

# GULF COAST REGION 2024 GRASSROOT PROGRAMMING



## **GRASSROOT PROGRAMS FOR GIRLS & BOYS IN THE GULF COAST REGION**

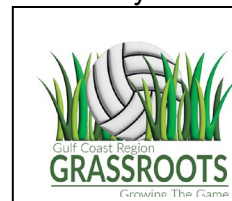
Our Primary Goal is to create a lifetime passion for the sport of Volleyball at a developmental age. The Region wants to support this growth opportunity with reduction in structured USAV/GCR membership fees, equipment inclusion, as well as provide certified officials and branded participation volleyball items.

## **GRASSROOT MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION CATEGORIES**

8 & under Membership – 8 and under players – cost is **FREE**

GC - Youth Membership – 9 & 10u players - cost \$ 20.00

Developmental Membership- 11 & 12u players - cost \$ 55.00



Remember the age cut off date is July 1, 2023.....so a child that turns 9 on or before June 30, 2023 participates as a 9 year old member even though chronologically they are 8 years of age the entire season.

**Please note:** Grassroot categories above may NOT participate in Regionally sanctioned club tournaments and may NOT participate in Nationally sanctioned club tournaments. Grassroot registration categories can play in Region and Club hosted Grassroot events as well as the Gulf Coast Region's Beach Series in 2023/2024

Grassroot Members may always upgrade to full junior status at any time and participate in National and Regional Sanctioned tournaments and events.

Upgrade cost for 8 and under – \$ 95.00, Youth \$ 75.00 and Developmental \$ 40.00

These registration categories are available presently on the USA Volleyball online membership registration system. Go to the region website [www.gulfcoastvolleyball.org](http://www.gulfcoastvolleyball.org) scroll down and click on USA Volleyball on-line registration link. Follow the registration prompts in the Sports Engine membership registration system.

## **GRASSROOT TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE**

For the **Youth 10U and 8U limited members** - Teams do not need numbered jerseys, however numbered uniforms are encouraged, but like t-shirts are necessary. Work team will call lines and keep a visual scoreboard. Scoresheets with line up entry and running score will be kept by work team. That teams coach should be present at the scorer's table to assist. Grassroot Region Officials will call the R1, from the down ref position. Tournaments will not present team awards to places of finish. For these two age categories Official clinics are optional but encouraged.

For the **Developmental League Players – 11U and 12U limited members** – It is encouraged to follow the following for the development of their age in the sport...please review...regular USA Volleyball uniform rules with proper numbering and color will apply. Non-Deciding Scoresheets and Libero Tracking sheets will be kept at tournaments, players will call lines, keep a visual scoreboard, coaches will be present at the scorer's table and assist their team, Grassroot Region Officials will call the R1. Tournaments will not present team awards to places of finish. Official clinic attendance is optional but encouraged if members will play in developmental league tournaments.

## **GRASSROOT TOURNAMENT SCORING FORMAT**

Over the course of the Grassroot season a variety of scoring systems may be used by the club hosting Grassroot playdays. Those scoring formats should always allow the maximum number of touches on the ball as time schedule allows. Suggested scoring formats are Rally Scoring, Sideout Scoring and a creative way to

score for the very youngest age groups is **"MAXI Scoring or Triple Ball"** – (rally winner will serve and a score recorded off play from serve, then a ball will be entered by the coach to team A that ball will be played out until rally ends then a ball will be entered by the coach to team B and that ball played out. If a team wins both coach entered balls they get a bonus point, if entered balls are split a wash occurs and play resumes with the team that won the served ball rally, serving). Scoring philosophy at a grassroots rudimentary skill level clearly reveals that rally and touch opportunities are minimized by several factors, service errors, serve receive errors, the net winning as many points as does the teams, depth and speed of object perception, spatial awareness skills, etc. By playing **"MAXI Scoring"**, the chances for rallies increase as does the touches on the ball in game situations.

