

Arizona Region of USA Volleyball Junior Club/Team Policies

Junior Recruiting Guidelines

The intent of the recruiting guidelines is to allow every junior player to participate during the high school season free from any intense recruiting and demands of the club programs. In addition, these guidelines are intended to govern the conduct of club recruiters once a player has committed to a club.

Signing Date Rule

A junior player may not make a binding commitment to a team or club until the first day of the AZ Region sanctioned season as defined by the AZ Region published tryout dates. Any verbal commitment made prior to the published signing date is non-binding. This rule is modeled after the NCAA's signing date rule. As with the NCAA, a program may offer a player a position before the tryout date and a player may verbally accept the offer. However, there is no binding contract between the parties.

A player who signs ANY letter of commitment, membership form or any similar document prior to the AZ Region published tryout date is subject to suspension for the entire season and a \$500 fine. Any club representative who asks a player to sign such a document before such date is subject to suspension for the entire season. The team with a player who signed such a document before such dates may be subject to suspension for the entire season.

Club Season in the Arizona Region

The Arizona Region considers the "club season" to be from the published tryout date through the last day of the respective JOVC.

Blackout Period

The AZ Region has established a Blackout Period for girls club recruiting. The period is established to allow players a break between school volleyball and the start of the girl's club season. The following applies to the blackout period:

1. The Blackout period is Nov 1 until the published tryout date for each age group.
2. There is no club initiated contact to any player during the blackout period regardless of previous club affiliation. Club initiated contact includes but is not limited to the following: personal contact, phone calls, text messages, instant messaging, e-mails, direct contact from a club director, club representative or coach.
3. No club sponsored camps, clinics or open gyms may be held during the blackout period
4. Clubs may only have information meetings during the Blackout Period. All advertising (mailing, phone calling, personal contact, etc) must be completed prior to Nov 1st. The exception would be a posting on the club website or the Region website.
5. Once a player has committed to a club no further contact by any other club may occur.

Blackout Period Sanctions

Reporting of violations of the Recruiting Blackout Period should be mailed or emailed to the AZ Region office. The AZ Region Ethics and Compliance officer will investigate the allegations and issue sanctions if warranted.

1. First violation will result in a 30 day suspension from all AZ Region activities including practices, tournaments, clinics and camps for the violator and a \$100 fine for the club. Dates of suspension to be determined by the ECO.
2. Second violation will result in 90 day suspension from all AZ Region activities including practices, tournaments, clinics and camps for the violator and a \$250 fine for the club. Dates of suspension to be determined by the ECO.
3. If a third violation is found during the violator's tenure, the violator will be suspended from all AZ Region activities including practices, tournaments, clinics and camps for a period of one year and a \$500 fine for the club. The dates of suspension to be determined by the ECO.
4. If a fourth violation is found during the violator's tenure, the violator will be suspended from all AZ Region activities for life.

Players Eligible for Club Volleyball

Female players may be contacted via oral/written communication by an individual such as a coach, club representative, parent other than their own, or another player from the recruiting club at any time EXCEPT eight (8) hours before a school volleyball event such as a practice or tournament, unless club volleyball is NOT discussed between the last day of Girls JOVC and the date the player commits to a club by registering with that club. ** See Blackout Period for further exceptions.

Male players may be contacted via oral/written communication by an individual such as a coach, club representative, parent other than their own or another player from the recruiting club from the close of their individual school volleyball season until September 1st. Those players going to Jr. Nationals with their club team are considered "off limits" until the day after the completion of the Boys JOVC.

Once a player has committed to a team during the Arizona Region sanctioned season, club directors and coaches from another Arizona Region club shall not contact that player or their family. A recruiting violation occurs when an Arizona Region-registered club director and/or coach from one Arizona Region-registered club makes initial verbal or written contact with a player or their parents from another Arizona Region-registered club with the intent of persuading the player to leave their present club to join another club. If the player or parent makes the initial contact, a club director or coach may inform the player or parent, without fear of committing a recruiting violation, about their specific program. *It is strongly recommended that all club directors and coaches refrain from making negative comments concerning other clubs or their staff.*

If a team has completed its season and is not going to go to any end of year tournaments, the players may be released to attend an end of the year tournament with another club team provided it is legal to pick up players for the tournament to be attended. Any coach, club director or club representative interested in taking a player from another club team to an end of the year

tournament with the new club team must contact the current club director of the player's team to ask permission to talk to the player being recruited. The current club director is not obligated to permit the coach, club director or club representative to talk to their player. The player must be released from the first club in order to compete with the second club at any year-end tournament. Paperwork must be received in the Region office prior to established deadlines for online registration editing.

The Arizona Region considers a player committed to a junior club as soon as all of the following have been completed:

- a. A player, or her parent, submits an Arizona Region Individual Membership form along with payment of the Junior Volleyball membership fee to a club, its director or one of its coaches with the intent of joining the club for the current season.
- b. A time period of 3 days passes after the submission of the player's forms and fee(s) in which the player or parent does not inform the club of a change in their decision to commit to that club.

