



## **2023-2024 RMR Junior Handbook**

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# Introduction

## The Rocky Mountain Region

The RMR is a non-profit organization, governed by its Board of Directors, in accordance with its Bylaws. Board Members serve on permanent committees in support of the various RMR Divisions: Girls, Boys, Beach, Adults, Officials and Ethics. The Region is further served by an office staff under the direction of its Executive Director.

The RMR takes as its charge promoting the sport of volleyball in each of its various modalities across Colorado and Wyoming. The RMR Purpose Statement and Bylaws, along with the minutes of Board and Committee meetings, may be reviewed at the homepage of the RMR website ([rmrvolleyball.org](http://rmrvolleyball.org)).

The RMR Juniors Program is collaboratively administered by the Girls Division (three elected Chairpersons), the Boys Division (one Chairperson), the Officials Division (one Chairperson), and the RMR Executive Director. Both the Girls and Boys Divisions include Club Directors as advisors and members of their respective Seeding Committees. The RMR employs a Strength of Schedule (SOS) Program, which maintains rankings of our girls and boys teams through the season. Further description of RMR structure and function, including a copy of our governing By-Laws, can be found at the homepage of our website: at [rmrvolleyball.org](http://rmrvolleyball.org). A full description of the SOS program is included in this Handbook, as well as in a published presentation at [rmrvolleyball.org](http://rmrvolleyball.org).

## The Benefits of USAV and RMR Membership

### Nationally

In addition to offering excellent opportunities for athletes to train and compete across the country, USA Volleyball offers a [suite of services](#) to its members. Additionally and importantly, USAV promotes all modalities of our sport nationally and internationally. As our National Governing Body, USA-Volleyball compiles and manages our rule sets, maintains referee and coach education platforms, and drives our country's National Team Program, "fueling the USA Olympic dream." *USAV works very diligently to provide a safe and fair environment for all of the practices and events that occur under the USAV umbrella.*

### Locally

The RMR directly supports the Colorado and Wyoming volleyball communities by offering comprehensive, low cost tournaments (the RMR Power Series and other events) for girls, boys, and adults on both hardcourt and sand. The RMR also provides a professionally staffed full-time office in support of both member families and club operations.

### Insurance

USA Volleyball offers specific and valuable insurance to its members. Adult and Junior membership includes not only basic liability coverage for hosts, but also *Sports Accident Medical Insurance* that covers athlete health at all practices and tournaments sanctioned by the RMR/USAV. USAV insurance sports accident coverage is "secondary" in nature but in most ways *exceeds the coverage available through any other youth sport agency.*

# USAV and The RMR: *A Safe Place To Play*

The RMR supports all USAV requirements with regard to participant safety. USAV policies ensure the safety of all participants by requiring that all adults engaged in sanctioned practices and competitions be full members of USAV, in good standing and including annual safety requirements, before they are allowed to participate in sanctioned USAV/RMR activities, including tryouts or practices. All registered adults are required to successfully pass comprehensive background screens annually. Additionally, all adults must complete the Olympic Committee's safety program "[SafeSport](#)" and its various annual refresher courses. All members, including parent-spectators, must sign and commit to the USAV Code of Conduct and the RMR Spectator Code of Conduct that are presented during the online membership process.

USAV and the RMR retain the right to require additional background screens at any time, and maintain the authority to investigate any cases of inappropriate conduct by any athletes, members or staff associated with USAV programming. The right of appeal is included in all findings or actions by USAV and RMR. The particulars of the appeal process are also described in the USAV documentation referenced above.

## SafeSport Program

The RMR subscribes to the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) and USA Volleyball (USAV) SafeSport program. We actively promote the SafeSport program and its underlying message to our coaches and directors through various training and educational processes, advertised at the RMR Club Director webpages. It is a requirement of USA Volleyball to have all club directors and coaches (beach and indoor) as well as all officials and any other adults in positions of control over athletes to be certified by SafeSport each season. All RMR staff are "mandatory reporters" vested in the safety of our athletes. The RMR office staff and our Board of Directors' Ethics Group are frequently called upon to assist the SafeSport Center in investigation and/or resolution of reports.

## To Make A SafeSport Report Online

Visit <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern/>

## To Make a SafeSport Report In Person

### **RMR SafeSport Contact**

Executive Director Keith Murlless ([kmurlless@rmrvolleyball.org](mailto:kmurlless@rmrvolleyball.org)) (303) 584-0376

### **USAV SafeSport Contact**

USAV staff: (719) 228-6800

# RMR Operations

## RMR Calendar

All RMR competition dates, important administrative dates, and several useful "volleyball community" dates are posted at the RMR website's [calendar page](#). This page is your single and best source of information regarding RMR events, programs and meetings. (also as a PDF: navigate to [rmrvolleyball.org/calendars/pdf](http://rmrvolleyball.org/calendars/pdf))

## RMR Annual Cycle

The Fiscal Cycle for USAV and The RMR begin on September 1st, and end on August 31st.

The year is typically broken into seasons:

- **Fall** Boys compete during the RMR Fall Season, then break until the spring  
Girls are engaged in the CHSSA (high school) season
- **Winter** Girls compete in the RMR Power Series and other RMR events  
Boys play CHSAA volleyball
- **Spring** Girls conclude their RMR season with Championship play in April and May  
Boys reconvene in preparation for Junior Nationals
- **Summer**
  - RMR Beach Season plays, generally May through August
  - Girls and Boys Junior National Championships (JNCs) play in Late May and early July
    - Conclusion of the JNCs mark the end of the competition season for each gender.
    - After the Championships, each Division begins their recruiting, tryout and signing phase.
    -
- *Consult the Girls and Boys chapters below regarding their respective process details*

## Inclement Weather Policy

The RMR does not dictate whether teams or participants should or should not travel in any inclement weather or other conditions. Club and team travel to any RMR event is always managed "at your own risk and expense." In the event of road closures (verifiable by State Patrol) due to inclement weather on the date of the tournament, it is the responsibility of the club/team representative to notify the RMR (by text message to 303.584.0376) that the team is delayed and/or cannot participate. If possible, please also notify the Site Director at the assigned playing site. The RMR retains the sole right to determine whether matches are forfeited (no refund) or marked as "no contest" (funds may be applied to future events) based on the criteria above. Similarly, the application of SOS ranking points is subject to RMR Seeding Committee control in cases of "no show."

## Annual Process and Required Forms

### Pre-Season Checklist:

Each RMR club must be registered by a single USAV Member in Good Standing known as the Club Director. The Director is legally responsible for the club and the actions of its participants. Each season, the Club Director must join USAV as a full member, including safety screening and training. Only after this task has been completed, will the Director will be granted access to digital club controls at SportsEngine, and the ability to 1) apply to USAV via the Annual Form, for sanction (license to operate as a USAV club), 2) to apply for certificates of insurance, and 3) to invite coaches and athletes to join the club. The steps that a Club Director should complete are provided annually at the [Club Director webpage](#) in the form of a "Directors' Pre-Season Checklist."



## Annual Sanction Form

Clubs are required to complete and submit the **Annual Club Sanction Form** at the beginning of each season. The data submitted via this online tool is provided directly to USAV and stands as the Clubs' formal application for sanction with USA-Volleyball. This data is also used to create/update the *RMR Club Contact List* for the current season. Additional information regarding the Annual Sanction Form can be found on the Club Director's page on the RMR website.

## Certificates of Insurance

Clubs may request Certificates of Insurance for the sites where they are engaged in RMR sanctioned play. The COI application form is now self-service, available online at the Director's page of the RMR website. *Note that COI applications will not be accepted until the Club Director's personal membership renewal has fully processed and the Club's Annual Form has been accepted.*

Certificates of insurance (COIs) are available through USAV's insurance partner EPIC Insurance. These certificates are required by facility owners in order to allow USAV events under their roofs. Liability and medical sports-accident insurance are included. *This is a member benefit; there is no fee to clubs for these important and expensive coverages.*

Note that all participants in any sanctioned USAV/RMR activity (clinics, open gyms, camps, practice, etc.) that are sanctioned by the RMR-USAV insurance policy *must be current members of the RMR – USAV*. Non-members do not enjoy USAV/RMR insurance coverage, even at USAV/RMR sanctioned events. If participants in USAV sanctioned events are not RMR-USAV members, the insurance policy is null and void. Similarly, clubs that offer non-RMR programming (for example, competition branded to entities other than USAV, or practices leading to the same) will be responsible for participant safety and overall liability throughout those events.

The RMR recommends that if either type of activity (nonmembers at USAV events, or non-USAV events at Club facilities) are planned, that additional insurance be purchased by the club.

Certificates of insurance may be requested via an online portal posted at the Director page of the RMR website. Return of the COI is nearly immediate, with copies provided to both the Facility Owner (Holder) and Club Contact. Certificates auto-renew by default each year, although they are null and void should the Director or club fail to maintain good-standing.

NEW in 2023: Directors may now log into their EPIC account to verify what facilities they have under Certificate. Instructions for this process are provided at the RMR [Club Director webpage](#).

## Medical Waiver/Release Form

USAV now manages member **waivers** through its annual online membership application process, rather than requiring that clubs keep in hand paper copies of records. Still, clubs may choose to keep "team folders" on file as they travel. These often contain age-verification and emergency-contact information for each player, as well as basic reporting forms such as the "Medical Incident" form. While *USAV no longer requires* these team folders, they can prove extremely useful. *Clubs that choose to maintain and carry these records are encouraged to keep this information in digital format, stored securely, but easily accessible.*

- RMR event Site Directors are provided with Medical Incident and other insurance forms.

Each of the forms discussed above are available at the RMR [Club Director webpage](#).

# Event Registration and Deadlines

*We appreciate that Clubs pre-register for events in the fall*, allowing us to better plan our competitions! For this reason, we encourage pre-registration, but do not require payment until the registration deadline.

The registration opening dates for all events are specifically published to the RMR [Calendar](#).

The deadline for teams to sign up for or withdraw from an RMR event is 12 PM MST (Noon) Monday, two weeks prior to the event.

Teams that withdraw **before the deadline** are eligible for full refund (less any banking fees)

After the Deadline:

- Teams may only be added to an event if the RMR deems this advantageous to formatting
- Teams that “drop” **after the deadline** forfeit their entire event fee, and may be additionally sanctioned.
  - No refunds for withdrawal will be given to the team after the deadline.
  - 2nd cancellation - Up to \$250 in addition to the event registration fee
  - 3rd cancellation - Up to \$500 in addition to the event registration fee
  - 4th cancellation - Up to \$1,000 in addition to the event registration fee
- “Double-Registration” is not allowed
  - Teams may be sanctioned for registering into two events (for example: JNQ + RMR) over the same dates of play
  - Violation of this policy results in loss of eligibility to the RMR ZBT
- Teams who have fallen into arrears financially with the Region will not be allowed to participate

# RMR Payment and Fee Structure

All fees should be paid at [TM2sign.com](http://TM2sign.com).

