Championships:

1. The Club & Local divisions will play match play (2 out of three sets) to 25 points.
2. In the Club & Local divisions of the SRVA Junior Regional Indoor Championships, when there are **16** or more teams participating the teams finishing third and fourth will be placed in separate playoff brackets.
3. At the SRVA Junior Regional Indoor Championships, any Club & Local divisions with **32** or more teams will separate teams for playoffs into four different divisions for the playoffs (Gold, Silver, Bronze and Copper).

H. DETERMINATION OF PLAYOFF TEAMS: For all divisions, other than the Bid division of the SRVA Regional Championships, the determination of playoff teams will be in accordance with the provisions of Section VII.A to determine playoff teams. For the Bid divisions, the determination of the playoff teams tied will be in accordance with the current requirements found in the USA Volleyball Championship Manual for the Girls Junior National Championships.

I. CLUB CONFLICTS – In all divisions of SRVA Junior Regional Indoor Championships, pool adjustments are allowed to prevent teams from the same club from being placed in the same pool on the first day of competition. In the Bid Divisions, teams cannot be moved more than two seed positions to avoid club conflicts.

J. **Seeding of teams that have no region results and therefore no region ranking; will utilize any available ranking and result information to place those teams in an appropriate seed for these events.**

XI. PROTESTS, APPEALS, COMPLAINTS AND GENERAL POWERS

- A. TOURNAMENTS: Protests arising with respect to rules interpretation by officials during sanctioned competition will be decided by a Head Official or a Tournament Protest Committee composed of 3 certified officials (if available), appointed by the Tournament Director or Court Manager.
- B. SRVA POLICIES: Participants and organizations desiring to participate in SRVA sanctioned events must abide by the rules, policies and guidelines of the Southern Region and USAV.
- C. APPEALS: An individual to whom membership is refused, or who has membership suspended in part or whole, or a team that has registration refused or team eligibility suspended in part or whole, may appeal for a review by following the Due Process Policy adopted by the Southern Region Board of Directors.
- D. Complaints concerning tournament administration must be received in writing within three weeks after completion of the event. SRVA reserves the right not to take action on any complaints filed after that time period.
- E. The Commissioner or their designee is authorized to make all decisions and promulgate all policies not specifically covered in this Handbook, including fees to be charged for region services and the amount of all fines against individuals and/or teams for violation of SRVA/USAV or other rules, laws or statutes.

- F. This Handbook is the operating policy for the SRVA. At the discretion of the Commissioner, with the approval of the Officers, the Commissioner may alter the guidelines established herein. Any action taken will be reported in a timely manner to the Board.

XII. ETHICS AND CONDUCT

- A. Teams failing to honor their officiating or other commitment for a tournament after that team's play is completed will be fined \$100.00, to be retained by SRVA, provided the Tournament Director reports the violation promptly to the Region Commissioner or their designee.
- B. Teams failing to honor their officiating or other requirements before that team's play is completed shall be assessed a one point penalty for each minute from the end of the warm-up period for which they do not have a complete officiating team, up to a loss of one set, and those points will be given to their next opponent.
- C. SRVA reserves the right to eject or otherwise sanction any person engaging in disruptive, abusive or offensive behavior from any SRVA tournament, event or activity. This sanction may remain in effect for the duration of the tournament, event or activity. Neither the SRVA, its tournament or administrative staff, nor any Tournament Director or convention center staff shall be liable for any damages caused by the exercise of this right.
- D. **MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY:** Any individual assuming the identity of another person or any individual or team using the membership card of another person in a fraudulent manner shall be suspended from USAV competition. All members are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the USAV Participant Code of Behavior which they must read and sign when applying for membership.
- E. Teams that fail to participate in tournaments without notification to the region prior to the tournament will be charged an additional \$100 fee to be paid prior to participation in the next regional tournament and this fee will be retained by the region. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

XIII. ANNUAL INDOOR REFEREE CERTIFICATION

A. To achieve Provisional Referee:

1. Must be an SRVA (and/or USAV) **regular** member.
2. Successfully pass the USAV background check.
3. **Meet current yearly SafeSport training requirements.**
4. Complete the required online Southern Region Referee courses.
5. Receive a passing grade during completion of the online examination.
6. Receive at least three (3) ratings from National, Junior National or Regional Referees. One rating will be received as Second Referee and the second rating as First Referee must be a passing rating.
7. Your first membership year in the Referee certification process is considered as your "In-Process" year.

