



***USA*Volleyball**

**REGION BEACH  
HANDBOOK 2025-2026**

Updated through 09/01/2025

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

SRVA Officers and Appointed Positions .....	3
SRVA Board of Directors.....	4
Operating Code.....	5
Membership Classification and Fees.....	5
Registration of Clubs and Members .....	6
Beach Participation Guidelines.....	7
Hosting/Conducting SRVA Sanctioned Beach Tournaments.....	8
Beach Tournament Scheduling .....	10
Awards.....	11
SRVA Junior Beach Championships.....	12
Safety Standards for Inclement Weather.....	13
Protests, Appeals, Complaints and General Powers.....	14
Ethics and Conduct.....	15
Annual Beach Referee Certification.....	15
SRVA Abuse and Harassment Policy.....	16
SRVA Due Process Procedure.....	18
SRVA Conflict of Interest Policy.....	21

Copies of Forms, By-Laws, Articles of Incorporation and other information may be obtained on our web site: [www.srva.org](http://www.srva.org).

## SOUTHERN REGION VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION

**Region Address:** 105 Rounsaville Court, Roswell, GA 30076

**ELECTED OFFICERS:**

<b>COMMISSIONER / PRESIDENT:</b>	Steve Kenyon	<a href="mailto:Commish@srva.org">Commish@srva.org</a>	850-409-0708
<b>VICE PRESIDENT:</b>	Bob Watson	<a href="mailto:VicePres@srva.org">VicePres@srva.org</a>	404-794-6494
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	Deidre Brown	<a href="mailto:Secretary@srva.org">Secretary@srva.org</a>	423-943-6939

**APPOINTED POSITIONS:**

<b>REGISTRAR:</b>	Brenda McIntosh	<a href="mailto:Membership@srva.org">Membership@srva.org</a>	678-795-0224
<b>JUNIOR CHAIR:</b>	Keith Weller	<a href="mailto:JuniorsChair@srva.org">JuniorsChair@srva.org</a>	423-332-2112
<b>INDOOR OFFICIALS' CHAIR:</b>	Mark Prater	<a href="mailto:OfficialsChair@srva.org">OfficialsChair@srva.org</a>	770-883-7868
<b>BEACH OFFICIALS' CHAIR:</b>	Andy Miller	<a href="mailto:BeachOfficialsChair@srva.org">BeachOfficialsChair@srva.org</a>	404-718-0620
<b>JUNIOR TRNMT ASST:</b>	Stephanie Finn	<a href="mailto:JRTournamentAsst@srva.org">JRTournamentAsst@srva.org</a>	678-680-1345
<b>SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR:</b>	Tracy Stevens	<a href="mailto:SocialMedia@srva.org">SocialMedia@srva.org</a>	
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE ASST</b>	Stephanie Finn	<a href="mailto:AdminAssistant@srva.org">AdminAssistant@srva.org</a>	
<b>PLAYER REPRESENTATIVE</b>	Jim Lawson	<a href="mailto:Player-rep1@srva.org">Player-rep1@srva.org</a>	
<b>PLAYER REPRESENTATIVE</b>	Anthony Marshall	<a href="mailto:Player-rep2@srva.org">Player-rep2@srva.org</a>	
<b>HP PROGRAM DIRECTOR</b>	Mary Beth Peake	<a href="mailto:HP-MaryBeth@srva.org">HP-MaryBeth@srva.org</a>	
<b>HP ASSISTANT. PROGRAM DIRECTOR</b>	Shawn Davis	<a href="mailto:HP-Shawn@srva.org">HP-Shawn@srva.org</a>	

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

<b><u>ALABAMA</u></b>	<b><u>Term</u></b>	<b><u>GEORGIA</u></b>	<b><u>Term</u></b>	<b><u>TENNESSEE</u></b>	<b><u>Term</u></b>
Scott Jones	7/1/24 – 6/30/27	Garrett Bitter	7/1/23 – 6/30/26	Deidre Brown	7/1/24 – 6/30/27
Rose Powell	7/1/25 – 6/30/28	Colleen Craig	7/1/25 – 6/30/28	Tim Cooper	7/1/25 – 6/30/28
		Stephanie Finn	7/1/23 – 6/30/26	Shawn Davis	7/1/24 – 6/30/27
		Michael Fletcher	7/1/24 – 6/30/27	James Lawson	7/1/24 – 6/30/27
		Shelby Foyer	7/1/25 – 6/30/28	Anthony Marshall	7/1/23 – 6/30/26
		Duane Hill	7/1/24 – 6/30/27	Keith Weller	7/1/23 – 6/30/26
		Steve Kenyon	7/1/24 – 6/30/27	Abbey West	7/1/24 – 6/30/27
		Kevin McClure	7/1/23 – 6/30/26		
		Christopher Miller	7/1/23 – 6/30/26		
		Mary Beth Peake	7/1/23 – 6/30/26		
		Sally Polhamus	7/1/23 – 6/30/26		
		Mark Prater	7/1/25 – 6/30/28		
		Michelle Prater	7/1/23 – 6/30/26		
		David Schnieders	7/1/24 – 6/30/27		
		Scott Thompson	7/1/25 – 6/30/28		
		Bob Watson	7/1/25 – 6/30/28		
		Steve Wilcosky	7/1/25 – 6/30/28		