## Accepted Methods of Payment

TM2sign offers two options for payment that offer “automated processing” or team registrations.

### ***The preferred method of fee payment is an ACH-funds-transfer process***

- The ACH process is fee-free, but can be slow to process
- Teams do not display as “accepted” at TM2 until the Pending ACH payment goes through.
- We ask that ACH payments be made 2 weeks in advance of the deadline (4 weeks prior to event)
- Since the RMR offers “full refund for drops until deadline” a reasonable fee-free strategy might be to
  - Register for the entire years’ events in December, using ACH to pre-pay for them.
  - Leave Power 5 and 6 “unpaid/pay-by-check”
  - If you drop some teams out of events, we can move your pre-paid funds forward to cover pre-registered Power 5 and Power 6 events, with little paperwork and no fees required!

***Alternatively, fees may be paid by credit card*** (subject to a 3% pass-through bank fee)

- *Credit card processing is near-instantaneous, and so should be used in “near deadline” situations*

***The RMR does accept checks-by-mail on a limited basis***, from those clubs *unable* to utilize the processes above

- In this case, teams would not display as “accepted” at TM2 until the office has entered each individual event-entry on the clubs behalf.
- *Be advised that in future years, the RMR may begin to charge a fee for this labor-intensive process.*

## RMR Fees for the 23-24 Season

### Membership Fees

Coach/Director Membership	\$74 (Includes Background screen fee; SafeSport and IMPACT Required)
Full-season Player Membership	\$70 (includes summer and/or following-season tryout membership)
11-Under (restricted) Membership	\$15 (for RMR play only; traveling team members use full membership above)
8-Under (restricted) Membership	\$0 (for RMR play only; traveling team members use full membership above)
Team Manager (Coach <18)	\$60 (SafeSport and IMPACT Required)
Team (Parent) Representative	\$25 (SafeSport and Background required)
Site Host Membership	\$39 (B/G provided, SS required, subsidized by RMR)
Summer (Beach) Membership	\$20 (includes following-season tryout membership; <i>Upgradable</i> )
Tryout Membership	\$15 ( <i>Upgradable</i> )
RMR Professional Official	\$39 (includes Background screening fee; subsidized by RMR)
Adult Player	\$25

**All Members 18 or older (any time during the season) are required to complete USAV SafeSport training**

### USAV/RMR Membership Refund Policies

In rare cases a junior player will have joined as a full member, then finds he/she is unable to play or is not signed by a club. In these cases the RMR and USAV may offer a full or partial refund of fee. (refunds not available once competition season has begun) Requests may be made at [office@rmrvolleyball.org](mailto:office@rmrvolleyball.org).

### Administrative Fees

Annual RMR Team Rostering Fee	\$50 per team per season, due at "Season Master Roster" at <a href="http://TM2sign.com">TM2sign.com</a>
Team Registration Fee	\$50 per team per year
Referee Deposit Fee	<i>(previously \$150) No longer required.</i>

### Event Registration and Officiating Fees

- **Event Registration** is managed through [TM2sign.com](http://TM2sign.com).
- Opening dates and deadlines are presented in the [RMR Calendar](#).

Prices vary by event, based on the style and duration of the event. The RMR attempts to provide professional adult officials as often as possible. Teams only pay additional "officiating" fees when referees have been provided:

• Girls & Boys Power Series	\$235	\$295, when officials are provided
• Top Flight Invitational	\$295	(officials are provided)
• Friendship Exhibitions	\$200	(\$260 when officials are provided)
• RMR Classic (two day)	\$400	(officiating included in fee, but not guaranteed)
• RMR Showdown (three day)	\$600	(officiating included in fee, but not guaranteed)
• RMR National Bid Tournament	\$235	referees included
• Zelinkoff Bid Tournaments (ZBT)	\$235	referees included
• RMR Mountain Series	\$850	(four one-day events, no officials)
• Regional End-Of-Season Tournament	\$400	(officiating included in fee, but not guaranteed)

### Clinic Fees

USAV Academy online courses are the central basis for our team officiating training, and are **FREE**

- The RMR hosts in-person officials training at various sites (see below).
- The fee for officiating students (player or coach) is \$10 per training event

# Officiating in the RMR

## Junior Officiating Duties

At RMR/USAV events each team is responsible to provide a “work team” during assigned matches throughout the day. Each team must be prepared to provide a minimum of two certified referees, two certified scorers, and two capable line judges from their team roster. Each team must always have at least one rostered and certified adult who is eligible and capable to serve as the R1 for the match, or as R2, if a paid referee is provided. ***The rostered adult is required to serve as R1, R2 or as one of the score-table staff (not a line judge) so that they may best oversee their work team.***

Generally, two coaches fulfill the team referee requirements. Some programs may opt to roster and certify parents or other adults, known as Team Representatives, to assist in these functions. RMR offers a reduced membership rate in support of this initiative. All Team Reps must be current USAV members with cleared safety accreditation, and certified in the officiating role they will fulfill.

## Referees

### **First and Second Referees (R1 and R2)**

The RMR attempts to provide professional officials for as many contests as possible. *An additional fee may be charged if the paid officials are not included in the event entry fee. See specific event details for more information.*

If paid officials are not provided for the event, the R1 and/or R2 must be provided by the team.. Either a Certified Adult referee or a Certified Junior Official may fill the roles. Adult officials must be current members in good standing, with full safety credentials. Junior Officials must be certified as an official, as below. At least one official must be an adult.

*Players 15+ may serve as R1's as long as they have completed all the training AND they have a certified, rostered adult working as their R2.*

*Players 16+ may work as a paid official if they complete the New Provisional Training coursework in the Academy and have successfully passed professional observations (ratings)*

## Scorer Keepers

### **Scorer and Assistant Scorer (SK and AS)**

At all RMR events a certified scorekeeping adult that has met the safety requirements or a certified rostered scorekeeping athlete must fill this role.

## Lines Judges

At all RMR events two rostered lines-judge certified athletes (or eligible certified adults) must fill this role.

# Officials Training

The RMR Officiating Division oversees the training and assignment of match officials (referees, scorers and lines-judges) for RMR events. We do our best to provide professional referees (as R1s) to as many events as possible, but we're not currently able to cover all the courts that we host at any given competition.

## Requirements

- **RETURNING** team officials (players or coaches certified for two or more previous seasons) recertify online
- **NEW for 23-24: NEW** team officials (1st or 2nd year) must also attend in-person training

## Online Training Provided by USAV

Referee and scorekeeping education for RETURNING team officials will be managed through online training

- The USAV Academy training platform is accessed through each member's profile at SportsEngine
- Instructions for navigating to the Academy page are available [HERE](#)
- Curricula for both "new official" and "maintaining official" will be identified by the Officials Division.
- Teams are required to roster a minimum of one certified referee and two certified scorers at all events
- These certified individuals should be the persons *who actually serve* as officials for the team
- Teams are encouraged to certify additional members as officials to ensure adequate staffing at all events

## In-Person Clinics Provided by RMR

The RMR does offer in-person clinics and hands-on training events.

- Directors may request to host in-person on-court scoring clinics via a portal on the [Club Director webpage](#)
- Additionally, beginning in 2024, The RMR will host Zoom-based referee clinics for coaches

## Officiating Equipment

All team-officials provide their own whistles, red and yellow cards, and a timing device (watch) with second hand or equivalent. Score-tables are usually prepared with pens and pencils, but it's never a bad idea to bring your own! The use of electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, etc.) is prohibited while officiating!

## Missed Assignments

A team coach should *always* double-check with the Tournament Desk before allowing their team to leave the venue! It's easy to overlook an officiating assignment, and we don't want you to accidentally leave any matches without a work team. *Also note that the RMR may fine teams and clubs for "skipping out" on their work assignments.*

## Sportsmanship **"ZERO Tolerance Policy"**

Verbal or any other abuse directed at any of the officiating crew (or any of the playing teams) may result in the offender being removed from the event facility at the discretion of the Tournament Director and/or referees. (See "[RMR Spectator/Parent Code of Conduct](#)"). ***The RMR and its Ethics Committee maintain the right to sanction individuals in violation of this policy, including offering attendance bans, and/or canceling USAV/RMR membership without refund.***

# Professional Officiating Opportunities

## Paid Junior Scorers and Referees

The RMR Junior Scorer Monitor and Junior Referee programs are designed to train Junior Club players who are 16 and older to help officiate younger age groups. This is an opportunity for junior club players to make money while participating in club sports! The program is funded by the RMR to allow any members who are interested to pursue this important path. For more information, see our [webpage!](#)

## Adult Officials

The RMR is looking for a few good women and men to help officiate club volleyball!

For information regarding the levels of training available, and how to sign up, see "[Officiating](#)" on the RMR website. COACHES are invited to join the officiating ranks!

→ Coach on "Even" weekends and officiate for pay on the "Odds"

# Club & Team Structure

A club is an organization that hosts a team or group of teams of various age levels or genders. Clubs are managed by their Director, and operate within the USAV/RMR administrative structure. Clubs may host multiple teams in each or any level or gender. For example, Club Dig might host four Girls 18's, three Girls-16's, two Girls14's teams as well as a Boys 14s team, and various beach teams, all within one structure.

Player movement is allowed within a club, subject to USAV/RMR age and gender restrictions. **The RMR does not offer "Age Waivers" in its Power Series or Championship events.** That is, an older-age player may not move down to play in a lower-age group. (see USAV "Age Definitions" and "Age Falsification" discussions) Teams participating in the RMR Mountain and Wyoming Series may apply for an age waiver (1 year maximum) in 14 & Under competition, to facilitate participation and league growth in those specific markets.

## Club Directors

The club director is the person responsible for the management of their club. This officer serves as the point of contact for communication with the Region. The Director is responsible for ensuring that each player, coach, and team representative completes the RMR-USAV membership requirements, and that all club personnel adhere to all USAV and RMR regulations through the season. The club director is also the point of contact for their member athletes and parents, and is, in turn, their liaison to the RMR. The Director may identify to the RMR as many as two assistant directors for communication purposes, but the Director remains legally responsible for all club activity.

## Coaches

The RMR supports all USAV requirements and expectations with regard to Coach qualification and professional behavior. All adult Coaches (18 or older) must be registered members of USAV, in good standing, with a cleared background screening, as well as SafeSport certification. Additionally, they must be USAV-IMPACT certified.

Junior members may enter the coaching ranks, where they are identified as "**Team Managers.**" They must be a registered junior member in good standing, and are subject to SafeSport requirements if they will become 18 during the upcoming season. Team Managers enjoy courtside coaching privileges, but **must be supervised by an adult Head Coach at all times.** Team Managers are not required to be background screened until they become 18 years old, when they formally transition to the status of Adult Member and become subject to all adult Coach requirements.