B. To retain Provisional Referee:

1. Must be an SRVA (and/or USAV) **regular** member.
2. Maintain a current successful USAV background check.
3. **Meet current yearly SafeSport training requirements.**
4. Complete the required online Southern Region Referee courses.
5. Receive a passing grade during completion of the online examination.
6. Receive one (1) passing rating as First Referee and one (1) passing rating as Second Referee from National, Junior National or Regional Referee.
7. Failure to complete the above listed requirements in the time frame listed in Section (XIII E.) may result in the forfeiture of your Provisional rating.

C. To achieve Regional Rating:

1. Serve a minimum of one full USAV season as a Provisional Referee after the completion of your "In-Process" year.
2. Must be an SRVA (and/or USAV) **regular** member.
3. Maintain a current successful USAV background check.
4. **Meet current yearly SafeSport training requirements.**
5. Complete the required online Southern Region Referee courses.
6. Receive a passing grade during completion of the online examination.
7. In the process of successfully retaining Provisional rating, receive a recommendation to the Region Officials Chair as a Regional candidate.
8. Prior to attendance at regional rating tournament, receive one rating as Second Referee from a National or Junior National Referee.
9. Attend and successfully complete the Regional Rating Tournament as scheduled by the Officials Chair.

D. To retain Regional Rating:

1. Must be an SRVA (and/or USAV) **regular** member.
2. Maintain a current successful USAV background check.
3. **Meet current yearly SafeSport training requirements.**
4. Complete the required online Southern Region Referee courses.
5. Receive a passing grade during completion of the online examination.
6. Receive one (1) passing rating from National or Junior National Referee
7. Perform one or more of the following services to the Region: (1) Give a day rating Provisional Referee candidates as scheduled with Officials Chair; or (2) assist in conducting an Adult or Junior clinic; or (3) submit eight (8) ratings of Provisional candidates; or (4) referee at Adult or Junior Regional Championship as approved by the Officials Chair; or (5) other service to the Region as approved by the Officials Chair

8. Failure to complete the above listed requirements in the time frame listed in Section (XIII E.) may result in the forfeiture of your Regional rating

E. Schedule for Referee Certification / Good Standing:

1. Online training course requirements for each level are defined yearly by the Officials Chair.
2. The passing exam grade percentage varies by certification level (between 80% - 90%).
3. It is strongly recommended that online tests be completed, prior to officiating your first match of the season. The online test must be completed prior to the conclusion of the SRVA Junior Regional Championships.
4. Ratings must be completed and submitted no later than one week after the conclusion of the USAV Junior Girls/Boys National Championships (whichever concludes the latest in the season). Ratings will be accepted from all tournaments that use USAV rules.
5. Certifications will be issued by the Officials Chair and posted on the SRVA.org website.
6. In-process status begins after the completion of steps that are listed in (XIII A 1-5.)
7. In-process status ends at the conclusion of the SRVA Junior Regional Championships. An individual, who does not meet the certification requirements outlined in Section XIII.A., shall not officiate after this date. This individual will have to start the process over in the upcoming season.
8. **Any Official who is placed on probation or suspension will be considered to be “Not in Good Standing” until the probation period is over or the suspension is lifted.**

XIV. ANNUAL INDOOR SCORER CERTIFICATION

A. To achieve Provisional Scorer:

1. Must be an SRVA (and/or USAV) **regular** member.
2. Successfully pass the USAV background check.
3. **Meet current yearly SafeSport training requirements.**
4. Complete the required online Southern Region Scorer courses.
5. Receive a passing grade during completion of the online examination.
6. Receive and submit two (2) ratings the last of which must be a passing rating.
7. Your first membership year in the Scorer certification process is considered as your “In-Process” year.

B. To retain Provisional Scorer:

1. Must be an SRVA (and/or USAV) **regular** member.
2. Maintain a current successful USAV background check.
3. **Meet current yearly SafeSport training requirements.**
4. Complete the required online Southern Region Scorer courses.
5. Receive a passing grade during completion of the online examination.
6. Receive and submit one (1) passing rating.

7. Failure to complete the above listed requirements in the time frame listed in section (XIV. E.) may result in the forfeiture of your Provisional rating.

C. To achieve Regional Scorer:

1. Serve a minimum of one full USAV season as a Provisional Scorer after the completion of your "In-Process" year.
2. Must be an SRVA (and/or USAV) **regular** member.
3. Maintain a current successful USAV background check.
4. **Meet current yearly SafeSport training requirements.**
5. Complete the required online Southern Region Scorer courses.
6. Receive a passing grade during completion of the online examination.
7. Receive a recommendation from an approved rater or from Officials Chair during the process of successfully retaining the Provisional rating.
8. Complete other requirements as prescribed by the Officials Chair.

