



SUN COUNTRY VOLLEYBALL

(SURVA)

REGION HANDBOOK

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MEMBERSHIP

All participants residing within the boundaries of Sun Country MUST register with USA Volleyball through the Sun Country Region (SURVA). All participants include club board members & club directors, players, coaches, team representatives, officials, chaperones, tournament directors, site directors or anyone **actively involved** in Sun Country Region volleyball.

Membership in USA Volleyball (USAV) and Sun Country Region Volleyball (SURVA) is a privilege and not a right. Membership may be accepted, denied, revoked, suspended or placed on hold at any time in the best interest of USAV and/or SURVA.

SURVA CODE OF CONDUCT

All participants of the SURVA Community are expected to act in accordance with accepted moral standards and ethics. Also, all people involved with SURVA in any capacity, whether a member or non-member (ex; parents, spectators, vendors), are required to abide by and are subject to all policies of Sun Country Volleyball and USAV as set forth in the SURVA Region and Tournament Handbooks, USAV and SURVA Code of Conduct, Safe Sport and MAAP principals. Any member or non-member of SURVA may be denied membership, reprimanded, censured, placed on probation, restricted, suspended for a definite or indefinite period of time (with or without terms of probation), fined or expelled from USA Volleyball and SURVA if such member violates the

provisions of the SURVA and USA Volleyball Code of Conduct, or aids, abets or encourages another person to violate any of the provisions of the SURVA Code of Conduct; provided, however, that any action to withdraw or deny membership in USA Volleyball or SURVA shall be subject to, and shall be done in accordance with, the applicable notice and hearing rights as provided in USA Volleyball's rules and those of SURVA.

1. The following shall be considered violations of the SURVA Code of Conduct:
 - a. Violation of USA Volleyball's Safe Sport Handbook, which includes the Safe Sport policies and Background Screen Policy may be accessed through the USA Volleyball website at www.usavolleyball.org.
 - b. Violation of the SURVA ZERO-TOLERANCE policy on screaming, yelling, making derogatory remarks, or any excessive display of disagreement by spectators to ANY member of the officiating team concerning any official's decision.
 - i. Individual conflicts or disturbances involving spectators will not be tolerated.
 - ii. Penalty is immediate dismissal from the premises by the Site Director, without warning, and possible sanctions for the teams/clubs involved.
 - c. Violation of an event facility's policies, regulations, and/or procedures (it is the responsibility of the individual to be informed concerning said policies);
 - d. At a USAV/SURVA approved event, possession of fireworks, ammunition, firearms or other weapons, or any item or material which by commonly accepted practices and principles would be a hazard or harmful to other persons;
 - e. At the event venue of any USAV/SURVA related junior event, possession, consumption or distribution of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, vaping or any other illegal substance by or to anyone registered as a junior volleyball player;
 - f. Any act of fraud, deception or dishonesty in connection with any USAV/SURVA related activity, or in connection with an affiliated organization;
 - g. Any inappropriate non-consensual physical contact, obscene language or gesture, or other threatening language or inappropriate conduct directed towards any individual in connection with a USAV/SURVA approved competition; failure to respect the rights of fellow participants, competitors, and/or tournament officials.
 - h. Any deliberate or reckless damage, destruction, or theft of property of any person, of USAV/SURVA, or any other governing or sponsoring body or any other entity involved in any way with USAV at or during USAV/SURVA approved activities;
 - i. Any unauthorized use of the SURVA name, trademarks, logo or other proprietary assets, whether in a commercial or noncommercial context;
 - j. Violation of the specific policies, regulations, and/or procedures of USAV/SURVA or the facility in conjunction with an approved event;
 - k. Conduct which is inappropriate as determined by comparison to normally accepted behavior;
 - l. Any act that illustrates a lack of respect for fellow participants**
 - m. Any other intentional act, conduct, or omission not provided for above which is detrimental to the image or reputation of USAV/SURVA or an affiliated organization.
2. If an athlete is sanctioned by the IOC, FIVB, WADA, USADA, USOPC or any other body having jurisdiction above USAV/SURVA for any infraction, USAV/SURVA shall honor that sanction.

DEFINITIONS

“SURVA”: AN ACRONYM USED TO DENOTE THE SUN COUNTRY REGION VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION, A REGION OF USA VOLLEYBALL

Adult Team: Any team with adult players. Note: Junior players may play on adult teams with a Region approved waiver.