## Creation of Clubs and Registration of Teams

- The RMR membership year begins September 1st and ends August 31st of the following year.
- Annually, Club Directors must secure their personal memberships and fulfill their safety requirements.
- Club Directors may then submit the "Annual Club Sanction" form, online, to USAV/RMR. (\$50 fee applies)
- Clubs will not be recognized by the RMR unless this online application has been completed.
- Directors generate digital *invitation links* within their SportsEngine Club Profile ("HQ")
  - The links are used to specifically invite each Coach and Player to join the Club
  - By accepting this invitation and signing a club contract, athletes "affiliate" with the Club formally
- Club Directors create and submit team rosters through [tm2sign.com](https://tm2sign.com),
- A specific (administrative) event called "*RMR Season Master Roster*" is used to house each team
- The \$50 annual team registration fee should be paid online at the time of team registration.
- Team rosters must be registered and validated through [tm2sign.com](https://tm2sign.com) in order to allow the team to be properly seeded into their age group through the RMR Strength of Schedule (SOS) process. See specific dates in the *Initial Season Team Ranking* section.
- Teams that form after the initial seeding date will be seeded by the Girls Committee as they join the RMR.

## RMR Club Name and Club Code

The RMR will consult with each new club as it initially forms, to identify a Club Name that will be easily recognized but is also unique within the Region. The RMR will assign the new club a unique 5-digit code, based on their club name. For example, a club west of Denver might be known as "Mountain Volleyball Club, (MTNVB)". This code will become the basis for all Team IDs for both regional and national USAV play. *New clubs are encouraged to review the list of RMR Clubs and Codes (posted at the RMR website) before proposing their new club name.*

## USAV Team Code

Each team will be assigned a unique team code. The team code is designed to indicate the gender of the team, the age division in which it plays, its unique 5-digit Club code, and that specific team's number among same-age teams in the club. Additionally, all RMR teams are tagged with the Region identifier "RM."

The Mountain Volleyball clubs' best Girls-16s team would then be coded as: **G16MTNVB1RM**. This team code is unique to this team, and should be used for the entire season, both within the RMR and at all USAV National Qualifiers and Championships. *Importantly, the Team ID is used by the RMR Strength-of-Schedule (SOS) program to track the results and standings of all RMR teams.*

## Team Age Requirement

All teams will be required to determine and declare their age classification by submission of their roster at the beginning of the season prior to the first junior tournament the team enters. The team age is determined by the age of the oldest player on the roster. It is the responsibility of the Club Director/Team Representative to verify the age of the players listed on the roster by checking the date of birth on the birth certificate provided by the player, and through validation of the team roster at SportsEngine. A handy age calculator is provided at the RMR [Parent](#) and [Coach](#) pages of the RMR website

## USAV Junior Player Age Definition

The RMR adheres to all USAV Junior Player Age definitions and requirements for both boys and girls. For full details, please consult the [USAV Championship Manual](#), and the [USAV Forms](#) page. (both published annually by USAV.)

An explanatory age-chart, along with an "age calculator" tool, are offered by USAV and are re-published to the RMR [Parent](#) and [Coach](#) pages of the RMR website for member convenience.

## USAV Junior Age Falsification Policy

The Age Falsification policy establishes the penalties that may be imposed in cases where an athletes' age is reported falsely to USAV, its Regions or its sanctioned contests. For full details, please consult the [USAV Age Falsification Policy](#) document, which is also provided annually by USAV within the [USAV Championship Manual](#)

## Changing Team Age Classification

If during the year a situation presents itself that the age classification needs to be changed for a team, the team will be allowed to move up or down to the appropriate age classification. The team will be required to register as a new team, and an additional team rostersing fee will apply. The team will be seeded in their new age group manually by the GJC. The team's record prior to moving age groups does not follow the team to their new age group.

## Team Rosters

### Introduction

All individuals must be in "Good Standing" with both USAV and the region in order to be on a team roster. Players must be of the correct age and gender. (note that RMR does offer a few specific age or gender waivers under certain circumstances, as described within the RMR Girls and Boys Division and event-specific descriptions)



Club Directors are responsible for submitting an annual roster for each of their teams, through the "Season Master Roster" event at [TM2sign.com](http://TM2sign.com). Each Master Roster must be maintained through the entire season, such that it both accurately represents the team, and so that it always passes "validation" at USAV-SportsEngine.

## Validation

Validation of team rosters is required for participation in RMR events. This automated process through SportsEngine ensures that ALL membership, age, credentialing and safety requirements have been met by all staff and players.

## "Player Movement" (RMR only)

In general, USAV teams are expected to maintain stable rosters throughout the season. Within the RMR, *limited* player movement between same-club teams is allowed, to offer flexibility in the event of player injury or similar circumstance. Player movement guidelines include:

- Movement must be between teams that belong to the same club
- The "loaned" player must meet the age and gender requirements of the team (s)he competes with
- A maximum of two "loaned" players may participate with any team at a time
- Some events (especially bid-qualifying events) prohibit player movement ("fixed roster" rule applies)
- The Mountain and Wyoming Series allow age-waivers under certain circumstance (prior approval required)

## Season Master-Roster (RMR only)

Because the RMR allows (limited) player movement between teams throughout its season-long event series, we have developed a program that reduces the amount of related rostering paperwork. Teams are required to create a valid "Season Master Roster" at the beginning of the season, but are then allowed to apply that roster to almost all RMR events through the season. *Clubs are reminded that most events nationwide, including RMR events other than these three Series, require submission of a specific and validated roster for each registration.*

## Roster Requirements for Bid Events, Qualifiers and Championships

Different rostering restrictions apply to rosters for teams which will participate in bid tournaments such as the RMR Zelinkoff Bid Tournament or USAV Junior National Qualifiers (JNQs). Generally, the number of bench staff (players and coaches) are limited and neither age or gender waivers are not allowed. Directors are advised to become familiar with the "frozen roster" concept and other regulations presented in the annual "[Girls \(or Boys\) National Qualifier and Championship Manuals](#)."

## Rostered Team Officials

Each roster must include a USAV certified adult Head Coach, who should also be referee-certified. It should also include two or more individuals (usually players) who have completed their scorekeeping and/or referee certifications.

## Coach Signature and Responsibility

By signing the roster, the Team Coach legally represents both a) that only the team members indicated on the roster will participate and b) that all persons listed on the roster are legal members of the Club and USAV. Additionally, the Coach is certifying that all members present agree to abide by USAV, RMR and local host-site regulations. Clubs may be sanctioned for illegally rostered individuals (see "Fines and Sanctions"). ***The Club Director is responsible for ensuring that all club staff adhere to USAV and RMR regulations and guidelines at all times.***

# Membership & Affiliation

## Introduction to Memberships

USA Volleyball and the RMR offer memberships to several classes of participants including junior club members, coaches, referees, adult players, beach players and more. The specifics related to each type of membership are presented to each member annually, during the online membership renewal process, which is managed at the USAV membership portal [SportsEngine](#). Additionally, all supporting documents and waivers are available for review to each member at any time, at their [profile page](#) in SportsEngine.

All players and team staff must be current USAV members in good standing in order to participate in any RMR-sanctioned activity, including practices, hosted scrimmages, or formal competitions.

- Returning USAV players participate during the tryout season under their existing membership
  - Their previous-season membership “covers” tryouts including at new Clubs or in new Regions
- New athletes may utilize the RMR “tryout membership” during this period
  - The Tryout membership offers insurance coverage to player and club during tryouts
  - The Tryout membership fee is “upgradable” to full membership when an athlete affiliates
- Full Annual Membership lasts for ONE season, defined as Sept 1<sup>st</sup> through Aug 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.
- Specialty memberships are offered for Youth Leagues, outdoor play and other short-term activities.

Consult the “Membership Types” list posted at the RMR website [HERE](#) for current information regarding available membership types and the seasons and fees associated with each.

## Adult Memberships

Referees, adult players and others can join USAV/RMR as “unaffiliated” individuals. Adults may contact the RMR office directly ([membership@rmrvolleyball.org](mailto:membership@rmrvolleyball.org)) for invitation links to the correct membership type.

## Club Director Memberships

Each Club Director joins initially as a *regular adult member*, and pass their background screen and safesport training. They are then extended the privilege of club-control via their club “HQ” at SportsEngine. From within their HQ, Directors are able to generate club-specific invitation links that directly invite (*first themselves then*) their coaches and players to join USAV/RMR and *their club specifically and directly*.

## Junior Memberships

Junior members also have several membership types to choose from. **The invitation-link process described above is the “best method” for juniors to join USAV/RMR, as it helps them affiliate directly into the club of their choice.** Other memberships include the tryout membership, summer (beach) memberships, youth league memberships and more.

### Junior Membership Tips:

- Families of junior athletes are reminded to NOT join as members until they have been invited to do so by a specific club with whom they have signed a contract. (*use the **Tryout Membership until affiliation***)
- Minors who participate in coaching roles are called “Team Managers.” Team Managers (of any age) are required to take SafeSport training. They are not subject to background screens until they turn 18.
- Junior players who will turn 18 during their season are required to take the “SafeSport” training course.

## Contracts With Clubs

Junior athletes join their **CLUB** by signing a LEGALLY BINDING CONTRACT with an RMR-sanctioned club. The club contract stipulates the financial conditions of becoming a member of the club, and is binding upon the athlete's family once the parent/guardian(s) has signed the contract. By joining an RMR Club, the athlete also confirms their intent to join USAV/RMR, and to be subject to their policies.

The RMR is not a party to the club contract, but does support those contracts through its "LIMITED transfer" policy. This is important in that *by supporting the club recruiting and contract signing process, the RMR helps provide a stable competition environment for all participants.*

Junior athletes join **USAV/RMR** by registering through the USAV membership portal, SportsEngine. By signing the membership agreement, code of conduct and other waivers, the family (legal guardians and athletes) commit themselves to USAV and RMR policies and regulations.

### NEW:

- Junior athletes who are under club contract as of September 1st, must complete their affiliation by Sept 15th
- Athletes who contract with their club after September 1st must affiliate within two weeks of signing.

→ ***Both club contract and affiliation are required in order for USAV and RMR to legally recognize the contract.***

CLUBS ARE ADVISED THAT THE RMR WILL ONLY SUPPORT JUNIOR MEMBER CONTRACTS WHICH WERE SIGNED IN ACCORDANCE WITH RMR RECRUITING AND CONTRACT GUIDELINES, AND WHICH HAVE BEEN VALIDATED BY FORMAL AFFILIATION THOROUGH SPORTSENGINE.

