

Chapter

Team and Player Eligibility

4



USA Volleyball

Open Volleyball Championships

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 4 – Team & Player Eligibility

SECTION HEADING	Page
Who Is Eligible to Enter?	2
Eligibility Requirements - General	2
USAV & FIVB Membership Requirement	3
Foreign (Non-USA) Player / Team Participation Policy	4
Eligibility to Participate in Two Tournaments	5
Age & Identity Falsification Policy	6
Determination of Gender Policy	6
Open Tournaments - General	7
Club Tournaments (AA, A, BB, B) - General	8
Co-Ed Tournaments - General	10
U-Volley Tournaments - General	11
Masters & Seniors Tournaments - General	12
Ethics and Eligibility Violations	13

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO ENTER?

Teams representing a USAV Member Organization and who are authorized by their organization's executive/Regional Commissioner may submit an entry application. Additionally, non-USA teams are permitted to enter the USA Open, Masters / Seniors, U-Volley and Co-Ed championships and shall meet the prescribed eligibility rules. All participants / roster personnel from USA domestic teams, in addition to being a member of the organization they represent, must be a current registered member of USA Volleyball.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS - GENERAL

Eligibility rules for teams and athletes in all tournaments of the USA Volleyball Championship Event shall be those legislated and implemented by the organization that each team and participant represent, as well as those of USA Volleyball included in the Bylaws, Operating Code and policies adopted by the USVBA Board of Directors. ***It shall be the responsibility of team representatives and participants to obtain this information and be familiar with these requirements, especially those detailed in Article X of the USVBA Operating Code published in the USA Volleyball Guidebook.***

All teams and persons listed on the official entry application forms for participating teams shall be eligible under the rules of the organization they represent, as well as those of USA Volleyball specifically as follows:

1. **ALL** participants (i.e.; players, coaches, managers, trainers, team representatives/officials) must currently be registered as members of USA Volleyball, or with their own national volleyball federation.
2. **ALL** players competing in a Club (AA, A, BB, B) Championship Tournament shall be eligible for that Club tournament only. Players may be eligible for non-Club tournaments if otherwise eligible and not concurrent. All participants shall be registered strictly in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Member Organization they represent.
3. **ALL** current **REGULAR REGISTRANTS** of USA Volleyball and properly registered participants from other national volleyball federations are eligible to participate in Events for which they are eligible.
4. Teams will be restricted to participate in one championship tournament during any one session. With the exception of #2 above, for those championship tournaments that are not conducted concurrently, a team/player may participate in a second championship tournament.
5. A player's name shall not appear on more than one roster except as authorized. Should this infraction occur, first participation shall determine the player's team, and he / she will be declared ineligible for any other teams on whose roster his / her name appears. Responsibility for this will rest collectively and jointly with the Regional Commissioner / Organization Executive, the individual participant and the Team Representative.
6. Non-USA national players (individuals) whose names appear on the roster of any domestic team must be registered with the Member Organization / RVA they represent.

7. A non-USA team composed entirely of non-USA players shall register all of its players with its national volleyball federation. Non-USA teams shall purchase insurance from USA Volleyball at the current established rate. EXCEPTIONS: Participants on teams from Canada are not required to purchase this insurance if they are registered with and have purchased insurance from their respective national federation. Proof of this insurance is required for each participant at the time of check-in.
8. Any participant causing disruptive or unfavorable action to USA Volleyball during these Events as determined by the Competition Director / Designee of the Event shall be liable for disciplinary action by the Event Arbitrator. Such disruptive or unfavorable action includes that which occurs at the playing venue or anywhere in the host city during the scheduled events, including pre-event days a participant is in the host city.
9. Teams competing in the 1st session may be eligible to participate in another tournament of the 2nd session (**see: “Eligibility for Participation in Two Championship Tournaments”**).
10. Teams entering the Open, U-Volley, Co-Ed, and Masters / Seniors tournaments may be conglomerate or club teams (NOTE: Club teams are regulated under different rules and procedures). Conglomerate teams shall be considered those teams composed from any source and essentially a group of players who may or may not have played together prior to this Event. All participants must be currently registered members of the Member Organization they represent.
 - a. Conglomerate teams participating in the Co-Ed, U-Volley, and Masters / Seniors tournaments shall represent a USAV Member Organization or another national volleyball federation. The appropriate authority from the Member Organization/Country the team is representing must verify all conglomerate team rosters.
 - b. Conglomerate teams participating in the Men’s and Women’s Open tournaments must ensure that each participant is properly registered with USA Volleyball or another national volleyball federation in the approved manner. The appropriate authority must verify and approve the roster prior to competition.
 - c. Conglomerate teams are not required to participate in earlier USA Volleyball or RVA sanctioned competition unless it is required of the Member Organization they represent.
11. Players registered in a national volleyball federation other than through USA Volleyball shall obtain the required permission and release from their respective country’s national volleyball federation.