**SOUTHERN REGION VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION  
OPERATING CODE**

**I. MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION AND FEES:**

A. MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION: Member classifications for the current season have been established by the Southern Region Board of Directors as follows:

<b>Classification of Members</b>	<b>Description of Membership benefits</b>	<b>Fees</b>
<b>ADULT REGULAR MEMBER, ADULT &amp; JUNIOR TEAM COACH, NON-PLAYING JUNIOR COACH, CLUB DIRECTORS &amp; CLUB STAFF</b>	Fee includes sports accident/liability insurance; participation in sanctioned tournaments, official's clinics and online Impact clinics. <u>DOES NOT INCLUDE THE COST OF THE YEARLY USAV BACKGROUND CHECK.</u>	<b>\$40.00</b>
<b>OFFICIALS</b>	Fee includes USAV Rule Book; sports accident/liability insurance; participation in sanctioned tournaments, official's clinics and online Impact clinics. <u>DOES NOT INCLUDE THE COST OF THE YEARLY USAV BACKGROUND CHECK.</u>	<b>\$40.00</b>
<b>JUNIOR MEMBER</b>	Fee includes sports accident/liability insurance; participation in sanctioned tournaments and official's clinics	<b>\$60.00</b>
<b>JUNIOR OUTDOOR/SUMMER PLAYER</b>	Junior Player who wishes to <u>ONLY</u> participate in sanctioned outdoor events & summer activities. Fee includes sports accident/liability insurance and auditing of official's clinics.	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>ADULT PLAYER, COLLEGIATE PLAYER</b>	An Adult/collegiate player or an athlete who wishes to affiliate with USAV.	<b>\$35.00</b>
<b>EVENT WORKERS MEMBERSHIP (JUNIOR TOURNAMENT EVENT STAFF, TRAINERS, SITE DIRECTORS, LINE JUDGES, ON SITE TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION ONLY!!)</b>	<i>Individuals working SRVA/USA Volleyball sanctioned events. It does not allow for participation in a player role or as a rostered Adult for any Region/USA Volleyball sanctioned event. <u>DOES NOT INCLUDE THE COST OF YEARLY USAV BACKGROUND CHECK.</u> Allows for free access to <u>MANDATORY SafeSport Training.</u></i>	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>YOUTH MEMBER</b>	11 years old and under during the entire membership season Regionally sanctioned play only (indoor/outdoor). NOT eligible to play in national level events (Qualifiers, JNC, National High Performance teams/camps, etc.)..	<b>\$20.00</b>
<b>U8 YOUTH MEMBER / U8 &amp; UNDER CHILD ON THE BENCH</b>	8 years of age and under during the entire membership season Regionally sanctioned play only (indoor/outdoor). NOT eligible to play in national level events (Qualifiers, JNC, National NTDP teams/camps, etc.).	<b>FREE</b>
<b>JUNIOR TRYOUT</b>	Fee includes sports accident/liability insurance; allows <u>ONLY</u> for participation in Region sanctioned club volleyball tryouts. Fully upgradeable to regular membership. Tryout membership fee is credited towards upgrade price	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>SRVA HS Boys Affiliated Adult Coach</b>	Available to coaches of male athletes on high school or middle school-based teams which are not sanctioned by the local state high school association as a school sport. <u>DOES NOT INCLUDE THE COST OF YEARLY USAV BACKGROUND CHECK.</u> Allows for free access to <u>MANDATORY SafeSport Training.</u>	<b>\$18.00</b>

OTHER FEES:		
<b>SRVA Returned Check Handling Fee</b>	See II. F.	<b>\$35.00</b>
<b>Late Tournament Registration Fee</b>	Charged to any team registering after a tournament deadline: See IV.C.7	<b>Set by event</b>
<b>Tournament Director Late Fee</b>	Failure to supply Region with court locations and directions two weeks prior to the tournament. See IV.C.2	<b>minimum \$100.00</b>
<b>Failure to Officiate</b>	Team fails to officiate after their play is completed.	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>Failure to Attend Tournament</b>	Team fails to attend tournament without proper notification. See X.E	<b>Forfeit of entry Fee</b>

### Divisions of Competition:

Outdoor: Sand, grass or similar tournaments usually consisting of 2 to 4 player teams and primarily playing during the summer months.

### I. REGISTRATION OF CLUBS AND MEMBERS:

- A. The registration process for clubs and individuals is accomplished through SportsEngine.
- B. SRVA reserves the right to publish officiating, coaching, background check and SafeSport information. Membership is not active until SRVA receives confirmation that all requirements have been met from USAV and is valid through August 31. Each outdoor team must be comprised of at least two regular members. Indoor club affiliation is separate from beach club affiliation.
- C. All **Adult** individuals associated with junior activities such as Club Directors, Club Administrators, Team Reps, Coaches, Chaperones, Trainers, Officials, and any junior Tournament Director/Site Director/On-Site Tournament Administrator/Manager must be an **ELIGIBLE MEMBER who has;**
  - Joined USAV/SRVA as a member and paid the required fees.
  - Completed the required SafeSport Core training or SafeSport Refresher courses.
  - They must also consent to background screening as required by completing and submitting the required forms through their SportsEngine account.
  - These forms must be submitted, and their application **accepted/passed/cleared** before the applicant may participate in sanctioned junior events and/or activities (a minimum of one week should be expected to complete the screening).
  - An individual whose background check is **declined/failed** must immediately cease all participation in CURRENT SRVA/USAV sanctioned events and/or activities as they

are **INELIGIBLE**. An individual has the right to appeal the decision however, until such time as their appeal is approved they remain INELIGIBLE and will be marked as SUSPENDED. The background check appeals process is available on SRVA.org.