Directors and their club staff are required to be in good standing with USAV/RMR before engaging in recruitment of athletes and are required to respect all RMR recruiting regulations and calendars. ***The RMR will not support any contract signed outside its recruitment, affiliation and contract-signing regulations.***

Parents and athletes are similarly responsible for understanding and following the RMR recruiting guidelines outlined in the "Girls" and "Boys" sections respectively. ***Parents are reminded here that the RMR considers the contract that they sign with a club as binding in almost all cases.***

## Affiliation & SportsEngine

It is important to recognize that the USAV/RMR membership process is separate from the club contract signing process. Both are required elements for participation as a junior member. It is the *contract signing* action that legally binds the player to the Club. The agreement between the club and athlete's family is reported to USAV and RMR through a process called *affiliation*, which is managed online, at the USAV membership platform "[SportsEngine](#)."

To create an affiliation, Club Directors send contracted athletes a digital hyperlink which invites them to join their specific club. By accepting the invitation and signing the various membership agreements, the athlete and her/his family formally affiliates with that club and formally joins USAV and RMR. The process includes payment of USAV/RMR dues (separate from club fees), and the (online) signing of the code of conduct and other waivers required by USAV.

## Contract-Related Timelines

- Most clubs in the region hold tryouts in July as permitted by the published RMR recruiting guidelines

- Other clubs hold tryouts in the late fall, following the HighSchool season
- Tryouts conclude with the signing of athletes for the upcoming season.
- USAV Membership opens for athletes on September 1st, at SportsEngine.
- Parents use the club invitation link to affiliate their athlete formally with the Club
  - They continue the online process by creating or renewing their FAMILY profile at SportsEngine
  - They create an athlete account for each player-athlete in the household
  - They pay the membership dues for their athlete(s) and
  - They sign USAV waivers and agreements, on behalf of their family and (minor) athletes
- Athletes who signed during the summer should affiliate no later than Sept 15
- Athletes who sign after Sept 1st should affiliate with their club no later than **two weeks** after signing
- IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CLUB DIRECTOR TO ENSURE THAT ALL CONTRACTED ATHLETES AFFILIATE WITH THEIR CLUB IN A TIMELY MANNER. *The RMR cannot recognize contracts that have not been properly validated by affiliation at SportsEngine*

## RMR (Limited) Transfer Policy

**No transfers will be allowed after the competition season has begun.** This deadline is defined as “the first sanctioned RMR event of the competitive season” (typically the mid-December Friendship Tournament) and is binding on all RMR clubs and personnel regardless of whether they (the club, team, coach or player) actually participate in the season-opening event.

### Players

The RMR seeks to provide a stable competitive environment for its volleyball community. Athletes and their families as well as coaches are encouraged, as they begin their club selection process, to carefully research a variety of clubs, and to utilize public camps, lessons, open gyms, and club media materials in their research. The RMR encourages athletes and families especially to make use of the formal tryout period, to ensure that they make a good choice in selecting their club. *The intent of this policy is that once an athlete has joined a club, they will stay with the club through the entire season.*

Contracts, when signed and countersigned by both parties, are binding. However, in the event that a player finds sufficient reason to transfer out of a club, they may request transfer (only prior to the beginning of the RMR season). *The authority rests with their current Club Director regarding whether or not to release players who request transfer..* Resolution of any remaining outstanding fees owed or other contractual obligations is managed at the discretion of the Club Director.

### Coaches

It is considered “best practice” that club coaches and the organizations they serve will operate within a similar “stable environment through the season” philosophy. We encourage coaches to honor their club contracts through the entire season, and we encourage clubs to recognize existing coach contracts and to avoid any recruitment or discussion of future opportunity, until the conclusion of that teams’ season.

### Free Agency

If released, a player or coach becomes a free agent, able to sign with any club. Any release needs to be in writing, signed and countersigned by both parties, and acknowledged for recording keeping purposes by the RMR office.

## Practice Players and Coaches

Following the first sanctioned RMR event of the competitive season, no player or coach may transfer clubs. *This is consistent with USAV policy regarding "frozen rosters" and is an important element of maintaining a stable and fair competition environment.*

In rare cases during the season, a coach or a player (and their family) may feel that they must leave their affiliated club immediately. In this case, the RMR does offer a final option: the "*Practice Player or Practice Coach Membership*" Under this scenario the player or coach may be allowed to unaffiliate from their original club, in order to participate with a new club, under the **practice only** stipulation.

- ***Practice players are ineligible to be rostered to any USAV/RMR team***
- ***They may not compete in any USAV sanctioned event.***

### *Application to the "Practice Player" status:*

- The coach or player must apply in writing to the RMR, with a rationale for their request.
- The target club must formally accept the practice player under the specific terms outlined here
- The originating team must certify that the coach or player has been released to "practice status only"
  - Specifically, they stipulate that all financial concerns have been fully resolved

## RMR Member-On-Hold (MOH) Policy ***(no longer in effect)***

The RMR takes the position that since the region is not party to the financial contract between club and athlete family, it is therefore each clubs' responsibility to manage fee collection.

# Juniors in the RMR

## Divisions

### Indoor Girls

RMR Girls teams play mid-December through the end of the Girls Junior National Championship (GJNC). The girls' season generally includes one or two "Friendship" tournaments, the two-day Classic Tournament, ten or twelve Power Series Events, and the three-day RMR Showdown. Additionally we offer the RMR "Top-Flight" Invitational Series, the Zelinkoff Bid Tournament, a 'National Bid Tournament' and a two-day end-of-year Regional Tournament.

### Indoor Boys

RMR Boys teams play in two groups: a **14 & Under** Division that plays on a women's height net, and a **15 & Older** Division that plays on the men's net. RMR Boys compete in roughly four Power Series events in the fall, then break for the holidays and the Boys High School volleyball season (Jan- May). The Boys reconvene in late spring for a few weeks of practice and competition, leading into the Boys Junior National Championship (JNC).

### Beach

The RMR actively encourages the growth of this exciting version of our sport. Our Beach Division sponsors local and regional competition for both boys and girls in conjunction with various beach volleyball facilities, especially in the Denver area. For further information, consult our calendar and the "Beach" page on the RMR website

## Opportunity

Both boys and girls, indoors and out, enjoy access to Regional Bids toward the various USAV Junior National Championships. Many clubs travel nationally to compete in USAV Bid Qualifier events (JNQs) and then on to the USAV Girls, Boys, and Beach National Championships. More information regarding nation-wide competitive opportunities can be found on the [USAV website](#).

## Awards

The RMR offers small awards to the teams that win RMR competitions. In general, we offer "Award Pins" or similar (no cash value) to all members of each team that wins their competitive Division of play.

# Rules of Play

The Rocky Mountain Region operates according to the [USA Volleyball Rules](#) as published bi-annually by USAV. We are committed to inclusion and equity for all members. The RMR subscribes to USAV gender identification guidelines in an effort to offer fair and safe competition for all participants.

## Uniforming

USAV maintains special publications that outline player uniform requirements. These guides are published annually to the RMR website, on the [Directors Page](#). Also note that Directors may submit mock-ups of uniforms for full-season approval by the USAV Rules Interpreter, at this USAV [Uniform Approval Portal](#).

Club Directors are strongly encouraged to submit “mock-ups” of the uniforms they hope to utilize to USAV for approval BEFORE PURCHASE. Inquiries with artwork may be submitted at this [USAV-PORTAL](#). *Teams that will play only in the RMR may send mock-ups to RMR for review.*

## Tie Breaker Scenarios

Depending on the event, the final placement or finish of teams may be necessary to determine. The tie-break procedure utilized by [USAV for national qualifiers](#) will be used.

## Age Waivers

The RMR does not allow older players to compete in younger age groups, **with the exception of the Mountain and Wyoming Series**. There, in the interests of increased opportunity and participation, we allow a one-age-year-max waiver for 14 and under.

***Age-waivers are not offered in the RMR Power Series, the RMR Classic, The RMR Greeley Showdown, or in any bid-related events.***

## Gender-Related Waivers and Teams which include members of both genders

The RMR is dedicated to facilitating the growth of our sport. In smaller communities, the pool of available players may be limited. Thus, in the interest of promoting team formation we allow some carefully restricted movement of boys or girls, as teams or as individuals, across the two gender divisions. Several restrictions apply (see below)

- The RMR Girls and Boys Committees retain the right to actively manage all co-ed seeding and placement.
- Neither gender may participate with the other during bid-relevant contests
- Teams which roster “both genders” at any time during the season **become ineligible for all USAV bid tournaments that season.**

## Boys playing in Girls Division:

As a Team

**Boys teams are no longer allowed to participate in any Girls event.**

As Individuals:

The RMR allows individual 14&Under boys to play on Girls' teams within the following stipulations::

- No more than **two** boys may be rostered to a girls team through the season.
- Boys-12s may play on same-age-or-older Girls teams (12s or older)
- Boys 13s must play up one age-group or more (with Girls 14s or older)
- Boys 14s must play up at least two age groups (with Girls -16s or older)
- Co-ed teams formed in this fashion are ineligible for the awarding of any Girls regional bids.
- **Boys aged 15 or older MAY NOT participate in Girls events under any circumstances.**

## Girls playing in Boys Division:

As a Team:

- Girls Teams are allowed to compete in RMR Boys events on a space-available basis
- No age limitations apply to the girls teams
- Seeding is managed by the Boys Committee, in collaboration with the girls' Club Director.

As Individuals:

- Individual girls may be rostered to a boys team in boys tournaments
- A *majority* of the boys' team members must be registered as male players
- Girls 17 or older should participate with the older (HS) boys group (case by case basis)
- Co-ed teams formed in this fashion are ineligible for the awarding of any Boys regional bids.

## Uniforming of Teams that include players of both genders

- Uniforms must be identical among same-gender players. (all girls match, and all boys match)
- All team-members' uniforms must be of similar color. (girls uniforms and boys must be similar)
- Each player, regardless of gender, must wear a uniform with a unique number.



# RMR Girls Juniors Division

## Recruiting and Contract Signing

Recruiting of any kind, whether initiated by an athlete, parent, coach, club personnel, etc. is **highly discouraged** during the RMR regular season. This type of conduct is unfair to all involved and impairs the performance of RMR teams and players regardless of when it occurs. The purpose of the RMR's recruiting policy (the "Recruiting Policy") is to eliminate the negative consequences that occur when athletes are approached about the upcoming season before the athlete's current season is complete. Athletes should be allowed to enjoy their current season before determining where to play the following season. Per USAV regulations, team or club representatives must adhere to the proactive prevention and training policies of the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies ([MAAPP](#)) when contacting any athlete.

"Recruiting" is defined as soliciting or encouraging an athlete to sign a contract with a club in order to secure that individual's participation. Distribution of gifts of gear, apparel, or anything of monetary value to prospective athletes is strictly prohibited.

