

SAFETY | SERVICE | EDUCATION | OPPORTUNITY | GROWTH

court connection

NorthCountry

REGION VOLLEYBALL



KICK OFF for High Performance



NCR hosted its first of the season girls HP/All Star tryouts. The event was held Friday, February 6 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Region area coaches stepped up to serve as court instructors, evaluators, and admin.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OUTDOOR EVENTS

Starting May 23-24, 2026

The Region will be hosting a handful of outdoor events this summer. Like in year's past, NCR will host junior level beach qualifier events. **NEW** in 2026 is **GRASS VOLLEYBALL**. Learn more on the Outdoor Events on the Region's website.

ALL STAR TRYOUTS

Girls & Boys - March 27, 2026
Moorhead, MN

Girls & Boys - April 24, 2026
Sioux Falls, SD

USA VOLLEYBALL GIRLS CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

June 5-7, 2026
Columbus, OH

New this season, USAV will be hosting USAV - GJCC for 10-17s age divisions. For teams that want a season ended tournament. Check this out!



NIKE Ace of Clubs Region Qualifier - Hammerhead 18s earn Freedom Bid

NIKE Ace of Clubs Region Qualifier

North Country Region hosted nearly 200 teams February 7-8, 2026 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Saturday pool play matches led to an incredible Sunday bracket/play off competitions.

NCR's NIKE Ace of Clubs is in its fourth year at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The twenty-one court event provides plenty of space between courts, lots of spectator/fan seating, and one location to view thousands of matches over the two days. NIKE, tournament sponsor, was in attendance along with Gatorade, Kendra Scott, Wendy Nielsen photography, and more vendors.

Nearly one hundred NCR registered teams competed in the Region Qualifier to earn a bid to attend USA Volleyball Girls Junior Championships.

The Ace of Clubs Tournament, which runs concurrently with the Region Qualifier, hosted teams from across the NCR in addition to teams from Badger Region and Iowa Region.

In addition to great competition, the NIKE Ace of Clubs Region Qualifier, provided NCR-USA Volleyball Certified Officials opportunities to work competitive matches, receive evaluation and feedback, and earn an NCR Officials rating.

NCR utilized NIKE Ace of Clubs to activate an RFID interactive bag tag for all participants and workers; provide banners to teams that earned a bid, and medals to teams who finished first or second in the Gold Divisions of Ace

Team finished are located here:
<https://shorturl.at/gHtr5>

Message from the Region Commissioner

Thank you to the many who are making a positive difference through volleyball. The continued education of our coaches, officials, administrators, and our staff shows up beyond the score as well as the wins-losses. Difference makers matter because our members matter.

Eligibility and Safety


Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies

The Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) aim to help young athletes feel safe, supported, and strengthened—by limiting one-on-one interactions between adults and children, requiring abuse prevention training for certain adults, and promoting environments in which misconduct is less likely to occur.

Throughout the 11+ million-member U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement, all NGBs, affiliated regional and local clubs, and Adult Participants must adhere to the MAAPP. These policies are minimum requirements, and individual NGBs may choose to bolster them with additional sport-specific standards approved by the U.S. Center for SafeSport.

Beyond the Movement, any sport entity can—as many amateur sport organizations do—adopt or benefit from the MAAPP’s athlete safety guidance to support coaches, administrators, and athletes.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE ON MAAPP](#)



SafeSport
New Anti-Bullying Resource

[CLICK HERE FOR ACCESS](#)

NCRQualified

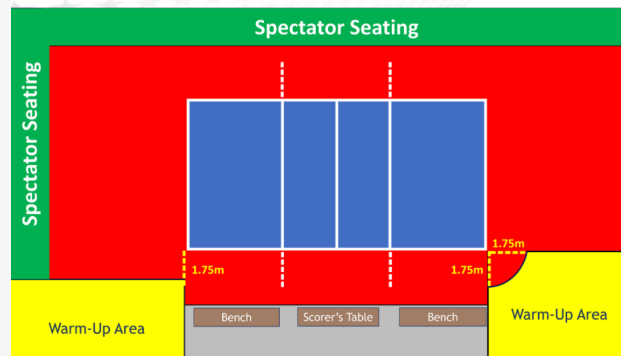
| | |
|--|--|
| <p>GIRLS 11</p> <p>AMERICAN Northern Lights 11-1</p> | <p>GIRLS 15</p> <p>NATIONAL Northern Lights 15-1 AMERICAN Northern Lights 15-2 AMERICAN MN Select 15-1 FREEDOM Sanford Fargo 15UA</p> |
| <p>GIRLS 12</p> <p>NATIONAL MN Select 12-1 AMERICAN VOLT 12-1 AMERICAN MN Select 12-2</p> | <p>GIRLS 16</p> <p>NATIONAL Northern Lights 16-1 AMERICAN MN Select 16-1 AMERICAN Northern Lights 16-2 FREEDOM VOLT 16-1</p> |
| <p>GIRLS 13</p> <p>NATIONAL MN Select 13-1 AMERICAN VOLT 13-1 AMERICAN AVC 13-1</p> | <p>GIRLS 17</p> <p>NATIONAL Northern Lights 17-1 AMERICAN MN Select 17-1 AMERICAN Northern Lights 17-2 FREEDOM Mizuno M1 171</p> |
| <p>GIRLS 14</p> <p>NATIONAL Northern Lights 14-1 AMERICAN VOLT 14-1 AMERICAN Northern Lights 14-1 FREEDOM VOLT 14-2</p> | <p>GIRLS 17</p> <p>NATIONAL MN Select 18-2 AMERICAN Mizuno M1 181 FREEDOM Hammerhead 18-1</p> |

Congratulations to the NCR teams who punched their ticket to compete in USA Volleyball’s Girls Junior National Championships. To view all NCR teams who have earned a bid to USAVGJNC check out the updated lists here: **[2026 Girls and 18s Qualifiers Results](#)**

Earning a bid to compete at USAV Junior National Championships is analogous to being selected to compete in an NCAA Tournament. It is special! Each Region is allotted a specific number of bids in each age division. Allotment is based on a Region’s previous season membership numbers.

Officiating and USAV Rules of the Game

Team Warm-Up Area



Rules of the Game: Team Warm Up Area

- Substitutes may stand on the playing surface, as long as they remain 1.75 meters from the court
- Regardless of where the benches/chairs are located, the substitutes may stand 1.75 meters from the court beginning at the endline, as shown in the diagram.
- Officials must still monitor the location of the substitutes to ensure they are not interfering with the line judge on the bench side and that they are not standing behind the court.



RECRUITING TIP of the WEEK

North Country Region is an Affiliated Partner of the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA). Check out the first of several AVCA Recruiting Tips of The Week here: <https://www.ncrusav.org/recruiting>

Respect the game. Let the officials and work teams concentrate on the game. Spectators and fans support the team and each player.

Get Involved!

Interested in joining a club, officiating, volunteering at an event, or starting something new? Check out our website and contact memberships@ncrusav.org.