USAV MEMBERSHIP AND FIVB FEDERATION REQUIREMENT

All persons whose names appear on the Official Roster, including players, coaches, team representatives, trainers, and managers must be registered with USAV through a USAV Member Organization or their FIVB Federation. The purpose of this registration is the extension of USAV’s liability insurance program or, in the event of a USA Territory, FIVB Federation Member purchasing event insurance. This will ensure all registered USAV players, coaches, team representatives, managers, and trainers at this Event have liability coverage and Sports Accident Insurance (this is an excess coverage plan). If a medical emergency arises, athletes and coaches must have all necessary documentation to show proof of medical insurance, primary and / or excess coverage.

POLICY ON FOREIGN (NON-USA) PLAYER AND TEAM PARTICIPATION

DEFINITIONS	
"Foreign Player":	A player who is not a citizen of the United States OR a citizen residing in a U.S. territory having its own National Volleyball Federation with which the player is affiliated.
"Non-Resident" Foreign Player:	A person who is not a citizen of the United States residing outside the 50 United States OR an individual residing in a U.S. Territory having its own National Volleyball Federation with which the player is affiliated.
"Resident" Foreign Player:	A person who is not a citizen of the United States residing in one of the 50 United States and holding "resident" versus "visitor" status.
Foreign Player "Release":	Written approval by a Foreign Player's national volleyball federation of origin for that player to affiliate or participate with USA Volleyball.

FOREIGN (NON-USA) TEAM PARTICIPATION

1. A Foreign (Non-USA) Team (registered with its National Volleyball Federation) may participate if it duly applies for and is accepted in compliance with the event's regulations, is not representing its country in an official capacity, and the federation of origin grants permission for participation.
2. Each (Non-USA) Foreign Player (on a conglomerate team) and all members of a Foreign (Non-USA) Team must purchase foreign player insurance, which will be provided by USA Volleyball. The expense shall be debited to the event at cost and shall be added to the entry fee.
3. A waiver to the foreign player insurance fee shall be granted to Canadians who provide written proof of 24-hour health coverage valid in the United States.
4. Each Foreign (Non-USA) Player and all members of a Foreign (Non-USA) Team shall have in their possession, and shall have previously filed with the Event Director, the following documents:
 - a. Photo identification (Driver's license, passport or comparable government issued document), and
 - b. A signed copy of the USA Volleyball Code of Conduct and Waiver and Release of Liability (provided on page 2 of the Foreign Team Tournament Registration form).

FOREIGN (NON-USA) INDIVIDUAL PLAYER PARTICIPATION

1. A **Resident Foreign (Non-USA) Player** (residing legally in the United States) may participate if he/she is duly registered with a USA Volleyball Member Organization and follows all event participation policies and registration procedures.
 - a) A Resident Foreign (Non-USA) Player who has competed in international competition representing his / her country / federation of origin (i.e. Youth National Team, Junior National Team, Senior National Team or other "elite" team that has represented that country in international competition) is required to have a written release from that volleyball federation before he / she can become a registered member of a Regional Volleyball Association.