A "team or club representative" includes any person who has a special interest in a specific club or team, such as a club director, coach, assistant coach, other club employee or volunteer, athlete, parent or family member of an athlete, club alumnus or club booster.

## Start of RMR Regular Season

For all ages, the beginning of the RMR Regular Season and USAV Season is September 1st, 2023.

During this period:

- Athletes or their parents/guardians **can** initiate contact with any coach or club.
- Athletes **can** attend camps, clinics, lessons, evaluations, etc..
- Clubs **can** host camps, clinics, lessons, evaluations, etc..
- Recruiting of any kind, whether initiated by an athlete, parent, coach, or club personnel. is **highly discouraged**.

## End of RMR Regular Season and Open Recruiting Period

For all ages, the end of the RMR Regular Season is May 1st, 2024. While some teams may continue on to the USAV Girls Junior National Championship, the competitive season for most athletes, teams, coaches, and clubs has concluded. All athletes, regardless of their teams continuing to compete, are considered free agents at this time. The open recruiting period extends through tryouts until an athlete has signed a contract with a club.

Teams that compete in any USAV event and compete in events offered by other organizations are bound by all RMR/USAV rules. Teams that violate any RMR/USAV rule are subject to disqualification and sanctions.

Following the end of the Regular Season:

- Athletes **can** initiate contact with any coach or club.
- Athletes **can** attend camps, clinics, lessons, evaluations, and pre-tryout activities.
- Clubs **can** host camps, clinics, lessons, evaluations, and pre-tryout activities.
- Clubs **can** initiate contact with the parent or guardian of any athlete in accordance with SafeSport.
- Clubs **can** give written or verbal offers. Written or verbal offers are not binding or contingent in any way.
- Clubs **can not** distribute or gift athletes gear, apparel, or anything of monetary value as a result of any offer being extended, accepted, or otherwise.
- Clubs **can not** ask for nor accept deposits of any kind.
- Clubs are encouraged to provide a sample contract for a parent or guardian to read through in advance of potentially signing with that specific club.

## Recommended Tryout Period

For the 24-25 season, clubs are recommended by the RMR to hold tryouts from July 14th, 2024 to July 21st, 2024. While some clubs may choose to hold “tryouts” at different dates, the RMR encourages clubs to hold their tryouts during this week to give athletes an opportunity to explore different clubs in a smaller window of time. The tryout period ends for an athlete once they have signed a contract. The tryout period ends for a team or club when they have no further spots to offer to prospective athletes.

During the tryout period:

- All stipulations of the open recruiting period continue through the tryout period.
- Clubs **can** determine if they will or will not charge for tryouts.

## Contract Signing Period

There are two different dates as it relates to the contract signing period.

- Any athlete returning to the same club that they were affiliated with the previous season can be offered and sign a contract starting on July 22nd, 2024 at 10:00 AM MST.
- Any athlete, regardless of their affiliation the prior season, can be offered and sign a contract on July 23rd, 2024 at 10:00 AM MST.

During the contract signing period:

- Contracts **can** be signed and countersigned by the athlete’s parent or guardian and the offering club. An athlete can not sign a contract, regardless of age.
- Clubs **can** ask for and accept deposits.
- Clubs are encouraged to timestamp and date signed contracts. An example would be an email including all involved parties with a clear timestamp and date that includes the signed and countersigned contract.
- Once a contract is signed, the athlete can not sign with another club for the 2024-2025 season unless a transfer is granted as outlined in the “RMR Transfer Policy”. You are recognized as being a member of that club once a contract is signed by both parties. This is in anticipation of the athlete being affiliated with the contracted club when USAV registration opens.
- Any contracts signed prior to the contract signing period are null and void and subject to disciplinary actions by the RMR and USAV.

## Recruiting Violations

If allegations of recruiting or undue influence are made against a team or club representative, the burden of proof in substantiated form must be borne by the accusing party. Anyone with direct knowledge of perceived recruiting violations should report the incident in writing to the RMR office immediately. Substantiated allegations of recruiting violations or undue influence will be processed by imposing the penalties established by the RMR Board of Directors.

# Initial Season Team Ranking

The Cumulative Player-Strength Ranking (CPSR) system is used to initially rank teams at season start. All teams must submit their full season roster when registering their team with the RMR. Teams that fail to submit initial seeding data prior to the season are subject to potential sanctions.

## Terminology

**Athlete Rank:** An athlete's rank is determined by where their team finished the prior season in RMR.

**Team Rank:** The average of all the individual athletes on a team's roster, which is then ranked when compared to the other teams in their age group.

## Timeline

- Rosters are submitted to RMR by 5 PM, December 11th, 2023
- Roster data is fed into the CPSR system
- GJC and Advisory Committee rank participating teams
- Rankings are released to the region on or by December 13th, 2023
- Teams seeking a ranking change must submit a formal petition to the RMR office by 5 PM, December 19th, 2023.
  - Clubs can formally petition for a ranking review if desired.  
Example: The Brighton Eagles are initially ranked #10 but feel they should be ranked #8.
  - Clubs can voluntarily move down (drop) in initial rankings if desired.  
Example: The Golden Bears are initially ranked at #20. They would like to drop to rank #32.
- GJC and Advisory Committee reconvene to review petitions and changes
- Initial Season Team Rankings are finalized and released on or by December 22nd, 2023.

## How An Athlete Receives A Ranking

An individual athlete ranking is determined by what team the athlete played on in the previous season and where they are rostered for the upcoming season. A formula is applied to calculate an athlete's movement between different teams as well as age division. A variable (x) is used to represent the ranking that the athlete has from the previous season. An athlete can only be rostered to a single team. Athletes 12 years of age or younger simply receive the ranking from the previous season.

When an athlete changes joins a team in an older age division:

- 1 year older than the previous season: x
- 2 years older than the previous season:  $(x * 2)$
- 3 years older than the previous season:  $(x * 4)$
- 4 years older than the previous season:  $(x * 6)$
- 5 years older than the previous season:  $(x * 10)$

When an athlete changes joins a team in a younger age division:

- The same age as the previous season:  $(x / 2)$
- 1 year younger than the previous season:  $(x / 4)$
- 2 years younger than the previous season:  $(x / 6)$
- 3 years younger than the previous season:  $(x / 10)$

## Examples Of The Formulas In Use

**Scenario A:** An athlete participated in the RMR last season. In this scenario the athlete carries over their team's final ranking from the previous season.

For example: The Golden Bears finished the previous season ranked #7 in the 14s age division. As a result, Peyton Harris, an athlete from that team, has an athlete rank of #7 that she brings with her to whatever 15's team she joins the following season.

**Scenario B:** An athlete participated in the RMR last season but will be playing on a team that differs from her defined age group. In this scenario, a formula is used to calculate the change to the athlete's ranking.

For example: Again we use the example of The Golden Bears, who finished the previous season ranked #7 in the 14s age division. Sally Jenkins, an athlete from that team, has an athlete rank of #7 that she brings with her. However, Sally will be playing on a 16s team this coming season. Sally will bring a rank of #14 to her new team.

$$\text{Full Formula: } 7 * 2 = 14.$$

**Scenario C:** An athlete did not participate in the RMR last year and has no rank. In this scenario the athlete does not impact the ranking of the team they will be on for the coming season.

## Submitting a Team Roster

All teams must submit a master roster through [TM2Sign](#). This roster will be used to calculate the initial strength of the team. Teams that submit incomplete rosters or omit athletes to alter their starting ranking will be subject to sanction.

Each team should register their athletes under the event called "23-24 RMR Season Master Rosters." This master roster will be used for the entire season. If there is a permanent addition or subtraction from the roster, you must notify the RMR office to make that change immediately.

- For any RMR event, no more than two athletes can be added to your existing roster on a temporary basis. These "written in" athletes must be added to your roster at the event and confirmed by the site director.
- The RMR and Girls Junior Committee (GJC) reserves the right to review rosters and potentially sanction teams in the event of abuse or foul play.

## How Team Rankings Are Calculated

Once a roster has been submitted and the individual ranking determined for each rostered athlete, an average of the ranked athletes is determined and compared to all other teams in the same age division.

At this point, the Girls Junior Committee, with the support of the Advisory Committee, further refines the ranking of teams as necessary. This process occurs in two phases:

**Phase 1:** Teams that have:

- 5 or more ranked athletes: The initial season ranking of these teams is considered to be fairly accurate and only minor adjustments to ranking can be made as outlined in Phase 2.
- 4 or fewer ranked athletes: Due to such little data, larger adjustments to initial rank may be taken beyond what is outlined in Phase 2.

**Phase 2:** Adjustments to rank by age are as follows:

- 18s - No adjustments to rank.
- 17s - Increase or decrease in rank of, at most, 2 positions
- 16s - Increase or decrease in rank of, at most, 4 positions
- 15s - Increase or decrease in rank of, at most, 6 positions
- 14s - Increase or decrease in rank of, at most, 8 positions
- 11s/12s/13s - Initial ranking is considered, full autonomy to manually rank teams

In the 11s/12s/13s age divisions, the seeding committee can manually rank teams as they see fit but do consult the ranking calculations for each team as decisions are made.

# Strength of Schedule (SOS) Ranking System

The Strength of Schedule (SOS) rankings system was adopted and modified after its proven success in other regions of USAV (Heart of America). The SOS is an unbiased and accurate way to mathematically rank teams based on their performance. As regional teams compete against each other, their match results impact their ranking. Think of the SOS as a giant web connecting every regional team together. As more data is added to the SOS system, rankings may change regardless if a particular team is playing or not.

Once teams are ranked to begin a season, teams are given 200 ranking points. Beyond the first placed team, a staggering variable is subtracted from each team's 200 ranking points based on their initial rank. This staggering helps prevent, but not eliminate, substantial swings in rank early in the season.

## Terminology

**Initial Ranking Points:** Each team starts with 200 ranking points minus a staggering variable.

**Win/Loss Points:** Points that can be earned or lost as a result of each match you play. The amount of points earned or lost is amplified as a team participates more in the region. This is calculated by taking the sum of a team's total win/loss points divided by the number of matches that the team has participated in, then multiplying by the % value on the Participation Based Point Scale.

**Team's SOS:** Your team's ranking points plus your team's win/loss points.

**Opponent's SOS:** The sum of each of your opponent's SOS values divided by the number of matches you have participated in. This formula is used to calculate the "strength" that each of your opponents has given you. This value also changes over the course of the season.

**Final SOS Ranking Points:** This final calculation is what determines ranking in each age division. These values are listed largest to smallest then ranked numerically.

