

**General Tournament  
Information**

**Chapter**

**2**



***USA Volleyball***

**Open Volleyball Championships**

**May 23 – May 30, 2009  
Minneapolis, Minnesota**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Chapter 2 – General Tournament Information

SECTION HEADING	Page
General Seeding Information	2
Forfeits and Withdrawals	3
Officials	4
Team Officiating Duties	4
Awards	5
All-Tournament & MVP Selection Criteria	5
USAV Alcoholic Beverage Consumption Policy	6
Practice Opportunities	6
Sports Medicine / First Aid / Taping	6
Equipment Approvals	6
Event Merchandise Sales	7
Vendor Licensing and Restrictions	7
Required Resources	7

## GENERAL SEEDING INFORMATION

Seeding for all US tournaments in the USA Open Volleyball Championship Event will be made beginning Sunday, 8:00 AM CDT, May 17<sup>th</sup> through 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Information about the brackets, seeding of the tournament and scheduled match times will be available at the Captain's meeting. It will also be posted near the Championship Desk in the playing venue.

Seeding for the USA Open Volleyball Championships is determined by examining various criteria provided by the regions, team representatives and past results. Seeding criteria include but are not limited to those items listed below:

### 1. **OPEN** Teams

- a. Gold Flight Finish from previous year (four returning starters retain seed)
- b. Roster strength (when known)
- c. Previous National experience
- d. Region Ranking
- e. Balance within pools as to geographical area

### 2. **CLUB** Classification Teams (AA, A, BB, B)

- a. Gold Flight Finish from previous year (four returning starters retain seed)
- b. Zonal Finish
- c. Results from "out of region" tournaments
- d. Typical Strength of region teams
- e. Previous National Experience (depending on overall finish)
- f. Ranking within region (provided by the region's commissioner)
- g. Balance within pools as to Zone, Region and geographical area

### 3. **AGE** Classification Teams

- a. Gold Flight Finish from previous year (four returning starters retain seed)
- b. Teams moving up in age classification who were Gold Flight finishers in previous national tournaments
- c. Previous National Experience
- d. Results from "out of region" tournaments
- e. Ranking within region (provided by the region's commissioner)
- f. Balance within pools as to Zone, Region and geographical area

## FORFEITS AND WITHDRAWALS

It is important when a team enters this Championship Event that it has made a commitment to play the full tournament. In addition, the Events Department has determined it is a priority for both finalists to be present for the Gold Medal match. This is not only important to the orderly conduct of the championships, but also fair play for other teams in the competition.

Schedule your travel to allow competition through the completion of the tournament. Be prepared to play at 8am on the first day and as late as 9pm on the championship day. **GOLD MEDAL MATCHES WILL NOT BE RESCHEDULED to accommodate travel schedules.**

If a team has to withdraw from a Finals Match of any flight, it is the responsibility of the team representative to inform the Competition Director as soon as possible, but no later than one (1) hour following the completion of the semi-final match, or at least 8 hours prior to the scheduled match time, whichever is later.

Once the team representative reports their team's intent to withdraw, it will be discussed with the Championship Committee to determine if such an action can be alleviated. If it cannot, the withdrawing team will forfeit all rights to any standing within that tournament.

Failure to report withdrawal from a Finals Match of any flight will result in forfeiture of all standing in the tournament, with a recommendation for disciplinary action to the Organization which they represent, and to USA Volleyball for an action that may impact participation in a future USA Championship Event.

The Championship Committee is equally concerned about the withdrawal of a team at any point in the competition. Any such intent to do so will be reported to the Competition Director at least three (3) hours in advance of the team's next scheduled match time. Failure to report such intent may result in more severe disciplinary action. The Championship Committee has the authority to take appropriate action consistent with the policies of the USVBA Board of Directors. Additionally the Championship Committee has the authority to fill the Finals Match of any flight, if possible, and / or determine an alternative action as required.

If a team withdraws from competition after pool play has begun, and prior to the conclusion of subject pool play, all match records shall stand. All un-played matches shall be forfeited per the Rules of Play and counted in the win-loss tabulation accordingly. All other teams in that pool shall be advanced for assignment to the next stage of competition.

## OFFICIALS



**Referees:** USA National Referees and / or candidates for this certification will be assigned to the US Club, Co-Ed, Masters / Seniors and U-Volley tournaments. USA National Referees and FIVB Arbiters will be assigned to the Men's and Women's US Open tournaments. The Officials' Division may approve the use of lower USAV-rated Referees for the second referee (R2) position, as necessary, in the US Club BB and B tournaments, and in the Masters / Seniors tournaments only.



**Scorekeepers:** USA National Scorekeepers and / or candidates for this certification will be assigned to all matches in the Event. The Officials' Division may approve the use of lower USAV-rated Scorekeepers, as necessary, in the US Club BB and B, Masters / Seniors and U-Volley tournaments.