- D. IMPACT or equivalent certification approved by USA Volleyball is required prior to coaching in their first USAV/SRVA-sanctioned event.
- E. Once a registration is accepted no refunds or transfer of fees to another member will be allowed.
- F. Any individual/team/club who submits a check or other form of payment that is not honored or is disputed by their bank, may be charged a \$35 handling fee. The individual/team/club will also be required to replace the original amount of the payment and to reimburse SRVA for any bank fees or other charges incurred as a result. SRVA will mark the corresponding membership as SUSPENDED and will not allow participants with an unresolved disputed payment to participate in SRVA activities. This may also apply to the entire club and its teams if the club director or their representative has an unresolved disputed payment.
- G. Junior and adult outdoor players who are current SRVA members for the indoor season are automatically outdoor members. If a current indoor player joins a different outdoor club, an additional membership fee is not required.
- H. An outdoor ONLY membership is \$25 per season.
- I. Players do NOT have to be a member of an outdoor club to participate in SRVA sanctioned beach tournaments; however, they must be a registered USAV/SRVA member.
- J. OUTDOOR JUNIOR TRYOUT's: These tryouts may occur at any time during the year. All participants must be current USAV/SRVA Members. A tryout fee no greater than \$75 may be collected during these periods. It is the responsibility of the Clubs, Coaches and Participants to ensure that they do not violate any high school or collegiate rules that may apply.

## II. BEACH PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

- A. COACHING: Junior players are not required have to have a coach to participate. If a coach is present they **MUST** adhere to the Rules and Guidelines of the Current USAV Domestic Competition Rules. i.e. (During play, coaches observe from the player area. Instruction only takes place during timeouts, between sets and (non-disruptively) during side-changes. Coaches may not attempt to influence or question the official's judgment at any time.

1. SRVA exception coaches who are present for a match with two teams from the same club may remain on one side for court switches.
  2. If junior players do have an adult coach, those coaches must:
    - a. Be an **ELIGIBLE MEMBER**.
- B. **ATHLETES:** Persons who are not USAV members may not participate or be in the playing area. SRVA/USAV members/participants should be careful not to violate any high school or collegiate rules that may apply.
- C. **SPECTATORS:** Persons who do not meet the requirements of Section III.A.2.a-d may not participate or be in the playing area, failure to comply may result in ejection from the event (see section X.C).
- D. **REGISTERING FOR A TOURNAMENT:** Players may register for tournaments with players from other clubs or regions. Registering in two (2) different age groups for multi-day tournaments is permissible provided those 2 divisions compete on different days. This exception is at the discretion of each Tournament Director/Host.
- E. **DRESS CODE/ATTIRE:** Uniforms are not required. However, matching color bottoms and tops are encouraged. Player uniforms must abide by current guidelines as set by USAV Beach.
- All athletes are required to wear a top.
1. For girls, it should cover the midsection when standing, and bottoms such as spandex bike shorts, shorts, a “modest” swimsuit or leggings are appropriate. Thong/String style bikinis are never appropriate for competition.
  2. For boys, it should cover the midsection when standing, and bottoms such as board shorts, swim trunks or gym shorts are appropriate. “Bikini Brief” type swim suits are never appropriate for competition.
- F. **RULES:** For general beach rules, refereeing responsibilities, coaching guidelines, player and parent conduct, see the Beach Volleyball Quick Guide available on [srva.org](http://srva.org). For additional info, please refer to the [Outdoor Rulebook](#) for the current season.

### III. HOSTING/CONDUCTING SRVA SANCTIONED BEACH TOURNAMENTS

- A. **APPLYING FOR SRVA SANCTION OF EVENTS** - Tournament Directors/Hosts should submit a request for an outdoor tournament using the online system at least four (4) weeks prior to the tournament date. This form can be located at [srva.org](http://srva.org). The sanction fee will only be waived if the tournament does not occur due to lack of entries or inclement weather. The Region Commissioner may waive the four-week requirement.

It is required to disclose on the tournament sanction request:

1. If outside food will be prohibited from events.

2. Any policy requiring teams to stay in certain hotels to register for the tournament.
  3. If admission fees will be charged for tournament attendance.
  4. If paid referees or court monitors will be provided.
  5. If there are any specific health & safety requirements which must be met for participation.
  6. If there are any specific health & safety requirements which must be met for attendance as a non-participant.
- B. SANCTION FEES AND BOND AMOUNTS: Following are the performance bond amounts as well as non-refundable tournament sanction fees to be paid to the SRVA.

BEACH/OUTDOOR SANCTION FEES are:

\$25 per tournament for events offering 4 or less courts.

\$40 per tournament for events offering 5 or more courts.