SURVA BOD: Sun Country Region Volleyball Association Board of Directors.

Chaperone: Any individual who assists a team in any manner, such as a parent-driver, equipment carrier or ball chaser. *Chaperones associated with junior teams must have at least one chaperone of same sex and must have current background checks and Safe Sport certifications.

Clubs: Organizations of one or more teams.

Club Directors/Team Representatives: The primary liaison for all communications between the club and SURVA. Any person in a leadership position within a club MUST be a full current USAV member of that club.

Club Directors, site directors, coaches, officials, trainers, and other adult individuals involved in active participation with USAV/SURVA volleyball junior teams must be registered adult members with current background checks & Safe Sport certification. Coaches must have completed required education such as Impact or CAP training.

Junior team: Age requirements may be found in the junior team information. Junior teams may play in adult tournaments with approved Region waiver.

Participant: Any individual, including administrators, involved in volleyball activities in the Sun Country Region.

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATIONS

1. Registration begins September 1 and ends August 31 of the following year (this coincides with mandatory USA Volleyball insurance policy year).
2. **After September 1st, players will be able to accept a club invitation upon registration. A player then has until October 31st to freely request a club transfer. On November 1st, the player becomes “committed” to the club associated with that membership for the entire season & the Transfer & Release Policy (pg. 7) is activated. Season is defined as beginning Sept 1st and concluding Aug 31st of the following year.**
3. Registration information will be available on the SURVA website. Complete the registration process according to instructions provided on the Sun Country Volleyball Region website at <http://suncountryvb.org>

4. All junior club members including board members, players, coaches, team representatives, officials, chaperones, tournament directors or anyone **actively involved** in clubs, tournaments, or **practices** MUST register with USA Volleyball through the Sun Country Region (SURVA) registration website.
5. Transgender athletes must follow and complete USAV transgender protocol before registration. The athlete must submit proof of USAV approved transgender status to the Region office at time of membership purchase or renewal.
6. The SURVA Board of Directors sets the Registration Fee annually. Participants are covered under the insurance umbrella when properly registered.
7. There shall be no refund on a membership fee once a member has participated in any event, included but not limited to practices, tournaments, and/or tryouts.
 - a. If a refund is granted, only the region portion will be refunded.

COACHING REQUIREMENTS WITHIN SURVA & USAV

Coaching in any sport is a privilege and should never be taken for granted. Coaches hold a highly formative and influential place for the players and parents. Therefore, SURVA has taken steps to provide coaches with access to educational products to help nurture & promote a good learning environment and protect and ensure the safety of all participants. Continuing coaching education may be required as set forth by Region Policy.

All coaches within SURVA must:

- Be full current members of USAV.

All junior team coaches within SURVA must:

- Submit to and pass a current USAV background screen.
- Be Safe Sport certified.
- Be IMPACT or higher certified.

All junior coaches (coaches under 18 of age) and foreign guest coaches may only serve as an assistant coach for junior teams and must be chaperoned by a USAV rostered adult on the bench.

Certifications of Coaches

The Coaches Accreditation Program (CAP) goal is to give USAV coaches a sound foundation towards becoming qualified instructors, in that they have joined the “PROFESSION OF COACHING”.

Options:

IMPACT (Region offered entry-level course)

CAP Level I or higher

FIVB Level I or higher

ACEP Level I or higher

TEAM REQUIREMENTS

Registration Requirements:

1. The Club Director will serve as the Team Rep (liaison) between the team and SURVA. Email addresses and phone numbers are required for all team representatives. Club Directors are responsible to pass all USAV/SURVA information and requirements to their members.

Adult junior team members: Junior teams must have IMPACT & Safe Sport certified coaches with USAV current background screen. The team should have a chaperone of the same sex of the junior players with current background screen and Safe Sport certification.

* In lieu of a chaperone a coach of the same sex may serve as chaperone but must follow all Safe Sport requirements regarding chaperone duties and protocols such as but not limited to the "rule of 3" and bed check procedures.

Adults may serve in more than one capacity.

