

## Arizona Region of USA Volleyball Summary of Changes for 2009-2010

### USA Volleyball Open Championships to be held in Phoenix in May 2010

The 2010 USA Volleyball Open Championships will be held in Phoenix in May 2010 at the Phoenix Convention Center. This will be a great opportunity for many teams from the Arizona Region to be a part of the National Championships without having the travel expense. Please spread the word to your volleyball friends and teams that you know that may not normally participate in our adult Region play.

### USAV Rule Changes and Modifications for 2009-2010 Season

There are many rule changes being put forth by USA Volleyball due to FIVB changes and their intent to keep the ball in play. A summary of the rule changes is available in the packet for each club director and adult team rep. They will also be posted on our website and put in the handbook. Please read over the summary to see how the Arizona Region will be interpreting the rules for play in our Region. For those teams that will be attending Jr National Qualifiers, Boys Bid Tournaments and any nationally sanctioned tournament or championships please be aware that the new rules will be applied as written. These rule changes with the most impact for play involve centerline violations, net violations, player substitution process, and team warm-up procedure changes. The Arizona Region will be considering SAFETY of the players first in enforcement of these new rules.

### Rule Book Distribution Changes

Since the FIVB Rules Commission only meets every two years now the USAV Domestic Competition Regulations (Rule Book) will now only be published every two years. With this change we are asking the coaches, team reps and officials to hang onto their rule books for two years. We will not be giving two rule books per team each season. In the second year we will only be handing out rule books as needed. If you need a rule book ask for one. If you still have your rule book use it. The current rule book is for seasons 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.

### Water Bottles at Tournaments

In an attempt to go greener and healthier we are recommending to all clubs and teams to adopt reusable water bottles for their teams/players. At any given region tournament there are about 50 trash bags of water bottles in various stages of emptiness picked up at the end of the day. If each team could bring one igloo type cooler with water for their team for the day it would greatly cut down on the amount of trash and plastic that hits the landfill. Also in light of the properties of plastic bottles being attributed to some very serious diseases it is a healthier alternative to bottled water.

### Education Weekend - December 4 - 6, 2009

The Arizona Region will be offering a CAP I, CAP II, IMPACT and IMPACT Instructor courses in conjunction with their Education Weekend, Dec 4-6. John Kessel, Bill Neville, Stu Sherman and Bill Hamiter are the cadre assembled for the courses. The weekend will take place at ASU PE West on the Tempe Campus. IMPACT and IMPACT Instructor will take place on Friday evening. CAP I and II will take place on Saturday and Sunday. Can't take the whole course? Sign up for a few modules and receive credit for refreshing your certification. Don't miss the chance to learn from some of the best coaching instructors in the US!

The Education weekend will also have a Parent component. David Epperson will be here for a taste of Parents for Good Sports for the clubs. The session will also take place at ASU PE West from 6 pm - 8 pm on Friday, Dec 4<sup>th</sup>. Clubs are asked to identify 1 or 2 parent liaisons to attend the Parent workshop and take the information back to the club. The parents will then be asked to participate in a few surveys regarding club, Region and National USAV information. Please sign up through the AZ Region to make sure we have a room big enough.

### Arizona Region Club Night

The Arizona Region in conjunction with ASU Women's Volleyball is hosting a Club Night on Saturday, Oct 10<sup>th</sup> at ASU Wells Fargo Arena. The Club Night will allow clubs to present themselves to interested parents and players in an open forum. The ASU Women's Volleyball team will be hosting Oregon State University at 7 pm. The Arena will open at 5:30 for clubs to set up. Admission will be \$3 for everyone wearing their club volleyball attire. This Club Night will replace the Parent Information Nights held in previous years.

### Adult Teams Eligible for Region Championships

In an attempt to clarify the eligibility requirements for Adult Region Championships the policy has been changed to reflect that any team that has ineligible players (unregistered players and/or players that have not played with the team in 2 or more tournaments during the season) may not advance to the Championship Bracket at the Region Championships.

### Paid Officials for Adult Tournaments

The Arizona Region will now provide a paid R1 for all matches for the adult division. The teams will be required to provide an R2, 2 linesmen, a scorekeeper and libero tracker for their ref assignments.

### Adult Registration at the First Tournament

The Arizona Region will provide staff at the first adult tournament to receive and process registration materials from the teams participating. This will take place during the score/ref clinic and first matches of the day at each tournament location. The team's intent to play in the first tournament is due in the AZ Region office by Dec 16<sup>th</sup>. That will allow the scheduler to make the necessary arrangements for courts for the first tournament.