Sanction fees are due at the time of tournament approval.

A once-per-season \$100 bond will be charged when sanctioning the first event.

- C. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR- The Host/Tournament Director must conduct the tournament in accordance with USAV/SRVA guidelines. The Tournament Director or Court Manager at each site is responsible for conducting the tournament in accordance with USAV/SRVA policies. Host/Tournament Director and Court Managers must be an **ELIGIBLE MEMBER**.
1. Only registered USAV/SRVA members may participate in the tournament.
  2. Tournament Directors/Hosts must submit their play site(s) with directions and/or address(es) to the Region no later than two weeks prior to a tournament, with an exception for sites lost/replaced AFTER the deadline.
  3. Tournament sites and equipment must meet requirements for safe and enjoyable competition. All net supports, cables, and referee stands must be padded.
  4. To encourage the growth of boys' beach volleyball, it is recommended that tournaments offer a boys' division. If an age group does not fill, 12U/14U , 14U/16U or 16U/18U divisions may be combined. 12U boys may also be allowed to compete in the girls' division. Tournament hosts may also offer a coed division to encourage boys' participation in their event.
  5. SRVA tournament officials/court monitors who are paid must be Beach in-process or Beach certified. Payments to paid officials should be made within two weeks after the tournament is completed.
  6. The Tournament Director/Host should provide 3 or more approved game balls per court, properly marked courts, safe equipment, and proper padding on net supports, cables. If officials are used, it is recommended to provide referee stands.

7. BEACH/OUTDOOR tournaments may accept same-day tournament team entries and may charge a larger fee for these entries, if requested and approved in the tournament sanction request.
8. Tournament play formats are at the discretion of each Host/Tournament Director; however, participants are to be guaranteed a minimum of 4 matches or 84 points.
9. All event start times should be posted on the event website prior to the opening of registration. Start times are subject to change but registrants must be notified how and when changes will be posted and how they will be notified. If wave assignments are necessary, start times for each wave should be posted, with the check-in time for each wave noted accordingly. All events utilizing alternative wave play/evening play must insure adequate lighting.
10. Tournament Directors/Hosts will send the commissioner or his/her designee a Tournament Report, a list of attendees, and competition results no later than the fifteenth (15th) day after the tournament ends. The first day of the 15 day period is the day after the final day of tournament competition.
11. The Commissioner or his designee may amend the requirements of Section IV.

#### **IV. BEACH TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING**

- A. Pool play/playoffs and scoring formats are at the discretion of the Tournament Director/Host, however they must follow USAV scoring guidelines (refer to Beach Domestic Competition Regulations). Pool play, playoff formats/schedules, and officiating assignments are to be displayed at the site (or online) and be explained during the meeting of participants prior to start of play. These schedules should also be printed on pool sheets to be distributed to each assigned competition court. Once pool play begins, it should be completed using the same scoring format, exceptions may be made for inclement weather or approaching darkness.
- B. Any optional/experimental rule included in the current year USAV Rulebook may be used for a tournament provided it is announced prior to the start of the tournament and is applied for the duration of the tournament.
- C. Matches should not be scheduled on a time basis. Matches should be started as soon as possible after completion of the preceding match. Teams must be aware that matches are scheduled in this manner.
- D. Warm-up periods will be scheduled with teams on the court together. Warm-up for a team's first match of the day will be 5 minutes. Thereafter, warm-ups can be reduced to 3 minutes. It is recommended each team take no more than 5 hits and 5 serves to warm-up.
- E. Teams must be ready to play or officiate when their assigned matches are sequentially scheduled.

- F. Approved pool-play formats have officiating assignments scheduled. If a team is officiating a match prior to playing the next match, the Tournament Director/Host must give the team a reasonable amount of time to recover before having the coin toss and starting the warm-up period.
- G. If a lunch break is scheduled, it should be scheduled at the completion of a specific match. The time for the coin toss and start of warm-up for the first match after lunch must be clearly understood by teams and officials. If ALL teams in the affected pool agree, the lunch break may be waived.
- H. In playoff matches, a team just finishing a match must be offered a minimum rest period of ten (10) minutes before the coin toss for the next match is conducted.
- I. Team(s) that do not arrive on site or provide notification to the tournament contact or to the Region regarding a late arrival by the time of the first match each tournament day may be removed from the schedule for the tournament. Playing assignments missed as a result of the late arrival even if proper notification is made, may be treated as forfeits. If the team subsequently arrives without providing proper notification and the tournament schedule was not adjusted, they can participate in the remainder of their matches with any penalties for missing officiating assignments being applied. Note: It is at the discretion of the Tournament Director/Host to try and adjust the playing/officiating schedule to afford late teams the opportunity to play, especially if they have notified the tournament contact of any extenuating circumstances for their late arrival.
- J. Officiating Duties: Both members of a team are expected to perform officiating duties if certified officials are not used for matches. It is recommended that one of the players stand, to provide better ability to see net violations and other infractions. The Tournament Director should be notified immediately if the officiating team is not courtside or cannot be located. Reasonable effort should be made allow the ref team to report to the court before imposing point sanctions. If the officiating team is still not present after reasonable efforts to ask them to report, sanctions may be imposed. For every minute an officiating team is late to fulfill its assignment, one point will be awarded to that team's next opponent in the first set of the next match, up to a maximum of either 21 or 28 points, whichever minimum is being used to win the next set. A team may forfeit its entire next match for failing, a second time, to have a first referee available on time for an officiating assignment. A team choosing not to play a match is still required to fulfill the officiating assignments that come from forfeiting/losing a match.