CLUB REQUIREMENTS

1. Each season, every club must complete an application for activation in the USAV member management system (MMS) for Region approval. The Region will consider each application and approve/disapprove the club for participation that season pending completion of all requirements.
2. Upon approval by the Region, the club will be activated after club leadership has completed all requirements such as registration, current background screen and Safe Sport certification.
*All new Club Directors must attend a New Club Orientation Clinic for the first two seasons
3. After a club is approved and activated, Sports Engine will be completely set up in the MMS. Once set-up in the system is complete, the club may begin sending club invitations to prospective members.
4. Junior clubs may register more than one team; however, the appropriate age group & club rank must be designated for each team registered.
5. Currently active clubs must renew by November 15th. There will be no new clubs formed after December 31st of each season. Any team or club wanting to compete after December 31st will need to join an existing club for mentoring in preparation for the next season.
6. All persons in a leadership or admin position within a club **MUST** be a current Sun Country member of that club.

CLUB RENEWAL

All clubs will be monitored during the season by SURVA staff and may be subsequently reviewed. **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS & DUE PROCESS** regarding Club Renewal: Staff will refer any club with major issues to the Commissioner who will form an Ad Hoc Committee for consideration. The Commissioner may issue a temporary sanction if needed during due process. The Ad Hoc will consider all issues and determine any disciplinary actions needed up to and including non-renewal. A decision of non-renewal by the Ad Hoc will be automatically appealed to the entire BoD for final decision on non-renewal. Any other disciplinary action by the Ad Hoc, the club will be offered appeal to the BoD. Clubs will be allowed to operate during the renewal due process.

Adding Additional Team Members

New members may be added at any time during the season.

Clubs will not allow non-registered members to participate in any USAV/SURVA approved event. Failure to follow this rule may cause the club and/or responsible individuals involved to be placed on suspension pending decision by an Ethics Committee.

TRANSFER AND RELEASE POLICY

Transfers

Regardless of date, only one transfer will be allowed per season, but not after March 1st.

After November 1st a player, **regardless of registration date**, may change clubs with **advanced** written permission of both Club Directors. **Upon agreement between clubs, the Regional Commissioner and/or Registrar will decide if the transfer is in the best interest of Sun Country Volleyball.**

***Exception: A player may be granted a transfer request without club approval at any time upon completion of their financial obligation to the current club. The Region will then consider the impact to the team and approve/disapprove the transfer. In case of dispute, the financial obligation will be determined by Region Staff.**

Note: A player that has competed for a club during the current season in any National Qualifying Event cannot compete for any other club in another National Qualifying Event or USAV National Championships during that same season. This includes the Sun Country National Bid Tournament.

Releases

Releases will not be granted during the season. Once release of financial obligation has been agreed to by the club, a player will remain on the club roster until such time the player finds another club. The transfer will then be processed by the Region to help ensure no recruiting has occurred.

Tryouts

CLUB tryouts, TEAM invitations and TEAM acceptance for the upcoming season are permitted starting July 15th (last weekend of July for girls and first weekend of July for boys). Upgradable tryout memberships for the new season available for non-members.

SEASON GUIDELINES

Season is defined as the beginning September 1st and continuing to Aug 31st of the next year. Each year clubs and members are searching for team placements and club player contracts. Most problems result from a misunderstanding of the important dates and timelines regarding tryouts, contracts, registration, commitment, and qualifications. Below is a list of important dates to help clubs, teams and members navigate the issues of participation and fairness.

RECRUITING-See Recruiting Policy on page 9 for guidelines.

CONTACT and EVALUATION PERIOD--Begins day after USAV National Championships.

- July 15. Last day to submit Club Debt Reports and Team Tryouts may begin.**
- Aug 1. Team invitation/acceptance allowed**
- Sept 1. USAV/SURVA registration and Club invitation/acceptance begins.**
- Sept 1. First day for signing Club/Player contracts**
- Nov 1. Official Club "commitment" date-no transfer without club approval**
- Nov 15. Last day for existing Clubs to renew and activate**
- Dec 31. Last day for New Clubs to activate**

SURVA MEMBER DEBT POLICY

SURVA recognizes that the clubs have an interest in ensuring fair financial rules, while the players have an interest in being able to **choose/change clubs within the rules and regulations of SURVA. Every season, SURVA receives complaints of members failing or refusing to pay contracted debts from clubs within the Region. SURVA generally avoids interfering with club business and will not enter contract disputes between the member and club.**

Accordingly, the Board of Directors has created the SURVA Member Debt Policy to **deter avoidance of payment & to protect the "next club".**

Individuals who have an outstanding debt to their previous club may be placed on Region Hold.