General Notes

1. All recruiting offers **MUST** be within the strict guidelines of the NCAA Rules and Regulations.
2. Violators of these guidelines may be censured as follows:
 - a. The team that has a player that they recruited illegally may have its Region Tournament results forfeited **AND** may not be eligible to compete in the Arizona Region Championships for the current season.
 - b. The person who conducted the illegal recruitment (Club Director/Coach/Team Representative/Chaperone/etc) may also have their Arizona Region membership withdrawn and may not be eligible to participate in a USA Volleyball event during the current season. Appeals of disciplinary action may be reviewed with the Arizona Region Due Process.
 - c. A junior member or his/her parent/guardian who illegally commits to a club during the season may be subject to sanction by the Arizona Region Due Process.

Players who have committed to a club and then wish to transfer to another club must first be released from the club to which they first committed in order to practice or play with the club to which they wish to transfer. See Transfer of a Player to Another Club During the Season below for further information on changing clubs in the same season.

Frequently Asked Questions About Recruiting

- Q. During a high school match, may I talk to a player's parents that were not part of my club program last season?

- A. No, you may not talk to a player or their parents until AFTER the school practice, match or tournament is complete.
- Q. May I place literature on the tables of high school events?
- A. Yes, providing no literature is handed directly to the players and permission of the High School Tournament Director is obtained prior to placement.
- Q. May I give literature to a school coach or other school official to hand out for me?
- A. Yes
- Q. May I offer open gyms for my former players during the month of November?
- A. No. A club may only offer informational meetings (no on court play or practicing for any potential junior girls club players) during the month of November until the published tryout dates for each age group.

Age Waiver for Junior Players

The Arizona Region may grant an age waiver for junior players playing in a lower division in certain instances. Requests for a waiver will be considered on an individual basis by submitting a Juniors Age Waiver Form **along with** the Individual Membership Form to the Arizona Region. The waiver requires the written approval of the Junior Board and the signature of the Junior Board Representative.

These waivers will be valid only within the Arizona Region. Age waivers are **NOT VALID** at the national level. There is a maximum of two (2) players playing with an age waiver per team. Other regions are not obligated to allow the participation of wavered players. Contact the individual tournament director to check on their eligibility requirements **prior** to entering the tournament. **There will be no age waiver allowed for a player on a team competing in the Open Division.**

Adding Players to an Existing Team

A new player may be added to any team's roster at any time provided the player has never been registered with another Arizona Region-registered club/team for that season. Appropriate paperwork and fees must be submitted to the Arizona Region office **BEFORE** the player may participate in any practice or tournament.

Any coach or club found illegally adding players to a roster might be subject, but not limited, to fines, suspension and/or other sanctions of the club director, coach and/or player(s) involved as determined by Section II of the USAV Disciplinary Policy.

Transfer of a Junior Player to Another Club During the Season

The Arizona Region and USA Volleyball consider a commitment to a club to be for the entire season. Both organizations strongly discourage player transfers from one club to another during the same season. However, it is possible to obtain a transfer, if circumstances require it, under the following conditions:

- A Player Release Form must be completed and signed by the director of the current club, the parent of the player involved in the transfer and the new club director. It is the responsibility of the new club to submit the form to the Arizona Region for acceptance. The Arizona Region will grant the transfer only if all parties involved agree upon the transfer.
- All transfers require the approval of the Junior Board.
- The player may not practice or participate in a tournament with the new club until the Player Release Form has been submitted to the Arizona Region office and approved by the Junior Board.
- The current club is under NO obligation to grant the release of the player once they have been registered with their club.
- Transfers are not allowed to or from a team that has already participated in a national qualifying event.

Transfer of a Junior Player From One Team to Another Within A Club

During the Arizona Region tournament season, a player may transfer from one team to another (provided that the player is participating on a team in their age group or above) within the same club. The club must notify the Arizona Region office of any transfers within their club in writing. A player may not transfer back or be borrowed by the previous team once transferred.

Once a team has qualified in a national qualifying event, all players on the roster are frozen to that team. They may not be added to another team roster. Players from another team may be added to the qualified team's roster as long as they have not qualified with another team. See Qualifiers/JNC for further explanation.

Borrowing Player A Player Within a Club

A team may borrow a player from another team within their club provided **ALL** of the following apply:

- A team in the same age group or above is borrowing the player.
- The player being borrowed is registered on a lower ranked team than the team that is borrowing the player.
- A Club Division team may not borrow an Open Division player.
- The player may be borrowed only one time during the season.
- The player being borrowed may only play on one team and in one tournament wave per tournament date.
- The Arizona Region office is notified of the player being borrowed in writing a minimum of 48 hours prior to the tournament. This is to notify the site director of the situation involving the borrowed player.
- Any subsequent play on the borrowing team by the borrowed player will constitute a transfer and that player permanently changing rosters. Once the roster change has been made, the former team may not borrow the player.