## **V. AWARDS**

- A. For the tournament entry fee charged, the host will provide appropriate awards for First Place in each classification in which there are four or more teams. If two classifications are combined, separate play-offs and awards are not required.

## VI. SRVA JUNIOR BEACH CHAMPIONSHIP

- A. **QUALIFICATION OF TEAMS FOR THE JUNIOR BEACH REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS:** A junior Team/Player must have participated in at least one sanctioned regular season SRVA beach tournament to be eligible to compete in the Junior Beach regional championship. Team/Players bumped from a tournament due to court space limitations or cancellation of tournament by the SRVA tournament host will count as a tournament if the Team/Player has registered by the tournament registration deadline.
- B. Participating teams in the SRVA Junior Beach Regionals must include a minimum of one current SRVA member. Only current SRVA members will be eligible to receive Bids and reimbursement for the Beach National championships. The reimbursement policy and Bids will trickle down accordingly.
- C. Only the champion or runner-up in each age/gender classification will be eligible for reimbursement of their **individual national entry fee**, but at the Region Commissioner's discretion a lower finishing team may receive the region bid without reimbursement.
- D. Participation in SRVA sanctioned/hosted tournaments including USAV National Beach Qualifier or Regional Beach Qualifier will count for the one tournament rule and considered in seeding of the SRVA regional tournament.
- E. The Region reserves the right to forfeit any region championship title and/or withhold authorization and/or entry fee reimbursement for any individual and/or team to participate in any HP/National championship or Invitational event if the beach athlete is found to have violated SRVA or USAV policies. Individuals/Teams are responsible for any financial losses incurred.
- F. The tournament entry deadline for SRVA Junior Regional Beach Championships is Thursday midnight ET prior to the event (Saturday).
- G. Entry fees for Region Beach Championships will be determined by the Junior Beach Regional Championship Committee.
- H. The Tournament Director will be the Region Commissioner and/or his/her designee.
- I. Event Staff Membership requirement-All adults (18 and above) contracted by the event for on-site event staff must be verified by the event as an **ELIGIBLE MEMBER**.
- J. The Commissioner or his/her designee may amend the requirements of Section VII.

## VIII. SAFETY STANDARDS FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER

Athletes and coaches will be expected to continue in wind or rain that does not present a threat of danger to the participants. Under no circumstances will athletes be allowed to participate when lightning, tornados or other dangerous weather is present in the area. The following criteria will result in a postponed tournament:

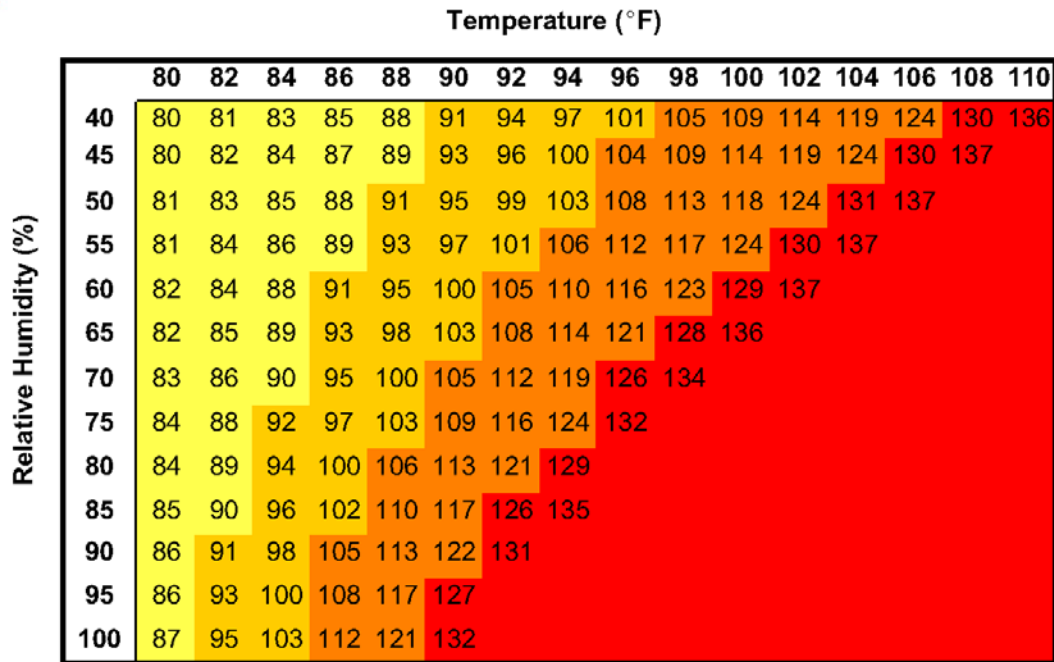
- A. LIGHTNING: The Tournament Director/Host must monitor the weather. When 30 seconds or fewer occur between seeing the lightning flash and hearing its associated thunder, all individuals should have left the athletics site and reached a safer structure or location. Before resuming athletics activities, 30 minutes must pass after both the last sound of thunder and the last flash of lightning. If lightning is seen without thunder being heard, it may be out of range and therefore less likely to be a significant threat (Source: [ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)). Weather should be monitored at: <http://www.weather.gov> or a similar site with real time information .
- B. WIND: While all beach volleyball athletes must be prepared to contend with windy playing conditions, wind gusts of over 25 miles create a safety hazard at tournaments and equipment (poles, nets, etc.) may become unstable. When winds on the sand are measured at 25 mph or higher, the Tournament Director may postpone tournament activities or cancel the tournament entirely.
- C. HEAT: The Tournament Director is responsible to monitor both the temperature and Heat index during the competition. The National Weather Service provides a [HEAT INDEX CHART](#) for reference. The American College of Sports Medicine has produced [guidelines](#) regarding how an event should consider reacting to various weather conditions.