If a club believes a member may be deliberately avoiding their financial responsibilities according to the club-player contract, they may request the Region place a “hold” on that membership to protect the next club.

1. On initial request by the club, with assurance from the club of their attempt(s) to collect, SURVA shall process the hold.
2. Upon dispute, SURVA will determine the debt, if any, the amount outstanding and **approve** any terms between parties to remove the Region debt hold.

MEMBERS: Upon disagreement with the debt & through Due Process, the member may **appeal** the Region Hold **to the Eligibility Committee**. If the **Committee** determines that the debt is factual, the Region Hold will remain in place. In case of appeal, all relevant evidence must be submitted to SURVA leadership as required.

CLUBS: To place a member on the debt report, the club must have a financial agreement **or contract** in place with the player at issue. And before requesting a hold by the Region, the club must have made an attempt to collect. **Below are the required steps to request a Region Hold be placed on a membership.**

1. Debt Reports must be submitted by the club to the Registrar complete, correct & on the required form between July 1 and no later than July 15th. **Incomplete or late Member Outstanding Debt Reports will not be processed.**
2. **Debts over the amount of \$500 must be accompanied by a copy of the Club/Member contract** along with all correspondence where the club has attempted to collect the outstanding debt. **The club must be able to submit the same docs upon dispute for debts below \$500.**
3. **Memberships with player contracts dated before Sept 1 are not eligible for Region Hold consideration.**
4. **The maximum hold amount on any membership will be \$1200. With a goal of enabling the player to participate, the Region believes any debt above this amount becomes too restrictive for continued playing.**
5. **Minimum hold amount on any membership is \$200.**

RECRUITING POLICY

The definition of Recruiting is “an active solicitation of a participant not on a registered active team/club, including third party contacts.”

Recruiting is restricted only to participants not committed to a club. Once a participant accepts membership with a club through the USAV Member Management System that participant becomes exempt from being recruited until the day after the participant's team's last USAV scheduled tournament, at which time the participant may be recruited, not transferred, for the next season. *Season is defined as beginning Sept 1 & concluding on Aug 31 of the following year.

These recruiting violations include, but are not limited to:

- Personal contact between committed players and coaches/directors from another club with the intent to recruit or encourage movement from one club to another
- Clinics (see exceptions)
- Direct social media contact (Ex: Facebook, Instagram and/or etc.), phone calls and/or text contact with committed players/parents
- Letters directly addressed to committed players

Exceptions to Recruiting during the season

Clinics, Public Appearances and Presentations, College Recruiting Events

Clubs are allowed to engage in these activities as long as the solicitation of SURVA members is not part of the function. It is incumbent upon the hosting club to determine who is and is not an active SURVA member.

Reporting Violations

All alleged recruiting violations should be reported with documentation supporting your claim of intent to the appropriate Area Representative, who will report the incident to the Commissioner. The Commissioner will appoint an Ethics Committee for consideration of sanctions against leadership.

Possible sanctions range from: warnings, fines, loss of eligibility for coaches and/or club directors, individual, **club or** team suspensions, or any other sanction deemed appropriate by the BOD.

GUIDELINES TO “SUMMER” RECRUITING.

CAUTION! Clubs may begin “summer” recruiting for the next season only upon completion of a participant's last scheduled USAV tournament. Make sure the first question you ask a parent or player before you solicit tryouts or otherwise is “Is your tournament season completed?”.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION & DUE PROCESS

MISCELLANEOUS

It is the responsibility of the Sun Country Regional Volleyball Association (SURVA) Board of Directors to administer volleyball within the Region. Due process rules are hereby established to protect the rights of any accused member of SURVA, the safety of the SURVA membership, the integrity of the Region, and the sport of volleyball.

THE SURVA Board of Directors is not a court of law but, rather, a non-profit, private group of volleyball players, coaches, and organizers selected by the Region membership to administer volleyball within the Region. It is the duty of the SURVA Board of Directors to strive to obtain just and fair results when a Region member is accused of wrongdoing relevant to volleyball within the Region. As a private body, the SURVA Board of Directors does not follow the Federal Rules of Evidence but shall accord weight to evidence based on its substance and common sense.

Notice: SURVA may suspend membership privileges for more than one year.

Notice: Sanctions from other Regions, regarding individuals or teams, shall be honored if the concerned region has a Due Process procedure for appeal.