## Points System

### *How Points Are Awarded Per Match*

Each match, worth up to 35 win/loss points in value, is broken into three components: match result, set result, and point differential. This mixed approach awards teams points based on how a match unfolded. Here is the breakdown:

- Match Result: 24.5 Points (70%)
- Set Result: 7 Points (20%)
- Point Differential: 3.5 Points (10%)
  - This factor plateaus at plus or minus 20 points. For example, beating a team by a point differential of 30 points is viewed the same as beating the team by 20 points.

### **Examples Of Earning Points In A Match**

**Scenario A:** The Idaho Springs Giants win a match 25-10, 25-10. In this scenario, Idaho Springs won the match (24.5 points), won both sets (7 points), and had a 20 point differential (3.5 points). In total, this team will earn 35 win/loss points for this match.

*Full Formula:*  $24.5 + 7 + 3.5 = 35$

**Scenario B:** The Brighton Wildcats win a match against the Pueblo Cardinals 25-23, 12-25, 15-13. In this scenario, Brighton won the match (24.5 points), won two of the three sets (2.333 points), and had a -9 point differential (-1.575 points). In total, this team will earn 25.258 win/loss points for this match. Losing a set and having a negative point differential impacts the quality of this win resulting in less win/loss points.

*Full Formula:*  $24.5 + 2.333 + (-1.575) = 25.258$

On the other side of the scenario, the Pueblo Cardinals lost the match (-24.5 points), lost two of the three sets (-2.333 points), and had a 9 point differential (1.575 points). In total, this team will lose -25.258 win/loss points for this match. Even though they lost the match, this team was able to claw back some win/loss points because of their performance.  
*Full Formula:*  $(-24.5) + (-2.333) + 1.575 = -25.258$

**Scenario C:** The Loveland Lions played a two-set match against the Pueblo Cardinals with a split match result of 25-18, 20-25. Being a split, no match or set points are earned or lost. However, the point differential of 2 points is still a factor.

*Full Formula for Loveland:*  $0 \text{ (match)} + 0 \text{ (set)} + .35 \text{ (point differential)} = .35$

*Full Formula for Pueblo:*  $0 \text{ (match)} + 0 \text{ (set)} + (-.35 \text{ (point differential)}) = -.35$

## ***Matches Against Older Age Teams***

One way a team can earn more win/loss points, and potentially climb the rankings faster, is to compete and win against older teams. When a younger team beats an older team, a multiplier is added for each year of age difference. When a younger team loses to an older team, the loss is “softened” by a small factor. These multipliers are meant to incentivize teams to consider playing older, potentially tougher competition. There is a risk/reward factor to playing older teams that each coach, team, or club needs to weigh for themselves prior to doing so.

In general, here is how matches between teams of different ages are handled:

- A win against a team your same age or younger.  
This is treated as a standard win.
- A win against an older team.  
This is treated as a win with a bonus multiplier for each age level older the opponent team is.
- A loss against a team your same age or younger.  
This is treated as a standard loss.
- A loss against an older team.  
This is treated as a loss with a softening multiplier for each age level older the opponent team is.
- A younger team loses to an older team but has a positive point differential or a younger team wins against an older team but has a negative point differential.  
The negative effects receive the softening multiplier while the positive effects receive the boost multiplier.

### **Winning a Match Versus an Older Competitor**

- Teams are the same age: standard match, no multiplier
- 1 year age difference: 1.2x boost multiplier
- 2 year age difference: 1.4x boost multiplier
- 3 year age difference: 1.6x boost multiplier
- 4 year age difference: 1.8x boost multiplier
- 5 year age difference: 2x boost multiplier

### **Losing a Match Versus an Older Competitor**

- Teams are the same age: standard match, no multiplier
- 1 year age difference: 0.9x softening multiplier
- 2 year age difference: 0.8x softening multiplier
- 3 year age difference: 0.7x softening multiplier
- 4 year age difference: 0.6x softening multiplier
- 5 year age difference: 0.5x softening multiplier

### **Examples of Earning Points in a Match (Different Ages)**

**Scenario A:** The Idaho Springs Giants, a 15s team, defeats the Sterling Snakes, a 16s team, 25-20, 25-20. In this scenario, Idaho Springs won the match (24.5 points \* 1.2x boost multiplier), won both sets (7 points \* 1.2x boost

multiplier), and had a 10 point differential (1.75 points \* 1.2x boost multiplier). In total, this team will earn 39.9 win/loss points for this match.

*Full Formula for Idaho Springs:  $(24.5 * 1.2) + (7 * 1.2) + (1.75 * 1.2) = 39.9$*

Conversely, for the Sterling Snakes, the loss is treated as a standard loss.

*Full Formula for Sterling:  $(-24.5) + (-7) + (-1.75) = -33.25$*

**Scenario B:** The Idaho Springs Giants, a 15s team, is defeated by the Parker Panthers, a 14s team, 23-25, 25-10, 13-15. In this scenario, Idaho Springs lost the match (-24.5 points), lost two of the three sets (-2.333 points), and had a +11 point differential (1.925 points). In total, this team will lose -24.908 win/loss points for this match.

*Full Formula for Idaho Springs:  $(-24.5) + (-2.333) + (1.925) = -24.908$*

Conversely, for the Parker Panthers, they won the match (24.5 \* 1.2x boost multiplier), won two of the three sets (2.333 \* 1.2x boost multiplier), and had a -11 point differential (-1.925 \* 0.9x softening multiplier). In this scenario, the boost multiplier was applied to aspects where the team would gain win/loss points and the softening multiplier was applied to the aspects where the team would lose win/loss points.

*Full Formula for Parker:  $(24.5 * 1.2) + (2.333 * 1.2) + (-1.925 * 0.9) = 30.467$*

**Scenario C:** The Idaho Springs Giants, a 15s team, is defeated by the Sterling Snakes, a 16s team, 20-25, 15-25. In this scenario, Idaho Springs lost the match (-24.5 points \* 0.9x softening multiplier), lost both sets (-7 points \* 0.9x softening multiplier), and had a -15 point differential (-2.625 points \* 0.9x softening multiplier). In total, this team will lose -30.713 win/loss points for this match. The loss, while still detrimental, isn't as bad as a standard loss.

*Full Formula for Idaho Springs:  $(-24.5 * 0.9) + (-7 * 0.9) + (-2.625 * 0.9) = -30.713$*

Conversely, for the Sterling Snakes, the win is treated as a standard win.

*Full Formula for Sterling:  $24.5 + 7 + 2.625 = 34.125$*

### ***Participation Based Point Scale***

The participation based point scale exists for many reasons. First it helps mitigate, but not entirely prevent, dramatic swings in rank early in the season. The scale also promotes participation in the region. Teams each build a resume of wins and losses throughout the season. As a team participates more in the region, each win or loss on their season-long resume also increases in value, plateauing at 32 total matches.

This scale also encourages teams to have "skin in the game". Each match played exposes a team to additional risk as well as reward. The scale is intended to motivate and empower teams to play in more regional matches in order to bolster their season-long resume.

## Participation Point Scale

Total Matches Played	% Value	Total Matches Played	% Value	Total Matches Played	% Value	Total Matches Played	% Value
0	0.00%	9	28.13%	18	56.25%	27	84.38%
1	3.13%	10	31.25%	19	59.38%	28	87.50%
2	6.25%	11	34.38%	20	62.50%	29	90.63%
3	9.38%	12	37.50%	21	65.63%	30	93.75%
4	12.50%	13	40.63%	22	68.75%	31	96.88%
5	15.63%	14	43.75%	23	71.88%	32	100.00%
6	18.75%	15	46.88%	24	75.00%	33	100.00%
7	21.88%	16	50.00%	25	78.13%	34	100.00%
8	25.00%	17	53.13%	26	81.25%	35	100.00%

## What Matches Are Included

Matches that occur between RMR teams at the following events **are included** in the SOS:

- Power Tournament
- Top Flight Invitational
- RMR Classic
- RMR Showdown
- RMR National Bid Tournament
- Regional End-Of-Season Tournament
- Zelinkoff Bid Tournament (ZBT)

Additionally, any matches at Girls Junior National Qualifiers (GJNQs) between RMR teams **are also included** in the SOS. These results may take time to be included in the SOS and are subject to verification.

USAV events that are not national qualifying events, friendship tournaments, scrimmages, or events run by other organizations **are not** included.

## SOS Rankings Release

As matches conclude, competition data is entered into [TM2Sign](#) by site directors. Coaches are encouraged to verify that the results are entered correctly and in a timely fashion prior to leaving a tournament site. Once all matches have been entered, the results are ingested into the SOS and rankings are recalculated. Updated rankings can be found on the RMR website by 10:00 AM MST each Monday during the season.



# Season Information and Event Details

The Junior Girls sanctioned season begins the day of the first sanctioned RMR event and extends through the last day of competition at the USA Junior National Volleyball Championships.

The RMR hosts numerous events each season, from single-day events to multi-day tournaments. All regional teams in good standing, and even USAV-registered teams from other regions, are eligible to participate in RMR events. However, some events have eligibility requirements and may be by invitation only. Details specific to an event are outlined in the following sections.

## Power Tournament

Power Tournaments are single day events held throughout the region that make up the bulk of the in-region options for competition. Teams are eligible to participate in a Power in their own age group or any age group above their level of play. This season will feature twelve Power events, six for “even” age group teams (12s/14s/16s/18) and six for “odd” age group teams (13s/15s/17s).

While participating teams are seeded for each Power using the current SOS ranking points, teams ranked #25 and beyond may be moved up or down to an adjacent group or pool to where their ranking puts them. The RMR office is given the latitude to make this move in order to limit the distance traveled by a given team, ensure a host facility has the proper personnel, etc.. Additionally, teams in any group may be manually moved when two or more teams from the same club are pooled together. This is meant to match teams against as many out-of-club teams as possible.

For Power Series events, each coach will provide a printed copy of their teams’ Season Master Roster at check-in. Depending on availability, a paid R1 official may be provided for this event resulting in additional fees.

### *Format*

For each Power, teams are divided into groups of eight teams. Each group of eight is split into two pools of four. Depending on performance, each participating team should expect to play in three or four matches and work/ref multiple matches. Following pool play, there will be two crossover matches. 1v1 and 2v2 from each pool will play a best-of-three-sets crossover match. The 4th place finishers from each pool will ref/work the crossover matches and the 3rd place finishing teams from each pool will have completed their duties for the event.

Varied division formats may be deployed when necessary based on participation or as teams drop late. This would also impact the number of games played or worked in a given Power Tournament. Matches in a given group are played on two courts and, in some cases, paid officials may be present.

### *Playing In Older Age Divisions*

Any team may compete in their own age group or any age group above their own. When seeding participating teams for a Power, all teams are ranked by their final SOS ranking points and then grouped into the pools of eight. By default, every team that is playing in an older age event will then drop one division (examples included below). This automatic drop is intended to help younger teams find similar-ability competition and improve their chances of success. This single division drop does not compound when playing up multiple age divisions.