### Junior Club Personnel Code of Ethics

The Arizona Region Coaches Code of Ethics has been replaced by the USAV Junior Club Personnel Code of Ethics as a required form for membership. All adults associated with a junior club must sign this form and present it with their membership form.

### Junior Player Participation - Tryouts

The Arizona Region is committed to protecting the eligibility of all players regarding their AIA and NCAA eligibility. The AIA does not allow high school players to participate in any camps, clinics, open gyms - any extra volleyball participation of any kind except private lessons during the time they are participating with their school. The AIA also releases the players from this as their school seasons come to a close. With this in mind the Arizona Region extends the time the high school players are not allowed to participate in camps, clinics, open gyms and extra volleyball participation except private lessons until the last match of the State HS Championships is complete. This is done to protect any player that is still participating in the State playoffs or

Championships from inadvertently participating in something that would cause them to lose their eligibility. There are times a younger player will be called up to participate with the team as they make their way through the state tournaments. If they have tried out or participated in a camp or clinic they are ineligible to do so. There have been high school players that participated in a fundraiser and were disqualified from the State championship play. The AZ Region does not want anyone to risk eligibility for a clinic or open gym. It is not worth it. Therefore - anyone that is in high school (regardless of their birthday) is not eligible to participate in tryouts, camps, clinics, and all until the last match of the State HS Championships is complete. Clubs allowing high school players (regardless of age) to participate in any camp, clinic, open gym or tryout before the last match of the State HS Championships is complete is subject to sanction by the AZ Region. High School age is defined as players in 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

### Age Waiver Request for Juniors - Clarified

The policy regarding age waivers for junior players has been revised. For an age waiver request to be considered at all the Age Waiver form must be submitted prior or be attached to the membership form when submitted. If the Age Waiver Request form is not submitted prior to or with the membership form of the player, the request WILL BE DENIED. No age waivers will be granted for Open Division teams or any other division teams that are going to travel. Age waivers are not allowed at National Qualifiers, Bid Tournaments or other interregional tournaments. For an age waiver to be considered the player must have a summer birthday (June - Aug) and be in the grade of the oldest players that are age eligible for that team classification. A team may have a maximum of 2 players with an age waiver. For those players outside the Phoenix metro and Tucson metro areas the birth date of the player may be allowed to fall during the school year. Consideration of an age waiver will be on a case by case basis. There is no blanket "okay" for an age waiver anywhere. The team may be required to play up in an older age group to accommodate the older player.

### New Chaperone Status for Junior National Championships

USA Volleyball has revised their Chaperone status requirement for the 2010 Junior National Championships. They are no longer requiring a stand alone chaperone for each team. Any member of the staff that is on the roster for the tournament can also be designated as the Chaperone EXCEPT the Head Coach. If the team has only a head coach for the staff they must register and roster a chaperone for that team. It is unclear if this will trickle over to the Boys Bid Tournaments or Girls Jr National Qualifiers. It will be allowed at Fiesta Classic, Festival Preview and Volleyball Festival - tournaments that the AZ Region sanctions. For complete information regarding the Qualifiers, contact the Qualifier Directors.

### Junior Boys Season Expanded

The junior boys clubs were allowed to begin their tryouts August 1<sup>st</sup> to give them time to establish their teams before their first tournament. The schedule was also moved up to start the first tournament in September with the hope of finishing the season earlier in December. With the Education Weekend being set for Dec 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> the end of the season had to remain the same for this year. This will be reviewed each season to finish earlier avoiding interference with the Christmas holiday season.

### Junior Boys "B" Season

The Arizona Region will be offering a Boys "B" Season for boys 14 and under teams to participate in the spring. This was done in an attempt to grow the boys program and to start a base

of players that begin playing in junior high timeframe thus giving them more experience and growing the depth of players in the Arizona Region. This will also allow boys that play other sports (such as Pop Warner football and soccer) in the fall to also be introduced to boy's volleyball.

### **Junior Boys Score/Ref Clinics**

The junior boy's score/ref clinics are now stand alone clinics. They will be held prior to the first tournament. This was done in an attempt to increase the ability of the scorekeepers and referees at the boy's level. It will also allow the first tournament to be a complete tournament instead of shortened to accommodate the clinic prior.

### **Summer Tournaments for Teams Still Competing**

For teams that need competition into June in preparation for their season ending tournaments - Jr Nationals, Volleyball Festival, etc. - there are potentially three sanctioned tournaments available. The tournaments will be run by ASU, NAU and/or UofA. As the dates are finalized they will be included on the schedule. Please check the website for the dates and locations. Contact the school directly for the tournament you might be interested in attending.