- b) This would not apply to a player who has been in continuous legal residence in the United States and unaffiliated with a foreign (non-USA) national volleyball federation for greater than two years.
2. A **Non-Resident Foreign (Non-USA) Player** may participate only with conglomerate classifications (e. g. Open and age classification tournaments) on the condition that he/she has been granted a written release from his/her national volleyball federation of origin and follows all event participation policies and registration procedures.
3. A **Non-Resident Foreign (Non-USA) Player** shall not participate on a USA Volleyball Club Team (AA, A, BB and B classification tournaments).

ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN TWO CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS

Teams or players competing in the **USA Open** tournaments **are ineligible** to compete in any other tournaments during these Events. Players may participate in Master or Senior tournaments offered in the second session that meet age classification requirements. **Open** Team players are NOT eligible to participate with a Club Team.

1. Players and teams competing in the Class AA and A Club tournaments (Saturday, May 23rd through Tuesday, May 26th) are also eligible to compete in a Masters or Seniors tournament (40/O, 50/O 60/O, 70/O) for which they may be eligible being played Wednesday, May 27th through Saturday, May 30th.
2. Players and teams competing in the Class BB and B Club tournaments (Wednesday, May 27th through Saturday, May 30th) are also eligible to compete in the U-Volley tournament, one or both BB/B Reverse and Regular Co-Ed or a Masters or Seniors tournament (45/O, 55/O, 65/O, 75/O) for which they may be eligible being played Saturday, May 23rd through Tuesday, May 26th.
3. Players and teams competing in US Masters and Seniors tournaments (Saturday, May 23rd through Tuesday, May 26th) are also eligible to compete in one other tournament for which they are eligible being played Wednesday, May 27th through Saturday, May 30th.
4. Players and teams competing in the US Masters and Seniors tournaments (May 27th through Saturday, May 30th) are also eligible to compete in one other tournament for which they are eligible being played Saturday, May 23rd through Tuesday, May 26th.
5. Players competing in one or both Class B/BB Co-Ed tournaments are also eligible to compete in one of the other tournaments being offered in the opposite session: Class BB or B Club tournaments, Masters or Seniors tournament for which they are eligible.
6. Players competing in the U-Volley Tournament are also eligible to compete in a Masters, Seniors, Class BB or Class B Club Tournament in the opposite session for which they are eligible.

USA VOLLEYBALL AGE AND IDENTITY FALSIFICATION POLICY

For all USA Volleyball corporate events, any person who alters any document that certifies the age or identity of a participant, or falsifies any statement which lists the age or identity of a participant, will be sanctioned as follows:

1. be immediately suspended from USVBA membership and barred from further participation in the event;
2. be barred from participation in any USVBA Corporate events in any capacity for a minimum of two (2) years; and
3. have a minimum probation of one additional year to run consecutively to the suspension.

An **ADULT PLAYER** who knowingly plays in a higher age classification for which he/she is **NOT** actually eligible or any player who knowingly misrepresents his / her identity shall:

1. be immediately suspended from USVBA membership and barred from further participation in the event;
2. be barred from participation in any USVBA Corporate events in any capacity for a minimum of two (2) years; and
3. have a minimum probation of one additional year to run consecutively to the suspension.

Any player in question must provide proof of identity and age eligibility, if requested.

When discovered and confirmed during an event, the above penalties shall be the required **minimum** penalty imposed by the Event Arbitrator or the Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee.

The Event Arbitrator or the Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee may recommend a more severe penalty. The Event Arbitrator or the Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee shall file a report of any age or identity violation with the Corporation's Ethics and Eligibility Committee and with the registering Member Organization with its recommendation.

USA VOLLEYBALL POLICY FOR DETERMINATION OF GENDER

USA Volleyball does not routinely require its participants to provide proof of gender. However, USAV recognizes that there may be rare circumstances in which an athlete's gender is called to question. In this event, the athlete shall be considered to have provided adequate proof of gender by presenting one of the following documents:

- a. A valid photo identification card which states the athlete's gender (driver's license, green card or passport)
- OR**
- b. A Copy of a valid "in force" medical/health insurance policy which unequivocally states the athlete's gender.