As temperature and humidity rise, increased attention must be paid to heat concerns, if competition must occur in a hot, humid environment, proper hydration must be strongly encouraged and precautions such as longer and more frequent water breaks, removing equipment during breaks and taking breaks in cool, shaded areas must be taken to help prevent heat illness.

- D. RAIN: The Tournament Director is responsible to monitor rain. To cancel or postpone a tournament, rainfall must be significant and pose a threat to the athletes by creating excessive puddles and hard divots in the sand.



# National Weather Service Heat Index Chart



## Likelihood of Heat Disorders with Prolonged Exposure and/or Strenuous Activity

■ Caution    
 ■ Extreme Caution    
 ■ Danger    
 ■ Extreme Danger

### IX. PROTESTS, APPEALS, COMPLAINTS AND GENERAL POWERS

- A. TOURNAMENTS: Protests arising with respect to rules interpretation by officials during sanctioned competition will be decided by a Head Official or a Tournament Protest Committee composed of 3 certified officials (if available) or 3 coaches who are not associated with the teams involved, appointed by the Tournament Director or Court Manager.
- B. SRVA POLICIES: Participants and organizations desiring to participate in SRVA sanctioned events must abide by the rules, policies and guidelines of the Southern Region and USAV.
- C. APPEALS: An individual to whom membership is refused, or who has membership suspended in part or whole, or a team that has registration refused or team eligibility suspended in part or whole, may appeal for a review by following the Due Process Policy adopted by the Southern Region Board of Directors.
- D. Complaints concerning tournament administration must be received in writing within three weeks after completion of the event. SRVA reserves the right not to take action on any complaints filed after that time period.
- E. The Commissioner or his/her designee is authorized to make all decisions and promulgate all policies not specifically covered in this Handbook, including fees to be charged for region services and the amount of all fines against individuals and/or teams for violation of SRVA/USAV or other rules, laws or statutes.

- F. This Handbook is the operating policy for the SRVA. At the discretion of the Commissioner, with the approval of the Officers, he may alter the guidelines established herein. Any action taken will be reported in a timely manner to the Board.

## **X. ETHICS AND CONDUCT**

- A. Teams failing to honor their officiating or other commitments for a tournament after that team's play is completed will be fined \$50.00, to be retained by SRVA, provided the Tournament Director reports the violation promptly to the Region Commissioner or his/her designee.
- B. Teams failing to honor their officiating or other requirements before that team's play is completed shall be assessed a one point penalty for each minute from the end of the warm-up period for which they do not have a complete officiating team, up to a loss of one set, and those points will be given to their next opponent.
- C. SRVA reserves the right to eject or otherwise sanction any person engaging in disruptive, abusive or offensive behavior from any SRVA tournament, event or activity. This sanction may remain in effect for the duration of the tournament, event or activity. Neither the SRVA, its tournament or administrative staff, nor any Tournament Director or playing venue staff shall be liable for any damages caused by the exercise of this right.
- D. **MEMBER RESPONSIBILITY:** Any individual assuming the identity of another person or any individual or team using the membership card of another person in a fraudulent manner shall be suspended from USAV competition. All members are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the USAV Participant Code of Behavior which they must read and sign when applying for membership.
- E. Teams that fail to participate in tournaments without notification to the region prior to the tournament will at a may forfeit their entry fees.

## **XI. ANNUAL BEACH REFEREE CERTIFICATION**

- A. To achieve Local Rating:
1. Must be an **ELIGIBLE MEMBER**..
  2. Attend a clinic, including a classroom session, either within the Southern Region, or at an appropriate clinic in another region or at another USA Volleyball event.
  3. Pass the ratings process at that clinic.
  4. Pass a written test, of which must be corrected to 100% (with rule references) for any test scores below 90%.
  5. Until you complete steps 1-6 above in the Beach Referee certification process you will be considered as "In-Process"

B. To maintain Local Rating:

1. Must be an **ELIGIBLE MEMBER**..
2. Pass a written test yearly; correct the test to 100% (with rule references) for any test scores below 90%.
3. Participate in officiating Beach volleyball at least twice per year. Because opportunities to officiate beach volleyball can be difficult to find, the region will be liberal in what it considers officiating beach volleyball. Examples can include officiating any outdoor league or tournament, including adults or juniors. The playing formats can include anything comprised of teams of less than six players, such as doubles, triples, or four's.
4. Failure to meet any of the above requirements may result in the forfeiture of your Local rating.

