

SAFETY | SERVICE | EDUCATION | OPPORTUNITY | GROWTH

court connection

NorthCountry

REGION VOLLEYBALL



RYAN SALMON
JUNIOR ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVE



Ryan Salmon is expected to be elected as NCR's Junior Assembly Representative (J.A.R.). As J.A.R., Ryan will attend the national Junior Assembly May Meetings with a focus on issues that best serve volleyball for NCR clubs and players. Learn more here. [Learn More Here](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

ALL STAR TRYOUTS
Girls & Boys - April 24, 2026
Sioux Falls, SD

OUTDOOR TOURNAMENTS
North Country Region has expanded its outdoor volleyball opportunities for Summer 2026.

Lake Riley Classic Beach Region Qualifier -
May 23 and May 24, 2026

USAV Beach National Qualifier -
June 6 and June 7, 2026

Heatwave Classic Grass Adults Tournament-
June 20 and June 21, 2026

Battle for the Grass Adults Tournament-
August 8, 2026



ShowMe National Qualifier: Moving clockwise from top left: VOLT 16-1; Mizuno Northern Lights 17-1, MVA 17 Elite, Mizuno Northern Lights 15-Red. Kairos Volleyball 17 Beta and 16 Alpha not pictured.

Region Teams Excel in Kansas City and Qualify for USA Volleyball Junior National Championships

North Country Region had several clubs send teams to the ShowMe National Qualifier held April 11-13 in Kansas City, MO. Three clubs returned to the Region with earned bids to compete in USA Volleyball Junior National Championships this summer. Please let us know if we missed you so that we can share your good news.

Mizuno Northern Lights 17-1 earned an Open bid in their age division. The Open Division is the most competitive of USA Volleyball divisions. Their NCRQ National bid has trickled down to **MN Select 17-1** who earned an American bid at the February NCRQ

Minnesota Volleyball Academy (MVA) 17 Elite earned an American bid in the girls 17s age division. After finishing fifth at the February NCRQ, which placed them one position out of earning a bid, MVA 17 Elite has stayed the course and

earned an opportunity to compete at USA Volleyball's Junior National Championships.

Kairos 17 Beta from Sioux Falls, SD earned a USA Bid at ShowMe. We unfortunately do not have a photo of the team.

Kairos 16-1 from Sioux Falls, SD earned an Open bid at ShowMe. We unfortunately do not have a photo of the team.

VOLT 16-1 from Fargo, ND, finished first in the USA division at ShowMe after qualifying in the Freedom division at February NCRQ followed by qualifying for the USA division at NLQ 2.

Mizuno Northern Lights 15-Red earned an American bid at Show Me. Great showing for this team.

[View List of all Girls USA Volleyball Junior National Championships Qualified Teams](#)

Message from the Region Commissioner

Time has flown. With four months remaining for the 25-26 season, NCR staff's focus is to continue to finish strong with support, resources, and opportunities while also in deep preparations for the 27-28 season and beyond. Thank you for growing volleyball with us! More soon!

Eligibility and Safety

SafeSport Claim Process

When a claimant submits a SafeSport claim that is associated with USA Volleyball or a Region of USA Volleyball

- the Center will notify USA Volleyball
- USA Volleyball will notify the Region with which the claim is associated to determine conflict of interest and pending/current disciplinary action
- the Center determines if the Center will adjudicate the claim
- if the Center does not adjudicate the claim, the Center will move the claim to USA Volleyball
- USA Volleyball determines if it will adjudicate the claim
- if USA Volleyball does not adjudicate the claim the USA Volleyball will have the Local Area Organization (LAO) or Region from which the claim was associated to adjudicate the complaint.

If law enforcement is involved, then their process takes precedence.

Claims are highly confidential for every claim. Lack of communication usually means the claim is denied, being investigated, validated, or added to a file as additional information for an ongoing investigation.



Crash Course: Concussion Education from the Brain Association of America
[CLICK HERE FOR ACCESS](#)

Region Team Development Program




PEDRO MENDES
 GENERAL MANAGER AND HEAD COACH OF MLV MINNESOTA

RTDP LEAD COACH ANNOUNCED: NCR is thrilled to announce Pedro Mendes, Head Coach of MLV Minnesota, as the Lead Coach for the NCR Girls Region Team Development Program (RTDP) Training Series hosted May 29–31, 2026 in Monticello, MN.

Pedro Mendes serves as the Lead Coach for NCR’s Regional Training Development Program, bringing extensive experience from both the collegiate and international levels. He was recently named the General Manager and Head Coach of Major League Volleyball Minnesota. This past winter Mendes spent time in Colorado Springs where he served on staff training the USA Volleyball Collegiate National Team.

Previously he was at the University of Minnesota, where he helped elevate team performance, particularly in blocking and defensive systems, while mentoring All-Big Ten and All-Region athletes. Known for his technical expertise and ability to develop high-level talent, Mendes has made an immediate impact on every program he’s been part of.

Prior to his time in Minnesota, Mendes was the Head Coach of Hylte/Halmstad Volley in Sweden, leading the club to back-to-back national and cup championships, and previously coached with Eczasibasi Sports Club in Istanbul. A former professional player with over a decade of international experience, Mendes brings a global perspective and a proven track record of athlete development to NCR’s highest-level training environment. **[RTDP INFORMATION](#)**

COACHES: NCR will offer a coaching clinic in association with this year’s RTDP. If a coach is interested in participating with RTDP then please join us. **[RTDP COACH OPPORTUNITIES](#)**

Officiating and USAV Rules of the Game

USAV Officiating Opportunities

The NCR indoor officiating season successfully wrapped up this past weekend with the Shamrock Shenanigans tournament. While this concludes the primary 2025–26 NCR-hosted schedule, officiating opportunities still exist. From upcoming National Qualifiers to park and rec summer beach season, there is still work to be found.

Stay informed on upcoming USAV officiating opportunities by visiting the events calendar at <https://usavolleyball.org/events/>. This searchable resource allows you to track USAV National Championships, Qualifiers, and regional tournaments, ensuring you have the latest dates and locations to plan your season effectively

Far Westerns – Reno, NV

The Far Western National Qualifier is seeking officials for its three-weekend run in Reno, Nevada:

- Weekend 1: April 10–12
- Weekend 2: April 17–19
- Weekend 3: April 24–26



SIGN UP

Why should I consider traveling?

- **Competitive Pay:** Match rates from \$43 to \$49 based on certification level.
- **Bonus:** Earn a \$500 bonus for working all three days of all three weekends.
- **Lodging:** Shared hotel (for those 50+ miles away)
- **Travel Support:** travel stipends, and carpooling incentives up to \$225 per car.
- **Perks:** Lunch provided (Fri/Sat), daily parking reimbursement, and tournament swag.

You know what we worry about, things we care about. I didn’t get nervous making breakfast this morning. – Jonah Oliver

Sports Psychologist

Get Involved!

Interested in joining a club, officiating, volunteering at an event, or starting something new? Check out the [NCR website](#) and contact memberships@ncrusav.org.