### **GRASSROOT PROGRAM INCENTIVES**

The region would like to extend the following to all Directors that promote a Grassroot Training Program in their club. Each player participating in a club's grassroots programming will receive a Molten USAV Camp Volleyball..... **WOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! a FREE VOLLEYBALL for each GRASSROOT Participant**

The criteria for a Club to receive these volleyballs is to provide a training window of participation that has a duration of 50 days with between 16 and 20 training sessions within those 50 days and play in or host at least two grassroot tournament.

Remember Grassroot teams can be coed, all girls or something we are seeing more of in our region, all boys.

### **Grassroot Playday Host Responsibility**

#### **Host must provide:**

1. A gym with at least two courts that is fully equipped for play (officials stand is not needed for Grassroot events). Playdays should be scheduled for no more than four hours of play per wave. Playdays can schedule around a two wave format, allowing more teams from a geographic location to stay close to home to play.
2. **If necessary** follow all Gulf Coast Region COVID-19 Procedures and Protocols listed in this Grassroot Program Design information. As well as set up a Health Screening entry station for temperature check and CDC screening questions. With the COVID Delta Variant present we will continue the COVID protocols established in previous two seasons in the Gulf Coast Region.
3. The match fee of \$80.00 (Provisional, Regional) & \$100.00 (National, Jr Nat) paid to assigned Grassroot Official per wave called or \$140.00/\$160.00 if two waves are called.
4. Sanctioning Form completed and a Grassroot Sanctioning Fee of \$100.00 presented to the region. Sanction Form included in this Grassroot Program Design folio (last page)
5. Information to each Grassroot club attending their playday on how the \$50.00 participation fee per team should be paid to host club.....cash, check, paypal, venmo, etc.
6. Ample parking and seating for spectators
7. Volley-lite games balls
8. Scoresheets, Libero Tracking Sheets and Line-up sheets plus visual flipper scoreboards
9. Ball cart of 12 warm-up balls per court (balls should be Volley-Lites or the Molten Camp Ball)
10. Drinks (waters/sodas) for grassroot officials and healthy snacks

#### **What region provides:**

1. Sanctioning of Grassroot Playday – Sanctioning Fee is \$100.00 per event per club even if the Grassroot Playday is part of a Club Event
2. Provide host with any shortfall in event equipment needs  
(game balls, flipper scoreboards, paperwork, etc.)
3. Region will assign one Grassroot official per court

#### **What host can do to make money for their event:**

1. Host can change the customary \$5.00 dollar admission entry to the general public, 12 years and older. The exception of a \$10.00 admission entry fee can be charged when a Grassroot Playday is being hosted at a Convention Center.
2. Host can run a concession
3. Host can provide vendor space (if allowed by facility)

4. Host will collect a \$50.00 participation fee for each team in event

**What host must mail to region the Monday after the event :**

1. Financial accountability report...listing all gate and entry proceeds as well as expenses for gym rental, officials, etc.
2. Day of Rosters for all Grassroot teams

**HOW TO ENTER A GRASSROOT PLAYDAY and ROSTER PRESENTATION**

1. All Grassroot Playday Entries will be done on AES for the 2024 Grassroot Season Schedule. Grassroot Rosters are not required as part of AES Grassroot event registration. Sports Engine does generate roster ability for limited membership and the reduced grassroot categories are considered limited memberships. Therefore all Directors with Grassroot teams can create a Sports Engine roster or make a Club Grassroot spreadsheet with players name, date of birth and USA Volleyball membership number to turn in to the Grassroot Playday host club as well as present to the host the \$50.00 participation fee per team before the playday or at the playday.
2. Space will be limited on events, so entering EARLY is always advised to secure your team's participation entry.
3. Contact the host to determine how they would like the \$50.00 entry fee and Grassroot team roster presented
4. As a courtesy to support the growth of Grassroot Programming, a Club Director can contact a Playday Host via email and enter their Grassroot Team(s) and arrange for payment.

**GRASSROOT TOURNAMENT AGES**

Developmental League tournaments - age restriction of 11 and 12 years of age to play.