## **XII. SOUTHERN REGION VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION ABUSE AND HARASSMENT POLICY**

Abuse and harassment can occur between any combination of volleyball members: coaches, players, officials, parents and/or organizers; and is prohibited.

USA Volleyball SafeSport policies are intended to address the following types of abuse and misconduct:

1. Sexual Misconduct;
2. Physical Misconduct;
3. Emotional Misconduct;
4. Bullying, Threats and Harassment;
5. Harassment, including Sexual Harassment;
6. Hazing.

All SRVA members shall familiarize themselves with the USA Volleyball SafeSport Handbook and guidelines for each form of misconduct and shall refrain from engaging in misconduct and/or violating any of these policies. SafeSport policies may be found at [USCenterForSafeSport.org](https://www.uscenterforsafesport.org) as well as through the SafeSport section of the USA Volleyball website. Ignorance is not an excuse. Any SRVA participant or parent of a participant who violates any of the SafeSport policies for abuse and misconduct is subject to appropriate disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension, permanent suspension and/or referral to law enforcement authorities.

In the event that any SRVA member or employee or volunteer of a SRVA member club observes or suspects inappropriate behaviors (i.e., policy violations), suspected physical and/or sexual abuse, or any other types of abuse or misconduct, it is the responsibility of such person to immediately report their observations to the appropriate authority for such behavior as set out in the USA Volleyball SafeSport Handbook.

All reports of sexual misconduct will follow the proper reporting procedure for ultimate investigation and resolution by the U.S. Center for SafeSport relating to a final decision regarding an individual's continued participation within SRVA. The U.S. Center for SafeSport has the exclusive authority to investigate and resolve alleged SafeSport Code violations involving sexual misconduct for all USA Volleyball members. In addition to reporting within SRVA and USA Volleyball, any reporter of suspected sexual misconduct must also report suspected child physical or sexual abuse to appropriate local or state law enforcement authorities when required under applicable law. Employees and volunteers should not attempt to evaluate the credibility or validity of child physical or sexual abuse allegations as a condition for reporting to appropriate law enforcement authorities.

SRVA retains the authority to investigate and resolve alleged SafeSport violations that are non-sexual in nature when called upon to do so by an individual member or club.

SRVA has **ZERO TOLERANCE** for abuse and misconduct.

The procedures outlined in the SRVA Due Process Procedure Policy will be used to investigate any non-sexual misconduct complaint and to invoke any sanction or remedy. A report of non-sexual misconduct will remain confidential unless: (1- investigation of the report of misconduct, 2 - eliminating or remedying any misconduct found to have occurred, or 3 - preventing future misconduct) requires dissemination of information.

SRVA reserves the right to restrict from sanctioned events any member, volunteer, parent, and/or other person alleged to have committed sexual misconduct, pending the investigation of the sexual misconduct report.

Any member who engages in sexual misconduct, or who fails to cooperate in an investigation of any misconduct behavior under SafeSport guidelines, or who violates or acts in a manner inconsistent with this policy and/or SafeSport guidelines, may be immediately dismissed as a member of the Southern Region Volleyball Association.

Any SRVA club that permits an individual to participate in any Club activity while the individual is prohibited by SRVA or any other authority from doing so as a result of a violation of this Policy shall be subject to discipline including but not limited to temporary or permanent suspension or prohibition from participation in any SRVA and/or USA Volleyball event and/or activity.

### **XIII. SOUTHERN REGION VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION DUE PROCESS PROCEDURE**

If an individual or a team is accused of wrongdoing where a sanction or penalty may be necessary, due process involves the right of the accused to confront his/her accusers, to allow both complaining and accused parties an opportunity to present his/her side of the story and receive fair consideration in a timely fashion, and have an opportunity for the decision to be reconsidered by a higher authority.

- A. **SCOPE:** This procedure is designed to handle serious situations such as those that could lead to sanctions imposed under the SRVA Operating Code, or the appeal of simple procedural decisions, such as not completing referee or scorer qualification/certification requirements, failure to follow tournament guidelines, etc.

Upon initial review of the complaint, it shall be within the SRVA Commissioner's or the reviewing party's discretion to decide whether the complaint requires immediate action, prompt action, or action at the next regularly scheduled Board or Committee meeting

- B. **NOTICE CONTENT:** A notice of accusation should include the following items:

1. Summary of accusation(s).
2. Statement that the accused has a right to respond and an explanation of how to respond.
3. Description of any immediate actions (sanctions) taken.
4. If a sanction is invoked, explanation of any appeal process.
5. Date, time, location and description of any hearing or conference scheduled.
6. Statement that a penalty or sanction may be imposed/upheld/reduced/increased as a result of the hearing.