The member will be notified asap of any temporary sanction and pending investigation. The notice will describe & include the alleged misconduct, the range of possible sanctions, an offer to provide a statement and other relevant evidence for consideration and a copy of the due process procedures. All disciplinary actions will remain in effect through final disposition. Upon final disposition, the Secretary will be forwarded a copy for retention.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURES

- **Ethics matters considered for sanction will be referred by the Commissioner to the Ethics Committee for review. The Ethics Committee will consist of three area representatives not of the area in question with one appointed by the Commissioner as voting Chair. The Commissioner may appoint another BoD member to complete an Ethics Committee if needed.**
- **Matters dealing with eligibility and debt reports will be forwarded by the Commissioner to the Eligibility Committee for consideration. The Commissioner may, if needed, appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to consider club, member, facility and nonmember issues other than ethics.**
- **After careful consideration of the evidence and situation, the Commissioner may impose temporary sanctions up to and including membership, team, or club suspension.**
- **The Commissioner, during normal Region business and acting in the best interest of Sun Country, may impose routine, monetary and temporary emergency sanctions.**

- **All due process committees will meet in person or online within seven days to reach a decision on any disciplinary consideration and submit their decision immediately to the Commissioner to notify the subject under consideration. All Committees will consist of 3 selected BoD members from the designated pool.**
- **The Commissioner will decide which Committee, if needed, to address any issue.**

SANCTIONS ARE ALLOWED DUE PROCESS AND SUBJECT TO APPEAL.

SURVA SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

Despite the region's best efforts to isolate the volleyball community from sexual harassment, people occasionally behave inappropriately. This policy has been designed, should harassment occur, that a member might better understand the steps that can and should be taken.

SURVA is committed to following all state and federal laws, SafeSport, and MAAPP principals. For more information on how to recognize, take action and report, please go to our website page at <https://www.suncountryvb.org/safesport/>.

The Sun Country Region is committed to maintaining an athletic environment that is free from sexual harassment. Harassment can occur between any combination of members of the volleyball community – coaches, players, parents, & organizers. It generally occurs when one person, the harasser, holds the position of real or perceived authority over another individual.

Unwelcome and unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature such as sexual jokes, gestures, graffiti, posters, writing, touching or physical contact constitutes sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment may involve, **but is not limited to:**

- Suggestive comments about physical appearance
- Leering or staring
- Use or display of any sexual material
- Sexual teasing
- Jokes with sexual themes
- Promises or rewards in return for sexual favors
- Sexual assault
- **Improper Physical Contact**
- Submission to or rejection of sexual harassment by an individual is used as the basis for participation such as team selection decisions affecting the individual.
- When such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with an individual's opportunity to participate in volleyball events or create an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

REPORTING

Minors

It is of utmost importance that all members be proactive in protecting our minor athletes. Please contact the following below for help. These entities have experienced and trained specialists to deal with sexual harassment.

1. New Mexico and Texas are mandatory reporting states and is a crime not to report suspected child abuse. Any knowledge or allegations of sexual harassment of a minor, whether by hearsay, secondhand or firsthand, a report must be filed with law enforcement.
2. In accordance with Federal law, any sexual harassment report involving a minor athlete must be submitted to the US Center for SafeSport. You may notify the Center through <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern/>.

Adults

All sexual harassment should be dealt with immediately. It is important that even the adults have avenues for support. Any adult encountering sexual harassment are encouraged to make a report to Safe Sport and/or Region leadership. Adult members encountering harassment may take the following actions.

1. Seek to resolve the matter in direct conversation with the individual(s) understood to have engaged in the harassment.
2. Make a report to the alleged harasser's club leadership.
3. Contact the Region and/or Safe Sport for support and investigation.

Any report of sexual harassment may remain confidential to the extent that maintaining confidentiality is not consistent with investigating the report of harassment, eliminating, or remedying any sexual harassment found to have occurred, or preventing future harassment.

As a standard practice, all sexual harassment reports made to SURVA staff will be sent by the Region to The US Center for Safe Sport for initial consideration. Regarding any complaints filed with the US Center for Safe Sport, the Region must wait on a jurisdictional determination by the Center before Region consideration can begin. While awaiting a Center decision, SURVA may, at its discretion, place a temporary sanction, up to and including suspension, on any member alleged to have committed sexual harassment.

Any member who engages in sexual harassment, fails to cooperate in an investigation of sexual harassment, or otherwise violates or acts in a manner inconsistent with this policy, will be immediately **suspended pending Ethics Committee consideration**.