Please note that birth certificates are not acceptable.

OPEN TOURNAMENTS - GENERAL

1. The “Open” tournament is the highest level of competition at the US Adult Volleyball Championships.
2. Entries will be limited to a maximum of 15 teams in the men’s and women’s division. The number of teams entered in this event will determine the number of medal rounds to be played.
3. Quarterfinals are tentatively scheduled for Monday, **May 25th**, with semi-finals and finals scheduled for Tuesday, **May 26th**.
4. Any team or group of players registered with USA Volleyball or another national volleyball federation are eligible to compete in these tournaments unless specifically prohibited by Event rules and / or Division policy.
5. All competition will consist of the best of five set matches.
6. Registered Junior players or players who are 18 years of age or under are not eligible to participate.
7. Teams or players competing in the **USA Open** tournament **are ineligible** to compete in any other tournaments during these Events.
8. RULES OF PLAY: The United States (FIVB) Domestic Competition Regulations will govern this competition.
9. DEADLINE FOR 2009 USA OPEN VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM - The deadline for the region and all non-USA teams to have the entry materials to the USA Volleyball National Office is no later than **5:00 PM MDT, Wednesday, March 18, 2009**. If the tournament has not filled to the stated maximum entry by the due date, entries may be accepted until the tournament(s) are filled per #2 above or the second deadline date, whichever is earlier.

CLUB TOURNAMENTS (AA, A, BB, B) - GENERAL

All Club Tournaments (AA, A, BB, B) are restricted to United States domestic teams representing a USAV Member Organization. Each Member Organization is guaranteed the entry of one team into each classified tournament of the Club Championships provided that:

1. The USAV Regional Volleyball Association (RVA) has submitted administrative fees equal to at least 80% of its immediate prior year (2007-2008) number of individual regular indoor registrants by April 1, 2009; or
2. Other Member Organizations shall have paid their administrative fee in full for the current year by February 15, 2009.
3. Non-USA and conglomerate teams **ARE NOT** eligible to compete in the US Club Championship tournaments. Teams must be formed from within the same Member Organization they are representing. *EXCEPTION: The US Armed Forces team may be composed of players from one or more of the Service Branches, i.e.; Air Force, Army, Marines and Navy, each being a USVBA Member Organization.*
4. The following levels of classification will be conducted for both men and women, contingent upon a minimum entry of six (6) teams: Class AA, A, BB and B.
5. Teams / players participating in a Club tournament are eligible only for that CLUB tournament, unless they are also eligible for participation in a Co-Ed, U-Volley or Masters / Seniors Tournament being offered in a separate session.
6. All participants (i.e.; players, coaches, managers, trainers, team representatives and officials) must be registered as members of USA Volleyball.
7. Open Team players are **NOT** eligible to participate with a Club Team
8. A team competing in a Club Championship tournament may add a **maximum of two players** to its roster who were not registered with the team during the current season subject to below listed conditions. All such players:
 - a. must be registered members of the same Member Organization / RVA as the team, and may not have been previously registered with another Member Organization / RVA during the current season except as provided in subsection "b" listed below.
 - b. may be a registered member of another RVA other than where the club team is registered.
 - c. may not be added to the roster of a team, which is playing in a classification lower than that of a player, or the team that the player was registered with during the current season.
 - d. may not be added to the roster of a team if the team they were registered with during the current season is also playing in the current Club Championships.
9. Teams will be entered into the tournament classification (Class AA, A, BB or B) as authorized by the Regional Commissioner / Organization Executive and as approved by the Championship Committee. Regional Commissioners should approve a team for the classification consistent with their current season's placement within their organization.