Youth Tournaments - 9 to 10 years of age

8 & Under Tournaments – 8 and under

Developmental players 13 years of age and older will not have a grassroots venue for tournament participation. That age should be training in your club program and playing in First Serve or Club Tournaments

**GRASSROOT TOURNAMENT POOL FORMAT**

In all levels of Grassroots Tournament play, multiple rounds of pool play are encouraged.....elimination bracket play shall not be use in any Gulf Coast Region Grassroot Event.

Make your plans now to facilitate these important ages. It is the future of our sport and should be given your highest consideration.

**GRASSROOT TOURNAMENT RULES OF PLAY**

In all levels of Grassroots play the most important rule of play is "HAVE FUN".

Second is to provide equal playing opportunity to each participant.

Gulf Coast Region Grassroot basic rules of play

1. Matches are played with two sets first to 25pts and second to 15pts with NO side switch in either set. A server may come up to net as close as required to serve in order to be successful but no closer than the spike line (3 meters). We want the rally to be determined by playing the ball and not by a serve error by too great a distance from net by these young servers. Each time a server is successful they **MUST** take a **BIG** step back prior to next serve attempt. It is the job of the coach and the official to instruct the player to do so, in the spirit of this rule. A player that is capable of serving over the net from the endline should certainly be positioned there on initial serve. Host may determine in their format of play to use a limit of serves in a rotation to five after which a non-scored service-term end is conducted. There will be no end of serve rotation with the exception of a side-out for all Region hosted Grassroot Playdays.
2. There is no positional substitution in GCR Grassroot Playdays but rather that teams coach determines the location their teams players enters and exists the court so all players get equal playing time. Must keep the same serving order for all players (like a batting order)
3. Grassroot Officials will be very liberal with ball handling as to allow the rally to continue.

4. Grassroot Officials will not call minor net violation or center line violations unless there is interference/safety concern or the players contacts the net and the net has a obvious bow in it.
5. Grassroot Officials will call from the R2 position so greater interaction can occur with the work duty team and teams that are playing
6. All Grassroot teams assigned work duty will keep a scoresheet (header, line up, running score) teach your grassroot players to get this far on the scoresheet.....if they can keep exist scores and a complete sheet that is great, provide flippers, and 2 linespersons.....alternate job so all players can experience each admin job of the work duty team.....the linesperson will call with flags if available but will use hand signals in making the proper calls if flags are not available.

## **IF IT BECOMES NECESSARY WE WILL RE-STATE AND RE-ESTABLISH OUR COVID POLICIES**

### **GULF COAST REGION COVID-19 PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS FOR GRASSROOT PLAYDAY EVENT HOST**

The Gulf Coast Region will follow the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) COVID-19 Virus and Variant Guidelines – the CDC has established questions for event site visiting teams, coaches, spectators, parents and participating children regarding COVID-19 Virus and Variants and strongly suggest that all individuals stay home if any of the following question are answered with a yes.

- Have you or the child been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
- Have you or the child experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
- Have you or the child had a fever in the last 48 hours?
- Have you or the child experienced new loss of taste or smell?
- Have you or the child experienced vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?

The Gulf Coast Region will assume by virtue of attendance that each and every attendee (teams, coaches, spectators, parents and participating children) understands the following statement:

***▪ Have you considered the inherent risk potential for disease transmission associated with the type of sport volleyball is. Your entry into this event is acceptance of these inherent risk.***

### **GENERAL PROTOCOLS**

- The CDC highly recommends that all attendees be vaccinated. Citing that Vaccinations is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccinations can help events safely return to participation as an extra-curricular activity and sport.
- All entering parties must read the posted COVID-19 safety requirement signs encouraging social safety, being properly vaccinated, reduce contact points with proper personal hygiene, with face coverings being highly recommended for those attendees that feel it best serves their safety.
- There will be an ample supply of alcohol-based hand gel and hygiene facilities at multiple locations in the event facility, as well as one dispenser on each scorer's table. It is requested that visitors wash or sanitize their hands frequently.
- There will be NO water fountains or shared coolers allowed. Each player is expected to bring their own water bottle.