DUE PROCESS

SANCTIONS / FINES / PENALTIES

This section is a guide to **disciplinary actions** that may be imposed upon clubs, teams, coaches, or persons registered with SURVA for violations of region policies. There is no reasonable means to cover all possible infractions. **SURVA will determine any disciplinary action** on a case-by-case basis.

Teams and members that have been **issued disciplinary action by SURVA through sanction, fine or penalty** will not be allowed to participate while under sanction. **Clubs issued disciplinary action, other than club suspension, will be allowed to operate during appeal. Club directors and admins will be removed from club access immediately until Due Process is completed.** Noncompliance may result in reporting the violation and imposed sanction to the National governing body to prevent a team/person from participating in any other Region's event and/or National event.

SANCTIONABLE ACTIONS

Actions that may be sanctioned include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Failure of team to have certified officials by required dates.
- Failure to follow Tournament Requirements or Guidelines.
- Misconduct by any Official.
- Uniform Code Violation.
- Failure to appear at an event, for which the team is officially registered.
- Untimely withdrawal from a tournament.
- Failure to adequately officiate or fulfill officiating obligations.
- Use of alcohol or controlled substances at a tournament.
- Violation of Region's No-Tolerance Policy.
- Participant Eligibility Rule Violation.

ETHICS VIOLATIONS (Ethics Committee Consideration)

Actions considered by the Ethics Committee include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Sexual Harassment Violations
- Recruiting Violations
- Club Tampering
- Criminal Activity
- Major Participant Eligibility Rule Violation
- Financial Impropriety
- Violation of the SURVA Code of Conduct or SURVA Coach's Code of Ethics
- Violation of USAV Code of Conduct
- Violation of Safe Sport

APPEAL OF SANCTIONS, FINES OR PENALTIES

Below are descriptions of the three (3) levels of disciplinary action & the guide to appealing each.

- **FINES/FEES:** These are established penalties set by BoD policy such as late fees, no show or withdrawal fines. Any request for reduction of a fine/penalty must be submitted to the proper Area Rep who will submit the responsible party's plea to the BoD for consideration.

A. Appeal-There is no appeal for fines or penalties.

- **ROUTINE INFRACTIONS:** Appeal of routine decisions or sanctions such as NOI violations, player participation or other participation issues shall be to the Commissioner and must be in writing or by email to the Commissioner within seven (7) days of the notification of decision. Otherwise, the accused shall forfeit the right to an appeal. The Commissioner will delegate the appeal to the appropriate Committee for final consideration.

A. Appeal of Routine Infractions: The assigned Committee will consider if the original fine/penalty/decision is proper and legal. The Committee will review the action taken and the appellant statement. The Committee may remove, correct, adjust, uphold or install the proper sanction.

- **COMMITTEE:** Appeal of Ethics, Eligibility or **Ad Hoc Committee** decisions involving sanctions must be in writing or by email to the Commissioner within seven (7) days of the notification of decision. Otherwise, the accused shall forfeit the right to appeal. The Commissioner will refer the matter to a Review Board for consideration.

A. Appeal of Committee Sanctions: A Review Board, consisting of three Board members, shall hear any appeal from a Committee other than a Club nonrenewal decision. No member of the Review Board shall have prior first-hand involvement concerning the action under review. The appellant may select **one Sun Country Board** member for the Review Board.

B. The Review Board shall consider all available information, reach a decision, formalize it in writing, and deliver the decision to the accused. **The Committee may reduce, remove, correct, uphold, or install a different sanction. The accused must acknowledge, in writing or by email, to the Commissioner and within seven (7) calendar days of notification of receipt of the Review Board decision and whether they accept the decision or wish to continue to Final Appeal.** Otherwise, the accused shall forfeit the right to further appeal.

- **FINAL APPEAL-Board of Directors**

A. Appeal of Review Board Decisions: Appeal of decisions by the Review Board shall be to the entire Board of Directors. A Final Appeal hearing shall occur at the next scheduled Board meeting. The accused shall have fifteen (15) minutes to address the Board in person or by online access if available. The Board of Directors shall consider all available information & **have the same rights of sanction edit as the Review**

Board. The BoD will reach a decision, formalize it in writing, and deliver the decision to the accused with a copy to the Secretary for retention. For the Final Appeal hearing to be effective it shall be necessary that a quorum of Sun Country Board members is present; proxy votes shall be permitted.

