

AZ Region of USA Volleyball Points of Interest and Changes for 2007-08 Season

Larger Uniform Numbers are required this year

The centered 6" front and 8" back numbers are required for the 2008 season. These have been recommended over the past few years but for 2008 and beyond they are required. Please make sure your screen printer is aware of the new sizing for uniforms so you don't run into problems come tournament time.

The numbers must be from 1 - 99 (no zero or double zero or duplicate numbers) and the stripe forming the number must be a minimum of $\frac{3}{4}$ " in width. According to the rule book "the color and brightness of the number must contrast with the color and brightness of the jersey. Purple/black, dark green/black, navy/black or navy/maroon are not distinctive enough to comply with the rules."

Boys Division Splits into Open and Club

There has been some interest in the boys division to have wave play for the teams. It was determined by the Junior Board that wave play could be instituted for play for those teams that are just school related or training teams. The teams that are attempting to achieve at the National level should continue to play the format and number of matches that the Open Division provides. The Club Division will have one additional tournament on their schedule but will play in waves instead of the all day format. The same format used by the Girls Club Division will be used for the Boys Club Division.

Club Director Agreement Form

The number of issues between clubs and parents that the Region has been brought into has increased each year for the past several years. After speaking to our attorney about what we could do he suggested that we create a basic agreement form that each club must sign before they will be recognized as a club for each season. This form is the result of that advice. This gives us a starting point for basic club operation in regards to the relationships between the Region, clubs and players/parents. Each club director is required to initial each agreement, sign the form and submit it to the Region office before any members of their club could be registered for each season. In the event the Region is brought into further club/parent issues this form will be utilized to help settle the issue in a fair and timely manner.

Three days to accept club offer

The former policy of the Region was to consider a player committed to a club after turning in their membership forms and payment to a club and then 24 hours passing. The 24 hours was less than the Arizona Revised Statutes that gives anyone 3 days to accept an offer. We have revised our policy to comply with the Arizona Revised Statutes and allow a player three days to accept a club offer and be reimbursed for any dues paid with that offer if it is refused.

Tournament Contract Prices have increased

The tournament contract prices for the 2008 season have been increased to cover additional fees that will be paid to our tournament hosts. The number of tournament hosts has been declining each year in part due to the amount of money we provide to them for the cost of their gym. To keep up with the cost of gyms we have increased the host fees accordingly. The portion of the tournament entry fee that pays for the officials was also increased to cover the cost of our officials. The officials did not get a raise we are just collecting enough to cover the average cost of one official on one match.

Medical Release Form amended

USAV has amended the Medical Release Form to be a one page form. These forms now require the signatures of the parent and the player. The forms no longer include a social security number requirement. They are still to be carried at all team events including practices, tournaments and fundraisers.

New Membership Categories

There are three new Membership Categories for the AZ Region. All are priced at \$15. USAV removed the Outdoor Membership and replaced it with the Summer Membership. This membership is only good from May 1st through Oct 31st. It can be used for indoor camps or leagues as well as beach membership. Chaperone Membership - the AZ Region removed the 2-5 day membership as an option for Chaperones. The chaperone can now sign up and be covered for the entire season with just one membership - no upgrading to full if they chaperone a second tournament. A background screen is still required every two seasons for a Chaperone and the membership is good for one season. Senior Membership - for those 55 and older whose sole reason for joining is to participate in the Open National Championships held annually in May will now be able to join for just \$15. Those 55 and older that are working officials or regularly playing in our tournaments are not eligible for the Senior Membership.

IMPACT Fees are changing

The fees for IMPACT will now increase as the deadline for certification nears. The first clinics held will still be \$25 per person. As the tournament season nears the fees will increase to \$50 and \$100 depending on the time. The exact fees for each clinic will be posted along with the dates of the clinics on our website under Coaches Education and IMPACT Schedule.

Junior Girls Recruiting Blackout Period

The Junior Policies have been adapted to include a Blackout Period for recruiting junior girls from Nov 1st until the posted first day of tryouts for each age group. For the 2008 season the Blackout Period will be from Nov 1 to Nov 16 for the 14's and under and the entire month of November for the 15's and older age groups. This policy is put into place to give the kids a break from all play and recruiting between their school season and the published tryout dates. Clubs may hold information meetings during the Blackout Period but may not initiate any contact with any potential players. All advertising for

Information Meetings must be done by Nov 1st except for what is posted on a website - the Region's or the Club's. Sanctions for violations of these guidelines have also been determined and are included in the revised Juniors Policies section of the Handbook. Ignorance of the policy is not an excuse.

This policy will be closely evaluated for the 2009 season. If recruiting becomes a problem for the high school players during their school season the blackout period could increase in length for the 2009 season.

Junior Girls Start and End Dates Revised

The Junior Girls published tryout dates for 2008 are: 1. not before Nov 17th for the 14's and younger and; 2. not before Dec 1st for the 15's and older. This has been done for several reasons: 1. To give the kids a break between school play and club play - the hope is to avoid injury and burnout; 2. to keep our teams that qualified for Nationals and those attending other season ending tournaments playing competitively later so as to be more competitive at those tournaments; 3. To avoid the high school spring sports state championships which are always coinciding with our Region Championships tournaments. Most of our age groups will finish their Region Championships after the Memorial Day Weekend; 4. To give players and parents ample time to research different clubs to see which one fits best for them.

National Club Qualifier

The AZ Region National Club Qualifier tournament will be scheduled for 2008 on a dedicated weekend. Teams may play on Saturday and/or Sunday depending on the size of the field for each division and the courts we have available for our use. The entry fee has also been increased to \$225.

2008 American Volleyball Challenge

The Arizona Region will again be co-hosting the AVC tournament in 2008 in Tucson. The dates are still being set with the Tucson Convention Center. It is unknown if there will be bids attached to a National-type season ending tournament from this tournament. The entry fee is still to be determined.

Ethics and Compliance Officer Hired

Dan Kaminkas has been hired as the Ethics and Compliance Officer. Dan will be acting on issues resulting from submission of Match Comment Forms, complaints against clubs, club directors, coaches and/or players that are received in the Region. Dan does have the authority to assign sanctions or suspend membership immediately until further investigation can occur. He will be acting with the aid of committee members Jonathan Norris and Brooke Paulovich. To report any violations of ethics and/or conduct submit a signed written letter, match comment form or email to the Region Office or directly to Dan.