D. To retain Regional Scorer:

1. Must be an SRVA (and/or USAV) **regular** member.
2. Maintain a current successful USAV background check.
3. **Meet current yearly SafeSport training requirements.**
4. Complete the required online Southern Region Scorer courses.
5. Receive a passing grade during completion of the online examination.
6. Receive one (1) passing rating from National Scorer
7. Perform one or more of the following services to the Region: (1) Give-a-day rating Provisional Scorer candidates as scheduled with the Officials Chair; or (2) Submit eight (8) ratings of Provisional candidates; or (3) Conduct/assist an Adult or Junior Scorer Clinic as scheduled by the Officials Chair; or (4) Assist in conducting an Adult or Junior Region Championship as scheduled by the Officials Chair; or (5) Perform other service to the Region as approved by the Officials Chair.
8. Failure to complete the above listed requirements in the time frame listed in section (XIV. E.) may result in the forfeiture of your Regional rating.

E. Schedule for Scorer Certification / Good Standing:

1. Online training course requirements for each level are defined yearly by the Officials Chair.
2. The passing exam grade percentage varies by certification level (between 80% - 90%).
3. It is strongly recommended that online tests be completed, prior to scoring your first match of the season. The online test must be completed prior to the conclusion of the SRVA Junior Regional Championships.
4. Ratings must be completed and submitted no later than one week after the conclusion of the USAV Junior Girls/Boys National Championships (whichever concludes the latest in the season). Ratings will be accepted from all tournaments that use USAV rules.
5. Certifications will be issued by Officials Chair and posted on the SRVA.org website.

6. In-Process status begins after the completion of steps that are listed in (XIV. A. 1-5.)
7. In-Process status ends at the conclusion of the SRVA Junior Regional Championships. An individual, who does not meet the certification requirements outlined in Section XIV.A., shall not officiate after this date. This individual will have to start the process over in the upcoming season.
8. **Any Official who is placed on probation or suspension will be considered to be “Not in Good Standing” until the probation period is over or the suspension is lifted**

XV. IN GOOD STANDING POLICY FOR INDOOR NATIONAL REFEREES AND SCORERS

To maintain “good standing” as a nationally certified official (National Referee, National Scorer or Junior National Referee) you are responsible for meeting the following requirements each year:

- A. Be a regular member of the SRVA.
- B. Maintain a current successful USAV background check.
- C. **Meet current yearly SafeSport training requirements.**
- D. Submit a copy of your graded exam to the Officials Chair.
- E. Provide service to the Region by completing one of the following every year:
 1. Conduct an SRVA clinic.
 2. Referee at any of the three Indoor Regional Championships as scheduled by the Officials Chair.
 3. Serve as a Scorer Monitor at any of the three Indoor Regional Championships as scheduled by the Officials Chair
 4. Submit 8 ratings of Regional, Provisional or In-Process officials.
 5. Give-a-day rating officials as scheduled by the Officials Chair.
 6. Serve as a member of the SRVA Regional Rating Team.
 7. Alternative forms of service which do not appear on this list may be substituted with prior approval of the Officials Chair.
 8. **Any Official who is placed on probation or suspension will be considered to be “Not in Good Standing” until the probation period is over or the suspension is lifted.**

Note: Failure to complete agreed upon commitments may result in the loss of an Officials’ “good standing” with SRVA and may be reported to the appropriate national committee.

XVI. SOUTHERN REGION VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION ABUSE AND HARASSMENT POLICY

Abuse and harassment can occur between any combination of volleyball members: Coaches, players, officials, parents and/or organizers; and is prohibited.

USA Volleyball SafeSport policies are intended to address the following types of abuse and misconduct:

1. Sexual Misconduct;
2. Physical Misconduct;
3. Emotional Misconduct;
4. Bullying, Threats and Harassment;
5. Harassment, including Sexual Harassment;
6. Hazing.

All SRVA members shall familiarize themselves with the USA Volleyball SafeSport Handbook and guidelines for each form of misconduct and shall refrain from engaging in misconduct and/or violating any of these policies. SafeSport policies may be found at [USCenterForSafeSport.org](https://www.uscenterforsafesport.org) as well as through the SafeSport section of the USA Volleyball website. Ignorance is not an excuse. Any SRVA participant or parent of a participant who violates any of the SafeSport policies for abuse and misconduct is subject to appropriate disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension, permanent suspension and/or referral to law enforcement authorities.

