

NCR JUNIOR OLYMPIC INFORMATION 2011-12

ATTENTION: THESE ARE NEW AGE/GRADE CLASSIFICATION, READ CLOSELY

AGE CLASSIFICATIONS

At the teenage level, the Junior Olympic (JO) program offers competition to boys and girls after the high school season is over. The program divisions are: 18 and under, 17 and under, 16 and under, 15 and under, 14 and under, 13 and under, 12 and under. Athletes need not be currently enrolled in high school to participate. **However, college students, regardless of age, are not eligible to compete in sanctioned Junior Olympic events.** The following are the current age classifications:

18 and under Division: Players who were born on or after **Sept. 1, 1993, or** players who were born on or after **Sept. 1, 1992, and** a high school student during some part of the current academic year.

17 and under Division: Players who were born on or after **Sept. 1, 1994. (Grade 11 North Country Region only!)***

16 and under Division: Players who were born on or after **Sept. 1, 1995. (Grade 10 North Country Region only!)***

15 and under Division: Players who were born on or after **Sept. 1, 1996. (Grade 9 North Country Region only!)***

14 and under Division: Players who were born on or after **Sept. 1, 1997. (Grade 8 North Country Region only!)***

13 and under Division: Players who were born on or after **Sept. 1, 1998. (Grade 7 North Country Region only!)***

12 and under Division: Players who were born on or after **Sept. 1, 1999. (Grade 6 North Country Region only!)***

11 and under Division: Players who were born on or after **Sept. 1 2000. (Grade 5 North Country Region only!)***

10 and under Division: Players who were born on or after **Sept. 1 2001. (Grade 4 North Country Region only!)***

COLLEGE PLAYERS

Once a player participates in a club or varsity program for any university, college, community college or junior college they are **not** eligible to play in any NCR sanctioned junior events.

*AGE/GRADE POLICY

Teams, which chose to register any player in an age division based on that player's grade, can only participate in events held in North Country Region (these teams will **not** be able to play in the Regional-National Bid Tournament). **Teams** that wish to play in events outside of North Country Region **must** register all players based on the birth date requirements and not grade.

IMPORTANT: TEAM TRANSFER RULE

Once a player has committed to a team and has played in a USA Volleyball sanctioned event they are not allowed to transfer teams. All transfers must be done before the first sanctioned event. All club directors must inform all the players in their program about the transfer rule, in writing, when they commit to the program.

CLUBBING vs. AFFILIATION

A club, which is a group of teams of various age levels under the direction of one club director or team rep, may have as many teams at each age level as it wants. For example, Club Dig might have four 18s, three 16s and two 14s teams under its club structure. Players from the younger division teams could move up and play on any of the older division teams, and players within the same age division could move between the teams.

A club **may not** AFFILIATE with one or more clubs if the affiliation results in more than four teams at any one of the age levels. Clubs that affiliate do so **at all age levels**. There may be movement of players both vertically (from younger to older teams within a club) and horizontally (at the same age level) between various teams of various affiliated clubs.

Example 1: Club Dig already has four teams at the 18s level and would not be able to affiliate with any other club that has an 18s team.

CLUBBING DEADLINES

For teams playing in the Regional/National Bid Tournament all clubbing must be done by **March 15th**. For all other teams all clubbing must be done by **May 1st**.

BACKGROUND SCREENING

The region requires background screening for all junior affiliated adults (coaches, assistant coaches, team reps/club directors, chaperones, trainers, etc.)! Please refer to the background screening information for more details!

IMPACT COACHING CLINIC

The region requires an initial entry-level coaches' clinic, called an Impact clinic, for all coaches **during their first coaching season**, and for all coaches that have never attended one. (Impact stands for Increased Mastery and Professional Application of Coaching Theory.) This clinic needs only to be attended once during your JO coaching career and does not need to be repeated each year. The clinic is four hours long and will emphasize coaching techniques, coaching philosophies, working with young athletes and an orientation to the USA Volleyball for first-time coaches. Clinics are held December through May. Dates are listed on our web site at www.ncrusav.org.

All coaches must have attended an Impact Coaches clinic at least one time in order to coach juniors in North Country Region regardless of how many years you have coached. Coaches not attending an Impact Coaches clinic will not be allowed to coach.

UNDERAGE JO COACHES

USA Volleyball requires that all Junior Olympic coaches be at least 21 years old. North Country Region recognizes that we have some excellent coaches who are under this minimum age. The North Country Region Junior Coordinator will grant waivers to this rule for competition under the following conditions:

1. You are at **least** 18 years old.
2. You are two years older than the players you coach.
3. You have attended an Impact clinic.
4. You are a member in good standing in the region.
5. You have experience in organized volleyball as a player or coach.
6. The director of your program recommends you.

The Region highly recommends that an adult over 21 be at practices and competitions to handle emergencies that may arise and to assist in the supervision of the team.

If you turn 21 during the season, you still need to apply for an Underage Coach Waiver now since there will be a period of time you are an underage coach. This policy is for your protection. If you were granted a waiver the previous year and you are still under 21, you must reapply for a waiver. It is good only for the year in which it was granted. Use the enclosed Underage Waiver Request form if you have a coach under 21.

CHAPERONES

The policy of North Country Region is that chaperones for national tournaments such as the USAV Girls' Junior National Championships are to be registered members of the region. This protects both the chaperones and teams because the insurance is then in effect, and protects the region because the liability waiver and code of conduct have been signed.

SUMMER JUNIOR OLYMPICS

A few Junior Olympic teams start up very late in the season. If a team wishes to do so, they may register after April 1. Athletes who wish to start their season after April 1 or later pay a reduced rate since there are only a couple of months of tournaments remaining. In addition to the reduced individual registration fee, there is also no team fee. Adult team members (coaches, team reps and chaperones) pay the regular membership fee. You may contact the region office for the rates and registration forms.

Players who register for summer Junior Olympics are eligible to **play only in tournaments within North Country Region**. Teams who wish to travel outside the region for sanctioned competition, such as to the USAV Girls' Junior National Championships, must pay the regular season registration fees. They are not required to go to an officials' clinic since these clinics are held during the regular season and not during the summer season.

SEASON ENDING TRANSFERS

The rules and regulations of USA Volleyball allow a junior player **whose team is no longer playing in USAV sanctioned tournaments** to be picked up by another region team which is still competing. The team may pick up as many as two players, who are then frozen on that team's roster for the remainder of the season. **The transfer process necessitates that letters from the player, parent, old team rep/coach and new team rep/coach, who all agree to the transfer of the player, be in the region office before the transfer is approved. Any team that has qualified for USAV Girls' Junior National Championships in all divisions has a frozen roster. They are not allowed to pick up players.**

OFFICIATING FINES

Any team that does not perform its assigned officiating duties during pool play (e.g., they leave without doing it) will be fined \$35. Any team that leaves a tournament and does not perform their assigned officiating duties during playoffs will be fined \$100. It is the responsibility of the tournament directors to let the region office know if this infraction has occurred. (See enclosed sheets titled Junior Olympic Referee/Scorekeeper Certification for officiating responsibilities.)