10. Teams representing a Member Organization other than a USAV / RVA must obtain and submit the appropriate form, signed by the proper authority from said Member Organization, and make certain it is attached to the team entry form. Additionally, they must register with USA Volleyball in the prescribed manner. Failure to do so will require the USAV Events Department / Championship Committee to defer consideration of the entry until this has been done.
11. All teams applying for entry shall conform strictly to the rules and regulations of the organization they represent to be eligible for entry into this Event. The authority verifying the team entry application, by witness of Internet confirmation or signature, is certifying that these teams have adhered to the rules to the best of their knowledge. Organizations, teams, team representatives, and / or other participants will be subject to disciplinary action during and beyond the tournament for violating these rules and regulations and this representation.
12. The number of teams competing will determine the number medal rounds to be played (i.e.; Gold, Silver, Bronze, Copper and / or Emerald).
13. There is no maximum age limitation for players in these championships.
14. Registered Junior players or players who are 18 years of age or under are not eligible to participate.
15. All competition will consist of the best of three set matches.
16. RULES OF PLAY: The United States Domestic Competition Regulations will govern this competition. .
17. Send ALL entry materials for these tournaments to your Regional Office by the deadline established by your region. The deadline for the region to have the entry materials to the USA Volleyball National Office is no later than **5:00 PM MDT, Wednesday, April 1, 2009.**

CO-ED TOURNAMENTS - GENERAL

Teams entering these tournaments may be either club or conglomerate teams and must represent a USAV Member Organization.

1. All participants (i.e.; players, coaches, managers, trainers, team representatives and officials) must be registered with USA Volleyball or with their own national volleyball federation as prescribed in this Manual.
2. Players are required to adhere to the rules and regulations of the organization which they represent as well as those of USA Volleyball.
2. Competition will be offered to men and women in Regular and Reverse Co-Ed tournaments **ONLY** in classification BB/B.
3. Competition may be limited contingent upon the number of courts available for these tournaments.
4. Date of arrival in National Office will determine the priority in which teams are accepted into this tournament if the number of teams accepted are limited.
5. The number of teams competing will determine the number of medal flights (i.e.; Gold, Silver and Bronze).
6. A minimum of five (5) teams is required to conduct a championship tournament.
7. Open Team players are **NOT** eligible to participate with a Co-Ed Team.
8. Registered Junior players or players who are 18 years of age or under are not eligible to participate.
9. All competition will consist of the best of three set matches.
10. RULES OF PLAY: The United States Domestic Competition Regulations for Co-Ed and Reverse Co-Ed competition will govern these tournaments. THERE ARE NO WAIVERS IN THIS YEAR'S REVERSE CO-ED CHAMPIONSHIPS.
11. Send ALL entry materials for these tournaments directly to the USA Volleyball National Office no later than **5:00 PM MDT, Wednesday, March 18, 2009.**

U-VOLLEY TOURNAMENTS - GENERAL

Teams entering these tournaments may be either club teams or conglomerate teams with players from either the same or multi-Member Organizations.

1. All players shall conform to the height restrictions as prescribed by FIVB rules:
 - a. Men: 185 centimeters (approximately 72.83 inches) or shorter
 - b. Women: 175 centimeters (approximately 68.89 inches) or shorter
2. All participants, (i.e., players, coaches, managers, trainers, team representatives and officials) must be registered as members of USA Volleyball through a Member Organization or with their own National Volleyball Federation as prescribed elsewhere in this Manual.
3. Players are required to adhere to the rules and regulations of the organization they represent as well as those of USA Volleyball.
4. Competition will be offered to men and to women.
5. Height measurement will be in stocking feet or bare feet (without shoes). All players close to this limitation are subject to individual measurement prior to competition during pre-tournament check-in and during random checks throughout the tournament.
6. Competition may be limited contingent upon the number of courts available for these tournaments.
7. The number of teams competing will determine the number of medal flights (i.e.; Gold, Silver and Bronze).
8. A minimum of five (5) teams will be required in order to conduct a national championship tournament.
9. Open Team players are **NOT** eligible to participate with a U-Volley team.
10. There is no maximum age limitation in these championships.
11. Registered Junior players or players who are 18 years of age or under are not eligible to participate.
12. All competition will consist of the best of three set matches.
13. RULES OF PLAY: United States Domestic Competition Regulations will govern this competition.
14. Send ALL entry materials for these tournaments to the USA Volleyball National Office no later than **5:00 PM MDT, Wednesday, March 18, 2009.**