In the event that any SRVA member or employee or volunteer of a SRVA member club observes or suspects inappropriate behaviors (i.e., policy violations), suspected physical and/or sexual abuse, or any other types of abuse or misconduct, it is the responsibility of such person to immediately report their observations to the appropriate authority for such behavior as set out in the USA Volleyball SafeSport Handbook.

All reports of sexual misconduct will follow the proper reporting procedure for ultimate investigation and resolution by the U.S. Center for SafeSport relating to a final decision regarding an individual's continued participation within SRVA. The U.S. Center for SafeSport has the exclusive authority to investigate and resolve alleged SafeSport Code violations involving sexual misconduct for all USA Volleyball members. In addition to reporting within SRVA and USA Volleyball, any reporter of suspected sexual misconduct must also report suspected child physical or sexual abuse to appropriate local or state law enforcement authorities when required under applicable law. Employees and volunteers should not attempt to evaluate the credibility or validity of child physical or sexual abuse allegations as a condition for reporting to appropriate law enforcement authorities.

SRVA retains the authority to investigate and resolve alleged SafeSport violations that are non-sexual in nature when called upon to do so by an individual member or club.

SRVA has **ZERO TOLERANCE** for abuse and misconduct.

The procedures outlined in the SRVA Due Process Procedure Policy will be used to investigate any non-sexual misconduct complaint and to invoke any sanction or remedy. A report of non-sexual misconduct will remain confidential unless: (1- investigation of the report

of misconduct, **2** - eliminating or remedying any misconduct found to have occurred, or **3** - preventing future misconduct) requires dissemination of information.

SRVA reserves the right to restrict from sanctioned events any member, volunteer, parent, and/or other person alleged to have committed sexual misconduct, pending the investigation of the sexual misconduct report.

Any member who engages in sexual misconduct, or who fails to cooperate in an investigation of any misconduct behavior under SafeSport guidelines, or who violates or acts in a manner inconsistent with this policy and/or SafeSport guidelines, may be immediately dismissed as a member of the Southern Region Volleyball Association.

Any SRVA club that permits an individual to participate in any Club activity while the individual is prohibited by SRVA or any other authority from doing so as a result of a violation of this Policy shall be subject to discipline including but not limited to temporary or permanent suspension or prohibition from participation in any SRVA and/or USA Volleyball event and/or activity.

XVII. SOUTHERN REGION VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION DUE PROCESS PROCEDURE

If an individual or a team is accused of wrongdoing where a sanction or penalty may be necessary, due process involves the right of the accused to confront their accusers, to allow both complaining and accused parties an opportunity to present their side of the story and receive fair consideration in a timely fashion, and have an opportunity for the decision to be reconsidered by a higher authority.

A. **SCOPE:** This procedure is designed to handle serious situations such as those that could lead to sanctions imposed under the SRVA Operating Code, or the appeal of simple procedural decisions, such as not completing referee or scorer qualification/certification requirements, failure to follow tournament guidelines, etc.

Upon initial review of the complaint, it shall be within the SRVA Commissioner's or the reviewing party's discretion to decide whether the complaint requires immediate action, prompt action, or action at the next regularly scheduled Board or Committee meeting

B. **NOTICE CONTENT:** A notice of accusation should include the following items:

1. Summary of accusation(s).
2. Statement that the accused has a right to respond and an explanation of how to respond.
3. Description of any immediate actions (sanctions) taken.
4. If a sanction is invoked, explanation of any appeal process.
5. Date, time, location and description of any hearing or conference scheduled.
6. Statement that a penalty or sanction may be imposed/upheld/reduced/increased as a result of the hearing.

C. **PROCEDURE:**

1. The initial notification of accusation(s), decision(s) and/or sanctions imposed may be made orally (either in person or by phone) or by e-mail.

2. However, all decisions that impose a sanction that includes an individual suspension from participation must be followed by written notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, with a duplicate copy sent by regular first class mail.
3. Notification of any sanction(s) should clearly explain the terms and reasons for the sanction(s) and any appeal process.
4. Both the complaining and accused party will get a copy of the decision and each will have the right to appeal it

D. APPEAL PROCESS:

1. All appeals must be filed in writing within 30 days of the date of the prior decision.
2. Appeal of any procedural decision rendered by an individual other than the SRVA Region Commissioner may be initiated (a) orally [followed by reduction to written appeal] or (b) directly in writing.
3. Appeal of any sanction or procedural decision rendered by the SRVA Region Commissioner shall be made in writing to the SRVA Review Committee by contacting the SRVA Vice-President or the SRVA Secretary (if the SRVA Vice-President rendered any part the decision being appealed or will be a witness in the hearing).
4. Appeal of any decision of the Review Committee may be made by either the complaining or accused party in writing to the Board of Directors by notifying the person (the SRVA Vice President or otherwise) who presided over the Review Committee hearing.
5. The only determination to be made by the SRVA Board upon appeal to it from a decision of the Review Committee shall be whether the appealing party was accorded due process.
6. Any appeal beyond the SRVA Board shall be in accordance with the USA Volleyball Guide.