- C. **PROCEDURE:**

1. The initial notification of accusation(s), decision(s) and/or sanctions imposed may be made orally (either in person or by phone) or by e-mail.
2. However, all decisions that impose a sanction that includes an individual suspension from participation must be followed by written notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, with a duplicate copy sent by regular first class mail.
3. Notification of any sanction(s) should clearly explain the terms and reasons for the sanction(s) and any appeal process.
4. Both the complaining and accused party will get a copy of the decision and each will have the right to appeal it

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#### **D. APPEAL PROCESS:**

1. All appeals must be filed in writing within 30 days of the date of the prior decision.
2. Appeal of any procedural decision rendered by an individual other than the SRVA Region Commissioner may be initiated (a) orally [followed by reduction to written appeal] or (b) directly in writing.
3. Appeal of any sanction or procedural decision rendered by the SRVA Region Commissioner shall be made in writing to the SRVA Review Committee by contacting the SRVA Vice-President or the SRVA Secretary (if the SRVA Vice-President rendered any part the decision being appealed or will be a witness in the hearing).
4. Appeal of any decision of the Review Committee may be made by either the complaining or accused party in writing to the Board of Directors by notifying the person (the SRVA Vice President or otherwise) who presided over the Review Committee hearing.
5. The only determination to be made by the SRVA Board upon appeal to it from a decision of the Review Committee shall be whether the appealing party was accorded due process.
6. Any appeal beyond the SRVA Board shall be in accordance with the USA Volleyball Guide.

#### **E. COMPOSITION OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE:**

1. Region Commissioner
2. Vice-President
3. Secretary
4. Junior Chair
5. Officials Chair

#### **F. FUNCTION OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE:**

1. The Vice-President (or Secretary if the Vice-President rendered any part of the decision under appeal and/or will be a witness in the hearing) will schedule and preside over the hearing.
2. If the Commissioner, Vice President, and Secretary all rendered any part of the decision(s) being appealed or will be witnesses in the hearing, the remaining members of the Review Committee shall select a presiding officer who shall schedule and preside over the hearing.
3. Review Committee members who rendered any part of the decision(s) being appealed or who will be witnesses in the hearing shall not take part in the deliberations of the Committee and shall not cast a vote.
4. A quorum of the Review Committee shall be a majority of the above-listed members who are neither involved in the decision(s) being appealed nor witnesses, and decisions of the Review Committee are made by a majority vote of the Committee members present (in person or by conference call/electronic hookup) who are neither involved in the decision(s) being appealed nor witnesses.

5. If non-involved membership of the Committee falls below three members, the remaining Review committee members will appoint additional Board members to bring the total members of the Committee to three.
6. The Review Committee has the power to uphold, rescind, or modify the original decision being appealed.

#### **G. HEARING PROCEDURES:**

1. Hearings before the Review Committee may be either in person, or through the use of available electronic conferencing services (i.e. telephone or video), or a combination thereof as decided by the presiding officer after consultation with Review Committee members who were neither involved in the decision nor witnesses..
2. Electronic conferencing services (i.e. telephone or video) costs and reasonable administrative costs of all hearings shall be paid for by the SRVA. .
3. The presiding officer will make reasonable efforts to schedule the hearing whether in person or through the use of available electronic conferencing services (i.e. telephone or video) at the convenience of the involved parties.
4. The hearing will include presentation of the accusation and evidence supporting the accusation; and response, defense, and/or counter-argument of the accused.
5. The Review Committee will deliberate and make a decision in private and outside the presence of the complaining party, the accused, witnesses, and all persons who made an earlier decision during the decision and/or appeal process..

#### **H. APPEALS TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS FROM THE REVIEW COMMITTEE:**

1. If a decision of the Review Committee is appealed, SRVA Board members who are neither involved in the decision(s) being appealed nor witnesses to any matters that frame the basis for the appealed decision(s) will select a presiding officer and use the procedures below to schedule a hearing, except that the only issue to be considered by the Board will be whether the appealing party was accorded due process.
2. For the purpose of deciding appeals from a Review Committee decision, a quorum of the Board shall consist of a majority of the current Board Members who are neither involved in the decision(s) being appealed nor witnesses to any matters that frame the basis for the appealed decision(s); and a majority vote of such quorum is required to overturn the decision of the Review Committee.
3. Board Appeals may be convened in person at a normally scheduled Board meeting, or through the use of available electronic conferencing services (i.e. telephone or video), or a combination thereof as decided by the presiding officer after consultation with Board member eligible to participate in the Appeal.
4. Electronic conferencing services (i.e. telephone or video) and reasonable administrative costs of all hearings shall be paid for by the SRVA.

5. The presiding officer will make reasonable efforts to schedule any hearing conducted by electronic conferencing services (i.e. telephone or video) at the convenience of the involved parties. The presiding officer will preside over the Appeal hearing at which the Board will only hear, receive, and consider evidence related and necessary to the issue of whether the appealing party was afforded due process.
7. The Board quorum will deliberate and make a decision in private and outside the presence of the appealing party, the complainant, the accused, witnesses, and all persons who rendered any earlier decision during the decision and/or appeal process.

#### **XIV. SOUTHERN REGION VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

1. All individuals who participate with SRVA will disclose to the SRVA Commissioner or their designee, the nature and extent of an actual or potential conflict of interest when it occurs.
2. All current members of the SRVA Board of Directors will submit a signed Principles of Ethical Behavior/Conflict of Interest form each year. Incoming SRVA Board members will submit a signed Principles of Ethical Behavior/Conflict of Interest form prior to assuming their duties as a current board member.