MASTERS AND SENIORS TOURNAMENTS – GENERAL **(MENS & WOMENS 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75)**

Teams entering these championship tournaments may be either club or conglomerate teams and must represent a USAV Member Organization or another FIVB affiliated national volleyball federation. Each player must meet the minimum age qualification for the tournament in which they participate.

1. All participants (i.e.; players, coaches, managers, trainers, team representatives' officials) shall be registered as members of USA Volleyball or their own national volleyball federation.
2. Players are required to adhere to the rules and regulations of the organization they represent as well as those of USA Volleyball.
3. Date for Age Determination: Players shall have obtained the minimum age requirement for participation in a given championship tournament by no later than **December 31, 2009**. Certification of age for each player will be required at the time of team registration / check-in. The Team Representative should have proof / certification at this time.
4. Competition will be offered for men and women in the following age groups:
 - a. Masters: 40/O & 45 and Over
 - b. Seniors: 50/O, 55/O, 60/O, 65/O, 70/O & 75/O (Men only)
5. Non-USA teams are permitted to compete in these tournaments.
6. The number of teams competing will determine the number of medal tournaments to be scheduled (i.e.; Gold, Silver and Bronze).
7. A minimum of five (5) teams is required to conduct a championship tournament.
8. All competition will consist of the best of three set matches.
9. There is no maximum age for any tournament.
10. RULES OF PLAY: The US Volleyball Domestic Competition Regulations, as modified and approved by the USAV Rules Testing Committee, will govern this competition.
11. All entry materials required for these tournaments should be sent directly to the National Office by the deadlines listed below:
 - a. Masters/Seniors 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+, 60+: **April 1, 2009**
 - b. Seniors 65+, 70+, 75+: **March 18, 2009**
 - c. NON-USA TEAMS: By the published deadline of **March 18, 2009**.

ETHICS AND ELIGIBILITY VIOLATIONS

Event Arbitrators: Event Arbitrators shall serve as the first level for hearing and resolving ethics and eligibility issues at a specific event. Teams or individuals accused of committing violations of ethics and / or eligibility rules and regulations at qualifying and / or championship events shall meet with the Event Arbitrator(s).

The authority for the Event Arbitrator to act begins with the arrival of a team and individual participants in the Championship city, or 48 hours prior to the first day of competition, whichever is earlier, and shall continue through the duration of the Event through its conclusion.

Decisions of the Event Arbitrator shall be conveyed immediately to the affected parties. A decision of the Event Arbitrator may be appealed to the Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee.

Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee: An Event Ethics and Eligibility Appeals Committee shall be formed for each qualifying and championship event sponsored by the Corporation. Each committee shall be composed of three (3) members, one (1) of whom shall meet the definition of the Corporation as a domestic player.

Each committee shall act on appeals of ethics and eligibility decisions that occur during the conduct of the event. The conduct of an event shall commence when an individual or a team arrives at the site of the event, or forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the first day of competition for that event, whichever is earlier, and shall conclude with the departure of the individual and / or team from the city in which the event has been held.

If the Committee is of the opinion that the violation is of such a nature that it requires further review or more serious discipline beyond the duration of the National Championship event, the USAV Executive Vice-President will send a report to the Commissioner of the offender's region. That Commissioner will notify the USAV Corporate Ethics and Eligibility Committee of the actions (if any) that were taken as a result of the report.

Protests or questions relevant to the conduct of all tournaments shall be referred to the Championship Committee on site. Decisions rendered by the Competition Commissioner are final and cannot be appealed.