At any point in the season a team seeking stronger competition may choose to forgo this automatic division drop. This decision:

- Must be communicated by the team’s club director to the RMR office
- Must be made before the sign up/drop deadline of the event
- Will not take effect until confirmed by the RMR office
- Is permanent for the remainder of the season

### Examples of Seeding

**Scenario A:** The Sterling Snakes, a 16s team, are participating in a 17s age Power. When ranked numerically, Sterling is the 15th seeded team, which is toward the bottom of group two. If Sterling was to waive the one division drop, they would face the 10th, 11th, and 14th ranked teams in pool play. However, if Sterling does not waive the division drop, they would be seeded 17th, which is the top seed in group three. They will now face the 20th, 21st, and 24th ranked teams in pool play. In this scenario, Sterling dropped two seed ranking spots to reach the next group.

**Scenario B:** The Longmont Lions, the top-ranked 15s team, are participating in a 17s age Power. When ranked numerically, Longmont is the top seeded team, even above the participating 17s teams. If Longmont was to waive the one division drop, they would face the 4th, 5th, and 8th ranked teams in pool play. However, if Longmont does not waive the division drop, they would be seeded 9th, which is the top seed in group two. They will now face the 12th, 13th, and 16th ranked teams in pool play. In this scenario, Longmont dropped eight seed ranking spots to reach the next group.

## Top Flight Invitational

Top Flight Invitationals (TFI) are two-day events where select top-ranked teams come together for elite-level competition in a showcase of the best teams in the region. This season will feature two stand-alone TFI events. Each participating team should anticipate seven matches in each TFI.

While all regional teams are eligible to participate, an invitation must be extended to your team by the region in order to participate. Receiving an invite to one TFI is not indicative that a team will be invited to the next TFI event. A team may decline an invitation and doing so will not impact their eligibility to receive future invitations.

Validated Rosters are required for registration. Paid R1 officials are provided for this event.

### *Eligibility Requirements / Earning An Invitation*

All regional teams in good standing are eligible for an invitation to a TFI event. In total there are 16 spots available in each TFI event, broken down into two groups. The GJC, along with input from the Advisory Committee and RMR Executive Director, will determine what teams are extended invitations. Invitations will be sent out roughly two weeks prior to a TFI event, allowing time for teams to coordinate and adjust their schedule accordingly.

### *Invite Dates & Datasets*

Invitations will be extended on specific dates. Specific datasets will also be used to determine which teams to invite.

- Top Flight Invitational 1 - Invites sent on or before Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024  
Initial season rankings will be utilized to determine who is invited.  
Seeding of the accepted teams will occur on "Monday two weeks prior" utilizing all data available at that time
- Top Flight Invitational 2 - Invites sent on or before Tuesday, February 13th, 2024  
All data leading up to the conclusion of Power 3 Even will be utilized.

### *Format*

Each Top Flight Invitational has two groups with eight teams in each. Each participating team should expect to play all other teams in their group, resulting in seven matches. Teams will also need to work/ref matches as the schedule dictates. Matches in a given flight are played on two courts and paid officials should be expected.

## Zelinkoff Bid Tournament (ZBT)

The Zelinkoff Bid Tournament (ZBT) is a two-day event that determines which team(s) will receive bids awarded to the region to participate in the USAV Girls Junior National Championship (GJNC).

While all regional teams may register for the ZBT, a maximum of 16 teams will be admitted into the ZBT at any given age level. Of the teams that sign up for the event, the 14 highest ranking teams, according to their ranking in the SOS, will be automatically admitted to the event. The final two spots are wild cards and will be determined by the GJC along with input from the Advisory Committee and RMR Executive Director. In the 12s age group, only eight teams will be selected to participate in the ZBT; the top seven teams by SOS and one wild card. Seeding for the event will be entirely determined by SOS ranking at the conclusion of Power 4 Odd on March 10th.

Validated Rosters are required for registration. Paid R1 officials are provided for this event at no additional cost. Each participating team, 12s excluded, should anticipate six matches.

## Eligibility Requirements

### Team Eligibility

Regional events and their matches that count toward this requirement are Powers, Top Flight Invitationals, the RMR Classic, and the RMR Showdown. Eligibility requirements must be met in advance of the ZBT event. The ZBT event does not count toward the requirement.

Any team is eligible if they have:

- Participated in at least three regional events or competed in twelve regional matches; whichever comes first.
- Are an 18s team that has participated in at least two of the regional events and one GJNQ event.

A team is not eligible to participate in the ZBT if the team:

- Has previously qualified at a Girls Junior National Qualifier.
- Has received an “open at large” bid to the GJNC.
- Is not a member of the RMR.
- Did not complete the necessary paperwork or eligibility requirements by the registration deadline.

### Roster Eligibility

Regarding additions or changes to a roster:

- Rosters will be validated for this event.
- An athlete or athletes from another registered team within your club may be added to your team’s roster. Each athlete must meet the age requirement of the team and must have not previously qualified with another team.
- You **can not** add an athlete who participated in a ZBT event in a different age (18s excluded)
- Written notice of any roster change must be submitted and acknowledged by the RMR Office by noon (12PM) on the Wednesday prior to the Tournament.

## Format

Competition on Saturday begins with four pools with four teams in each, resulting in three matches for each participating team. The top two teams from each pool will advance to the Gold bracket while the bottom two teams from each pool will advance to the Silver bracket.

Pool 1	Pool 2	Pool 3	Pool 4
Seed #1	Seed #2	Seed #3	Seed #4
Seed #8	Seed #7	Seed #6	Seed #5
Seed #9	Seed #10	Seed #11	Seed #12
Seed #16	Seed #15	Seed #14	Seed #13

On Sunday, teams in both the Gold and Silver brackets will each play three matches in a single elimination bracket to determine the final bid order. The Gold bracket will populate spots one through eight while the Silver bracket will populate spots nine through sixteen.

## Bid Acceptance

Teams that earn bids in this event are expected to participate in the USAV Girls Junior National Championship. Any team that earns a bid at this event that does not fulfill the obligation to attend and compete at the GJNC will be fined \$1000. Additionally the club in question will be barred from competing in the coming season until the fine is paid in full. Trickle down bids awarded **after** the day of the event can be declined without penalty.

## USAV National Qualifiers

Each year, USA-Volleyball and its member Regions and Partners host an extensive Competition Schedule nationwide. Teams play in Regional Tournaments (RMR ZBT) and at National Qualifiers ([Girls](#) and [Boys](#)) for "bids" to the Championships in each of the various divisions hosted at the Championships, which are hosted in different cities nationwide each year. Extremely popular events, the GJNC and BJNC now boast multiple divisional levels and are played at separate venues across multiple weekends each summer.

## RMR Classic

The RMR Classic is a two-day event created using a modified tournament structure. This event is typically held at different locations throughout the region. All regional teams, and out-of-region USAV teams, in good standing are eligible to participate in this event. Depending on performance and in-age participation, each participating team should anticipate as many as six matches in this event.

Due to varying participation by age, some ages may be combined to better streamline the event. Depending on availability, a paid R1 official may be provided for this event at no additional cost. Teams should be prepared to provide officials in case a professional is not available.

### *Format*

Teams are seeded in single or multi age divisions with a maximum of 12 to 16 teams per division per facility. Current SOS rankings will be consulted to better seed pools and divisions.

The first day of the event will consist of pool play and the second day will either be a bracket format or pool play depending on the number of teams participating.

## RMR Showdown

The RMR Showdown is a three-day tournament designed to give teams an opportunity to compete in a multi-day tournament within the Rocky Mountain Region. This event is typically held in North-East Colorado in the Loveland/Ft. Collins/Greeley area. All regional teams, and out-of-region USAV teams, in good standing are eligible to participate in this event. Depending on performance and in-age participation, each participating team should anticipate six to nine matches in this event.

Due to varying participation by age, some ages may be combined to better streamline the event. Paid R1 officials are generally provided for this event, at no additional cost. However, teams should be prepared to officiate and work matches.

### *Format*

This three-day tournament offers pool play on Saturday and again after reseeding, on Sunday. Teams will be assigned to either AM or PM waves. Sunday offers single elimination bracket play toward Division Championships.

## RMR End-of-Season Tournament

The RMR End-of-Season Tournament is a two-day tournament which serves as a great season-ending event for many teams. All regional teams in good standing are eligible to participate in this event. Due to varying participation by age, format may be modified to streamline the event. Depending on performance and in-age participation, each participating team should anticipate as many as six matches during this event.

This tournament begins with pool play on Saturday with a single elimination bracket on Sunday. Paid R1 officials may be provided for this event resulting in additional fees. However, teams should be prepared to officiate and work matches.

## Friendship Exhibitions

Friendship Exhibition events are single day events intended to give teams an organized yet untracked opportunity to compete. These events are not tracked in the SOS. While space may be limited, all regional teams are eligible to participate in a Friendship Exhibition.

Due to varying participation by age, some ages may be combined to better streamline the event. No paid officials are provided for this event and teams should be prepared to officiate and work matches.

## RMR Mountain Series

The RMR Mountain Series is designed for the development and growth of volleyball on the Western Slope. Teams sign up for the entire Series, which includes four single-day events. Currently the series offers three age divisions; 12, 13s and 14s. To enhance participation, age waivers may be applied for. (maximum one age-division move per player, and two waived players per team, max) Teams should be prepared to self-officiate, as paid officials are generally not provided for this event series.

## Wyoming Series *(temporarily discontinued)*

The RMR supports USAV competition across both Colorado and Wyoming. The Wyoming Series was designed to encourage club participation and to foster growth and development of volleyball across Wyoming. The RMR has traditionally offered several “Wyoming” events designed to support teams in the area, without the hazards and expense of traveling long distances, (to compete in Denver).

## Double-Down Program *(coming in 2025)*

The RMR recognizes that teams based in the more remote areas of Colorado and Wyoming are challenged by the combination of low population and long travel distances. It’s simply much more difficult for “small town” clubs to find economical ways to participate in club volleyball. The RMR would like to help!

We propose the new “Double Down” program as a way to help teams that face these difficulties.. The idea is to pair clubs or teams from outlying towns with clubs here in the Front Range metro area. Under the plan, participating clubs from Ft Collins down to Colorado Springs could offer Saturday scrimmages to their travel partners. Then, on Sunday, everyone is in place to compete in the RMR Power Series. Traveling teams get more bang for their travel buck! And everyone enjoys seeing some “friendly new faces!”

# Junior Boys Division

The RMR offers two separate playing Divisions for boys.

- The "14 & Under" boys play on a womens'-height net
- The "15 & Older." (*known locally as the Boys HighSchool division*) play on the mens'-height net.
- Teams in each Division will be ranked within that division regardless of the specific age of the team.