E. COMPOSITION OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE:

1. Region Commissioner
2. Vice-President
3. Secretary
4. Junior Chair
5. Officials Chair

F. FUNCTION OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE:

1. The Vice-President (or Secretary if the Vice-President rendered any part of the decision under appeal and/or will be a witness in the hearing) will schedule and preside over the hearing.
2. If the Commissioner, Vice President, and Secretary all rendered any part of the decision(s) being appealed or will be witnesses in the hearing, the remaining members of the Review Committee shall select a presiding officer who shall schedule and preside over the hearing.

3. Review Committee members who rendered any part of the decision(s) being appealed or who will be witnesses in the hearing shall not take part in the deliberations of the Committee and shall not cast a vote.

4. A quorum of the Review Committee shall be a majority of the above-listed members who are neither involved in the decision(s) being appealed nor witnesses, and decisions of the Review Committee are made by a majority vote of the Committee members present (in person or by conference call/electronic hookup) who are neither involved in the decision(s) being appealed nor witnesses.
5. If non-involved membership of the Committee falls below three members, the remaining Review committee members will appoint additional Board members to bring the total members of the Committee to three.

G. HEARING PROCEDURES:

1. Hearings before the Review Committee may be either in person, or through the use of available electronic conferencing services (i.e. telephone or video), or a combination thereof as decided by the presiding officer after consultation with Review Committee members who were neither involved in the decision nor witnesses.
2. Electronic conferencing services (i.e. telephone or video) costs and reasonable administrative costs of all hearings shall be paid for by the SRVA.
3. The presiding officer will make reasonable efforts to schedule the hearing whether in person or through the use of available electronic conferencing services (i.e. telephone or video) at the convenience of the involved parties.
4. The hearing will include presentation of the accusation and evidence supporting the accusation; and response, defense, and/or counter-argument of the accused.
5. The Review Committee will deliberate and make a decision in private and outside the presence of the complaining party, the accused, witnesses, and all persons who made an earlier decision during the decision and/or appeal process.

H. APPEALS TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS FROM THE REVIEW COMMITTEE:

1. If a decision of the Review Committee is appealed, SRVA Board members who are neither involved in the decision(s) being appealed nor witnesses to any matters that frame the basis for the appealed decision(s) will select a presiding officer and use the procedures below to schedule a hearing, except that the only issue to be considered by the Board will be whether the appealing party was accorded due process.
2. For the purpose of deciding appeals from a Review Committee decision, a quorum of the Board shall consist of a majority of the current Board Members who are neither involved in the decision(s) being appealed nor witnesses to any matters that frame the basis for the appealed decision(s); and a majority vote of such quorum is required to overturn the decision of the Review Committee.
3. Board Appeals may be convened in person at a normally scheduled Board meeting, or through the use of available electronic conferencing services (i.e. telephone or video), or a combination thereof as decided by the presiding officer after consultation with Board member eligible to participate in the Appeal.
4. Electronic conferencing services (i.e. telephone or video) and reasonable administrative costs of all hearings shall be paid for by the SRVA.

5. The presiding officer will make reasonable efforts to schedule any hearing conducted by electronic conferencing services (i.e. telephone or video) at the convenience of the involved parties. The presiding officer will preside over the Appeal hearing at which the Board will only hear, receive, and consider evidence related and necessary to the issue of whether the appealing party was afforded due process.
6. The Board quorum will deliberate and make a decision in private and outside the presence of the appealing party, the complainant, the accused, witnesses, and all persons who rendered any earlier decision during the decision and/or appeal process.

XVIII. SOUTHERN REGION VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

1. All individuals who participate with SRVA will disclose to the SRVA Commissioner or their designee, the nature and extent of an actual or potential conflict of interest when it occurs.
2. All current members of the SRVA Board of Directors will submit a signed Principles of Ethical Behavior/Conflict of Interest form. Incoming SRVA Board members will submit a signed Principles of Ethical Behavior/Conflict of Interest form prior to assuming their duties as a current board member.