## **MATCH PROTOCOLS FOR TOURNAMENTS**

- All captains meeting will take place at center court. Coin toss winner can choose to serve or receive.
- Initial warm ups will be individual side warm ups. After coin toss, warm-ups will be limited to 2 or 3 minutes per team according to event protocol. Grassroot Teams are here to play not have extended warm-ups. Teams may shag as a courtesy for the opponent
- Teams will occupy the same side throughout the match. USAV 2024 competition rule 18.1.3
- Matches will be played one set to 25 and one set to 15 or another suitable format as to allow maximum amount of play for each team.
- Work teams are to maintain social responsibility for health safety. One player will keep the visual scoreboard, a second player will keep the match Scoresheet if a coach wants their older grassroots players to learn how to score keep...all work teams will need to furnish their own pencil and pen...linesperson can call with flags but those flags must be wiped down by the R1 before linespersons receives them...wipes must be an alcohol base wipe
- Officials that call Grassroot Playday matches **are encouraged to** use an electronic whistle.
- Teams upon completion of their match must exit the playing arena unless they have the next match or are the assigned work team. This would include all spectators and family members of the exiting team. This is a require courtesy to allow the next teams playing ample seating and as to not create congestion in aisle and entry/exit egresses. At Satellite Gyms used exit the building into outdoor seating areas. Coaches of exiting team may remain in arena to notify their team when they can return to arena at the conclusion of previous match.

**The Coach of each team and well as that teams Club Director are both responsible for this policy being followed.**

## **GULF COAST REGION'S PROTOCOLS FOR TOURNAMENT**

- Face Coverings (Mask) as decreed by the Governor of the State of Alabama are strongly encouraged even when vaccinated but not mandatory for spectators/attendees, players, coaches and staff. If you are concerned about your health risk.....wear your MASK.
- The success of all Grassroot Playdays rest with everyone's ability to follow the COVID-19 procedures that have been outlined in these protocols. We want children playing and enjoying the sport they so "love"....Children will always follow rules until they see an Adult complacent about the same rules they are following....for the sake and the good of all children participating in Gulf Coast Region events.

**"FOLLOW these RULES WITHOUT EXCEPTION or STAY HOME"**



**Gulf Coast Region - USA Volleyball**  
**APPLICATION FOR SANCTION OF GRASSROOT PLAYDAY EVENT**  
**2024 SEASON**

MAIL TO: Philip Bryant, Commissioner  
Gulf Coast Region, USAV  
Post Office Box 1985  
Orange Beach, Alabama 36561

Application Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Application is hereby made for sanction from the Gulf Coast Region of United States Volleyball to conduct the following competition:**

Event Date \_\_\_\_\_ Playday Name \_\_\_\_\_

Event City/State \_\_\_\_\_

**Sanctioning Fees: \$ 100.00 Grassroot Playday Event**

Grassroot Sanctioning fee must accompany application form. Form can be emailed and fees mailed.

**GRASSROOT AGE DIVISIONS/CLASSIFICATIONS TO BE CONDUCTED:**

**Girl's**

Qty Courts \_\_\_\_\_

Ages \_\_\_\_\_

**Boy's**

Qty Courts \_\_\_\_\_

Ages \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Club \_\_\_\_\_

Tournament Director \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

In applying for sanction of the above Grassroot Playday event, the sponsoring organization and Tournament Director hereby agree to conduct the event in strict accordance with the guidelines and policies approved by the Board of Directors of the GCR-USAV and USA Volleyball.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

(Tournament Director)

Complete and submit to the Region Commissioner. Upon approval, a copy will be returned to the Tournament Director.

**The above event is is not sanctioned based on the following conditions:**

1. Only Grassroot players with a 2024 registered USAV membership may participate.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Decision \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Philip Bryant, Commissioner  
(Not valid unless signed)