Notice: Any person (participant or spectator) under SURVA and/or USAV suspension or on a Region hold shall not be allowed to attend any volleyball related function/event involving or including SURVA members. This includes but is not limited to practices or events involving minor athletes, SURVA and USAV sanctioned tournaments or USAV/SURVA active club functions or meetings.

The United States Volleyball Association provides that the only appeal from a decision of the Region Board shall be to the United States Volleyball Association National Ethics and Eligibility Committee and only for a determination of whether the accused received due process.

JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL

The Youth/Junior Volleyball Division of USAV is the vital element of the sport. After the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games, USAV determined that it was necessary to put more emphasis on development of volleyball players at a young age. It is the responsibility of USAV and SURVA to offer all junior players the opportunity to play volleyball.

DEFINITION OF JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL

Junior Volleyball programs are designed to develop volleyball skills for boys and girls eighteen years (18) of age & under.

PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the USAV YJV Division is to foster development of players, coaches, and officials. Volleyball is a sport that can be played your entire life as is evidenced by the many “seniors” that play in the adult divisions. Junior Volleyball offers children and young adults an opportunity to become involved in a wholesome and beneficial athletic activity.

The junior’s program should be a bridge between USAV Youth Volleyball, college and USAV adult volleyball.

MATURE LEADERSHIP

All teams must have adult participation for the program to succeed. **One** or more teams can be combined to form a Club to provide centralized leadership. Every Club is **recommended to have** a Board of Directors to respond to the needs of the Club. Clubs **can** apply for 501(c) 3 non-profit statuses from the IRS. This status will exempt you from some taxes and give you the ability to issue tax-deductible receipts for charitable contributions made to your club or team.

OFFICIALS

Each team must be competent in team officiating. Coaches must be proficient in all areas of officiating. For qualification requirements, see the appropriate section of this handbook. Each team must provide team members that are qualified and proficient at the following: a) 2nd referee, b) scorer, c) score flipper, d) two-line judges, and e) Libero tracker.

SAFE SPORT COORDINATOR

Each club must have a Safe Sport Coordinator. The Safe Sport Coordinator will be required to complete mandatory Safe Sport Training.

USAV REGISTRATION

All players, coaches, chaperones, and adult supervisors must be registered with USAV with current background checks & Safe Sport certifications when applicable.

INSURANCE

Players, coaches, and chaperones **must** provide their own primary insurance. Secondary/supplemental health insurance and liability coverage is provided as part of the USAV registration fee. Clubs are required to obtain a certificate of insurance form from the SURVA Secretary to provide proof of insurance for practice facilities and tournament sites.

REMINDER:

Coaches **must** have a copy of each participant's medical release form at all sanctioned activities (i.e., practices, tournaments, etc.)

GUIDEBOOKS AND RULEBOOKS

Domestic Competition Rulebooks (DCR) are available for download on the USAV website at <http://www.USAVolleyball.org> and the SURVA website at www.suncountryvb.org.

SURVA will provide a paper copy (2-8) of the DCR to club leadership. Number will depend on availability.

Officials will be furnished a paper copy as an educational tool. "Tagged" players will receive a paper copy of the DCR upon request.

UNIFORMS

Every player must wear a uniform that complies with the current USAV rules.

COMPETITION

AGE DEFINITIONS

Current Age Definitions may be found on the SURVA or USAV websites.

TOURNAMENTS

Information pertaining to hosting or entering SURVA approved/endorsed tournaments may be found in the SURVA Tournament Handbook. The Tournament Handbook is available on the SURVA website at <http://www.suncountryvb.org>.

NATIONAL QUALIFIERS

The USAV National Office sanctions several National Qualifiers each year. These Qualifiers offer competition for **various skill levels in the 18, 17, 16, 15, 14, 13, 12 & 11 age divisions**. Winners from each age division and level will be invited to compete in the JNC.

APPLICATION FOR JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (JNC)

Teams interested in attending the JNC **must** comply with championship procedures posted on the USAV website. Failure to do so will result in non-acceptance to the SURVA National Bid Tournament or JNC.

SPECIFIC STATE/SCHOOL GUIDELINES

It is each Club's responsibility to know and follow athlete eligibility requirements established by states and/or schools. You must not jeopardize any player's eligibility to play school sports.

Sun Country Region Volleyball Association (SURVA)

Board of Directors

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