## Roster Eligibility

All team members must meet USAV/RMR eligibility requirements. Each must also meet the age requirements of the team with which they compete.

## Player Movement within club

Male athletes may be moved between boys teams within a club. Each athlete must meet the age requirement of the team and must have not previously qualified for a National Bid with another team. Athletes are only allowed to play on one team at each event.

## Season

**NEW:** *Whichever end of year tournament is the last one to conclude... whether it be USAV, AAU or any other National Championship... will be the one used to apply to any policies that use "end of the year" as the determining factor.*

## Recruiting and Contract Signing

### Term

The Boy's Commitment is in effect from the date an individual signs a legally binding contract until after the last day of competition of whichever National Championship event is the last one to finish. This is generally the first part of July.

### Open Gyms

Open gyms for affiliated athletes (and non-affiliated athletes) are allowed to begin the day after Boys High School Championships. Clubs **MUST** follow the Recruiting Policies as listed above.

### Tryouts & Evaluations

To simplify the process clubs may determine their own evaluation and try-out process. Open gyms can start the day after the High School State Championships, but no offers can be made until the day after the latest National Championship. Retention Contracts may go out July 26<sup>th</sup> and new player contracts may go out July 29<sup>th</sup>. The period between that last National Championship and contract signings is when evaluations and try-outs may occur. This will allow clubs to use this period as they see fit as long as they follow the recruiting and contract rules.

## Offers

**Verbal contact and offers may be given starting at 10am MST the day after the last day of competition of whichever National Championship event is the last one to finish. Contact here includes any means, electronic or verbal. Note that no contracts may be signed until the signing date.**

*For the sake of simplicity, the term “offer” refers to any offer for an athlete to become part of a team. There is no difference between a written, verbal or electronic offer. These offers cannot be accompanied by a contract or a request for a deposit. It is not until the allowable signing of the contract will the agreement between the family and the club be considered official. Clubs are encouraged to give families time to evaluate the offer and short time frames for a decision go against the process of allowing families to make the decision that is best for them. (i.e. less than 24 hours puts pressure and anxiety on the process).*

## Contract Types

**Boys clubs are encouraged to make a sample contract available to review during tryouts so that parents are better aware of the contract details that they are considering signing into.**

**\* Retention Contracts: Clubs may send currently-affiliated players a binding contract for the 2023-2024 season starting at 10 am MST on July 26<sup>th</sup>**

**\* New Player Contracts: Clubs may send currently-affiliated players a binding contract for the 2023-2024 season starting at 10 am MST on July 29<sup>th</sup>**

## During the contract signing period:

- **Contracts may be signed and countersigned by the athlete’s parent or guardian and the offering club. A minor athlete may not sign a contract.**
- **Clubs may ask for and accept deposits.**
- **Clubs are encouraged to timestamp and date signed contracts. An example would be an email including all involved parties with a clear timestamp and date that includes the signed and countersigned contract.**
- **Any contracts signed prior to the contract signing period are null and void and subject to disciplinary actions by the RMR and USAV.**
- **Once a contract is signed, the athlete may not sign with another club for the 2023-2024 season. You are recognized as being a member of that club once a contract is signed by both parties. This is in anticipation of the athlete being affiliated with the contracted club when USAV registration opens. (Please review the RMR No-Transfer Policy, described below)**

## Closed Recruiting Period:

- **Once an athlete has signed a contract with a club for the upcoming season, recruiting, by a team or club representative, is prohibited. A “team or club representative” includes any person who has a special interest in a specific club or team, such as a club director, coach, assistant coach, other club employee or volunteer, athlete, parent or family member of an athlete, club alumnus or club booster.**
- **Clubs are allowed to send out direct mailings or advertise for upcoming events, but they are not allowed to contact individual unaffiliated families or athletes unless the family has reached out to them first.**



## Recruiting Violations in Boys Division

If allegations of recruiting or undue influence are made against a team or club representative, the burden of proof in substantiated form must be borne by the accusing party. Anyone with direct knowledge of perceived recruiting violations should report the incident through the RMR online reporting system. Reports by phone or email will NOT be accepted. Substantiated allegations of recruiting violations or undue influence will be processed by imposing the penalties established by the RMR Board of Directors.

## Transfers

Transfers are not encouraged but are allowed, primarily considered for the purpose of adding players for Nationals and the growth of Boys Volleyball in the region. The Boys Division will consider transfers if both clubs are in agreement. The transfer policy applies to all indoor boys volleyball tournaments regardless of tournament affiliation. Violation of this policy results in a 1-day suspension for the first violation, suspension for a 3-day event for the second violation and a season suspension for a 3rd violation.

## Boys Playing In Girls Divisions

**Boys teams are no longer allowed to enter girls tournaments.** They are instead encouraged to use the Boys Power series as their primary source of competition.

In order to facilitate the sport, and particularly in less-populated areas of the Region, the RMR does allow co-ed participation under specific circumstances. As many as two individual boys, under specific age restrictions, may be permanently rostered into a girls team. (See the "Co-Ed" section in the RULES chapter of the Handbook, above.)

## Girls Playing In Boys Divisions

RMR Girls teams are allowed to register into Boys Divisions. This is generally allowed in order to "fill pools" in Boys competitions. No age restrictions apply. Seeding is managed by the boys committee, in collaboration with the girls Club Director.

# Strength of Schedule (SOS) Ranking System

The RMR Boys Program utilizes the RMR Strength of Schedule team ranking system (discussed in detail under the RMR Girls Section). The Boys seeding committee utilizes the SOS rankings to place teams into events, with minor edits to the pool structure designed to avoid same-club matchups and to enhance competition in this small community. As matches conclude, competition data is entered into [TM2Sign](#) by site directors. Coaches are encouraged to verify that the results are entered correctly and in a timely fashion prior to leaving a tournament site. Once all matches have been entered, the results are ingested into the SOS and rankings are recalculated. Updated rankings can be found on the RMR website following each Boys competition.

## Initial Season Team Ranking

Initial Seeding is determined by the Seeding and Format committee. The committee will be composed of the Boys Division Chair plus an even number of members of Directors/Coaches from the Boys Division.

## Events

### Power Series

The RMR Boys Division offers a Boys Power Schedule consisting of 6 events, playing mid-October through early January (with Power 6 in June) These events vary year to year based on several factors including but not limited to site availability, National Tournaments, Holidays, SAT/ACT dates, and other RMR events. Five of the powers will take place before the Boys High School season which usually begins Mid-February. The sixth will take place in June as preparation for the Boys Junior National Championships (BJNC). The tournament entry fee is \$235, plus a \$60 referee fee when officials are provided. The deadline for registering a Boys team for Boys Power 1 is October 1, each year

### Regionals

There will be a Boys Regional Tournament for the weekend of Feb 3-4. This will be in addition to the Power tournaments and could give the teams that will not be attending Nationals final competition before the boys high school season begins. Seeding will be based on SOS rankings.

### Event Registration Deadlines

The deadline to enter RMR events is *noon Monday 12 days prior to the tournament*. This is also the "drop" deadline. Wait lists may be employed (including allowing girls teams in the 14U division) in the case that a tournament pool initially registers incomplete.

Should a team choose to withdraw from an event past the registration deadline they forfeit their registration and officiating fees. Repeated "late drops" affect all teams in the League, and so in this case, clubs and their officers may be assessed additional fines as follows:

- No refunds for withdrawal will be given to the team after the deadline.
- 2nd cancellation - Up to \$250.00 in addition to the event registration fee
- 3rd cancellation - Up to \$500.00 in addition to the event registration fee
- 4th cancellation - Up to \$1,000.00 in addition to the event registration fee

## Regional Bids

USAV has awarded 2 Regional Bids to BJNC, a 16U bid and a 18U bid. These bids will be awarded either using the results of the SOS after Power 4 with the usual trickle down. 15U teams are allowed to compete for the 16U bid and 17U teams are allowed to compete for the 18U bid.

## Boys Division Chair Election

The Chair of the Boys Division is a 2-year term, and carries with it the responsibilities incumbent upon any RMR Board Member. Requirements to be on the RMR Board of Directors may be found in the RMR By-Laws, posted at the RMR homepage. When the position comes up for election, a nomination period of a minimum of two weeks will be extended to RMR region clubs. Nominated individuals should be familiar with the workings of Boys volleyball in the region, as evident by involvement in Boys Division meetings. Once the nominations are complete, a vote will be called. Each club that has at least one boys' team competing in regional tournaments will have one vote on the candidates on the ballot. The nominee with the most votes (simple majority) will be appointed as Chair at the appropriate Board of Directors meeting.

# Junior BEACH Division

*2024 season information coming soon!*

# Appendices

## Spectator Code Of Conduct

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Entry to RMR privately sanctioned events is granted as a courtesy.

By attending any RMR sanctioned event, each spectator confirms that they will::

- Abide by the official rules of USA Volleyball.
- Display good sportsmanship at all times.
- Encourage my child and his/her team, regardless of the outcome on the court.
- Educate myself on the unique rules of this facility.
- Honor the rules of the host and the host facility.
- Generate goodwill by being polite and respectful to those around me at this event.
- Direct my child to speak with his/her coach when coaching decisions are made that may be confusing or unclear.
- Redirect any negative comments from others to the respective Event Director or Program Administrator.
- Direct all concerns regarding officials to my Coach or Director, as opposed to contacting any Official directly.
- Immediately notify the Event Director and/or Program Administrator in the event that I witness any illegal activity.
- Support the policies and guidelines of the team/club that I represent.
- Acknowledge effort and good performance, remembering that all of the players in this event are amateur athletes.
- Model exemplary spectator behavior while attending this event.
- Respect the history and tradition of the sport of volleyball by being a good ambassador.

By attending any RMR sanctioned event, you **will not**:

- Harass or intimidate the officials or other match participants.
- Coach my child from the bleachers and/or sidelines.
- Criticize my child's coach or his/her teammates.
- Bring and/or carry any firearms at any Region event.
- Bring, purchase, or consume alcohol at any Youth/Junior volleyball event.
- Participate in any game or game-like activities unless duly rostered as a full member-coach.

**Note:** Any violation of this Code of Conduct will result in you being asked to leave the site/facility and may result in you possibly being banned from attending future Region sanctioned events. Fines will be assessed to the Affiliated Club and will be collected by the Region; these fines may range from \$200 - \$500 depending on the type of violation. Multiple violations of this policy will be reviewed by the appropriate RMR Junior Committee in which they will assess fines and possibly revoke permission for any individual to attend any RMR sanctioned event for any length of time. The Event Director has the FINAL say regarding their individual event. Local law enforcement will be contacted if necessary to resolve any disputes or altercations.

Questions or concerns may be directed to the Region office ([office@rmrvolleyball.org](mailto:office@rmrvolleyball.org)).