## TEAM OFFICIATING DUTIES

1. Teams entered in the Open Championships will **NOT** be required to provide work teams. The higher entry fee provides for full officiating support teams and best of five (5) set matches.
2. Teams entered in the Club (AA, A, BB, B), Masters / Seniors, U-Volley and Co-Ed tournaments are required to provide a total of four (4) support officials: two (2) line judges, one (1) Libero Tracker and one (1) scoreboard operator. Officiating assignments will be listed in the playing schedule and / or schedule updates. These assignments generally will be immediately prior to or after the match in which the team has played.
3. Only the Competition Director / designee may release a team from an officiating assignment.
4. Failure to provide officials as assigned will result in the following actions:
  - a. **1<sup>st</sup> Offense:** For every minute the officiating team is late, or does not appear, one point shall be assessed and given to their next opponent – up to a 25-0 forfeit of the first set. This time calculation will begin at the designated warm-up time ten minutes prior to the time when the assigned match begins.
  - b. **Additional Offenses:** Forfeiture of assigned team's next match.

## AWARDS

GOLD FLIGHTS * (Team and Individual Awards)	SILVER, BRONZE & COPPER FLIGHTS (Team Awards Only)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Champions</li> <li>◆ Runners-Up</li> <li>◆ 3<sup>rd</sup> Place</li> <li>◆ All-Tournament &amp; MVP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 1st Place</li> </ul>

One All-Tournament team (six players only) will be selected from the men's and women's gold flight competition only. From among the players selected for the All-Tournament team, one player will be selected as the Most Valuable Player for that tournament.

**\*NOTE:** If a five (5) team entry, 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards will not be given. Should a 4-team tournament be approved for competition, there will not be team, individual awards or All-Tournament recognition. In addition, a National Championship will not be declared.

## ALL-TOURNAMENT & MVP SELECTION CRITERIA

The Events Department will review criteria for selection of the all-tournament team and MVP on an annual basis.

1. The criteria for consideration of selection to an All-Tournament Team are:
  - a. Playing effectiveness (60 percent)
  - b. Team play (20 percent)
  - c. Demonstration of good sportsmanship, general attitude and conduct on and off the court (20 percent).
  - d. Any player who has been sanctioned by either the Event Arbitrator and/or a match referee shall not be considered for All-Tournament selection.
  
2. The criteria for consideration of selection as the Most Valuable Player are:
  - a. Team play (75 percent)
  - b. Value to his/her team at critical times consistently throughout competition (15 percent)
  - c. Demonstration of strong leadership qualities during the conduct of competition (10 percent).
  
3. The selection process will utilize the Tournament Selection Committee as well as tournament participants.
  - a. The All-Tournament Selection Committee appointed by the Events Department for the event will assign observers and process nominations.
  - b. Participating teams will be given an opportunity to nominate outstanding players at each match during medal-round competition.
  - c. Team representatives will be given an opportunity to meet with the Committee to determine the final selections on the final day of competition.

## **USAV ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONSUMPTION POLICY**

USA Volleyball prohibits the consumption of alcoholic beverages on or near courtside by any participant listed on the roster (e.g., players, coaches, assistant coaches, team representatives, managers, and trainers) during competition and work assignments. Consumption of alcoholic beverages on or near courtside during competition or work assignments could result in disciplinary action such as a warning, deduction of point(s), participant disqualification, game or match forfeiture, team disqualification, or other such sanction.

## **PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES**

Practice time on competition courts will be available beginning at 1:00 PM on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. All practice sessions will be limited to a one (1) hour session. Teams may sign up for practice courts anytime that the registration / check-in desk is open. Teams beginning play after Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, will be assigned courts as available.

## **SPORTS MEDICINE / FIRST AID / TAPING**

A taping / training area and athletic trainers will be available. Taping supplies will NOT be furnished. Players must provide the tape and / or bandage or the player will be charged for needed supplies. Hospitals are located near the playing venue / headquarters hotel. Emergency transportation (to hospitals only) will be provided if needed. The athletic trainers' facility will be located on the Convention Center floor in a central location.

## **EQUIPMENT APPROVALS**

Prior to a team's first match, the Event athletic trainers shall approve all braces to be worn by participants during the tournament. Trainers will decide on the acceptability of a brace and give the player a written approval. Players should keep this document for the duration of competition.

**NOTE:** Ankle supports are specifically excluded.

## EVENT MERCHANDISE



Event merchandise may be purchased in the Minneapolis Convention Center during the USA Volleyball Championships.

**NO USED TOURNAMENT BALLS WILL BE SOLD AT THIS EVENT.**

## VENDOR LICENSING AND RESTRICTIONS

Under the terms of the contractual agreement between USA Volleyball and the Minneapolis Convention Center, there are strict regulations and specified restrictions as to the sale of retail and wholesale merchandise and other items in all areas of the playing venue.

USA Volleyball also has regulations in respect to the sales of event-specific merchandise and resale items normally licensed through its Marketing Department. This notice is posted for your information.

Violations of these conditions by a Member Organization or registered individuals, and made known to USA Volleyball, are subject to disciplinary and possibly legal action by USA Volleyball.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: PERMISSION TO SELL:** Sales of merchandise, services, officials' apparel and equipment, souvenirs, publications, food or drink and all other items at the playing venue is strictly prohibited unless prior written license is received from USA Volleyball specific to this Event and the Austin Convention Center, as applicable.

*Contact Mike Chandler @ USA Volleyball, (719) 228-6800 for complete information.*

## REQUIRED RESOURCES

We recommend that every Team Representative purchase or download and have in his / her possession a current copy of the USA Volleyball Guidebook and United States Volleyball Domestic Competition Regulations in order to be sufficiently aware of required information regarding the USA Volleyball Bylaws, Operating Code, other policies and procedures and the current Domestic Competition Regulations.