



August 29, 2019

Dear USA Volleyball/North Country Region Club:\*

The 2019 – 2020 volleyball season officially begins September 1<sup>st</sup>. With several updates from the USOPC (United States Olympic Paralympic Committee), the U.S. Center for SafeSport, USA Volleyball, and North Country Region this email serves as an effort to consolidate information. Please read and please save for future reference.

We will also be sending a general email to all membership welcoming them to a new season and sharing any information that better prepares coaches, officials, athletes, and parents for the upcoming club season. We know that for many athletes and parents you will be the first resource that an NCR member will contact. Our goal is to share broadly so that the information is consistent and accurate.

### **No Team Fees – No Tournament Sanctioning Fees – No Tournament Upcharge**

Club Cost is **ZERO** – the Board of Directors supported no tournament sanction fees for the 18 – 19 season and have continued the cost saving commitment to members by eliminating team fees for the 19 – 20 season.

[Cost Comparison Chart](#) – we have received several emails and calls about the value of a USA Volleyball – North Country Region membership. While we have hesitated to build a chart, a fresh set of parents’ eyes and their expressed concerns moved us to this decision.

### **Membership Management System – opens 09/02/2019**

USA Volleyball will delay for one year the transition to SportsEngine.

[USA Volleyball’s FAQ on Webpoint:](#) [USA Volleyball Club Admin Manual](#)

**UPDATE** - USA Volleyball and North Country Region will utilize Webpoint as the system for members to individually register. Members are familiar with this system when needing to access USAV Academy, background screens, SafeSport Training, rosters, officiating, and more. Webpoint has been utilized by USA Volleyball and 37 regions for nearly 10 years as their membership registration and management system. EASY EASY System to navigate. **Membership Registration begins September 2, 2019.**

[Renew Membership Directions](#)

[Renew Membership Registration Link](#)

[New Member Directions](#)

[New Member Registration Link](#)

### **Tryouts**

14 and under Tryout Date

- 2019-2020 First tryout for 14 and under may be held the first Sunday of October if not in conflict with the junior player’s respective State High School Athletic Association.
- *March 2020 Board of Directors will review the 14 and under tryout policy.*

[Tryout Information Page](#) – more thorough information about tryouts

[Sanction a Tryout](#) – links directly to registration form

### **Safety Check – NUMBER ONE concern of parents who have children playing sports**

[SafeZone on NCR Website](#) – reference page on website that describes background screen, MAAPP, SafeSport, Insurance and who needs to complete the safety requirements. The following assists hits the mark on covering all bases from directors, coaches, and parent/athlete information.

**\*\* NEW** [Director/Coach Group on NCR Website](#) – place for coaches and club directors to seek information about roster requirements, trainings, Webpoint Directions, etc...

**\*\* NEW Background Screen** – Any screen that is performed between the start of the season and 12/31/19 will be grandfathered under the old requirements. Any screens performed after 12/31/19 will be subject to annual rescreens and an increased price of \$30/screen every two years. This is a United States Olympic Paralympic Committee (USOPC) policy for all National Governing Bodies which requires full background screen every two years with a supplemental screen in off years starting 12/31/19.

What does this mean for you and your personnel who need background screens? All current background screens that do not expire this season and new screens performed prior to 12/31/19 will remain under pre USOPC new requirements. Cost of new screen prior to 12/31/19 will be \$20.00. These screens will be good for two years (expiring 8/31/2021) with no annual rescreen requirement and no additional cost.

**\*\* NEW Athletes turning 18** during the season, \*whose teammates are minors, will be required to take "Core" Center for SafeSport training upon turning 18. To prevent any disruption in play, the center will allow athletes who are 17, turning 18 during the season to take "Core" given parental consent. Once a player turns 18, he or she will not be permitted to continue play until "Core" SafeSport training has been completed. ***Complete the parental consent form before registering for training*** if you have a minor athlete who needs to take the training. Once the form is completed, your child will be enrolled in SafeSport training. A notification of registration will be sent to the email address on file to access the course

[Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy\(MAAPP\)](#) – recommended that all clubs post MAAPP on their club website or put in club handbook or distribute to your club's members. This is for your protection as well as your club personnel protection.

[SafeSport for Clubs and Regions](#) – resources and support; model team travel policy; model policy for social media and electronic communications.

[SafeSport Resources for Athletes](#) – resources and support for parents and athletes

### **Regional Ranking Tournaments**

Selected North Country Region tournaments and North Country Region sanctioned tournaments will be deemed as regional ranking tournaments. Team rankings will be determined by a combination of USA Volleyball Qualifier and Junior National Championship participation and finishes as well as North Country Region sanctioned tournament participation and finishes. Regardless if a team is working to earn a bid to the USA Volleyball Junior National Championship or competing in the Region National Bid Tournament, club directors and parents have requested that the Region create a ranking system. General information about the RRTs can be found [here](#).

**\*\*NEW** Sandy Sweetser: Event and Tournament Manager is your North Country Region events contact. Our goal is for your tournaments to be a success, to fill, and to assist in making your tournament profoundly positive for all involved.

[Sandy's Bio](#) Sandy's Contact: [Sandy@ncrusav.org](mailto:Sandy@ncrusav.org)

Regarding Tournament Sanctioning, just a reminder, all compliant tournament directors from last season are able to request USAV sanctioning for their events through this Sunday, September 1st. Beginning on Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, sanctioning requests will be opened to all member tournament directors. Please get your requests in as soon as possible. Our goal is to work with our members clubs to ensure that your tournaments fill!

### **Junior Membership Options and Membership Benefits**

All full memberships will include the USA Volleyball digital magazine "Your Court." Members can individually opt in/opt out of receiving this magazine. Gold Medal Club and All Region First Team and Second Team will continue for the 2019-2020 season. [Full List of Membership Options](#); [Membership Chart](#); [Membership Benefits](#)

Junior Limited Membership Option and Junior One Event/Multi-Day Event have been discontinued:

- At this time, a limited/regional membership has not been approved by USA Volleyball Board of Directors
- One Event and Multi-Day Event became cumbersome for Tournament Directors to manage

Junior Tryout Membership Option - valid October 1, 2019 - November 30, 2019

- USA Volleyball Board of Directors has approved a tryout membership
- This membership option will remain at \$10.00
- This membership can be upgraded to a full junior membership

### **JUNIOR POLICY UPDATES –North Country Region Board of Directors**

**IMMEDIATE** – Open Commitment for 18s age division

- Starting August 1, 2019, North Country Region junior members entering the 18s age division may commit to a North Country Region club and team. *March of 2020 the Board of Directors will review this policy and consider the 17s age division be added for the 2020-2021 season.*

**IMMEDIATE** – Third Party Recruiting policy has been moved to best practices.

- As a best practice, North Country Region discourages a third party (parents, junior members, friends, relatives, etc...) acting as a club representative to initiate contact with a junior player who has signed a letter of commitment to another club with the intent to have the committed junior player change club affiliation.

- A club is still prohibited from initiating contact with the intent/purpose of recruiting a junior player who has signed a letter of commitment with another club.

- *March of 2020 the Board of Directors will review the Third Party Recruiting Best Practice and prohibition of a club initiating contact with a junior player who has signed a letter of commitment with another club. The Board of Directors is aware that following the letter of the law may circumvent the spirit of the law. The Board of Directors will seek input from the membership about recruiting policies through the 2019-2020 season.*

Conclusion of 2020 Junior National Championships – affiliation to a club ends

- A junior member athlete may choose to release herself/himself from a North Country Region sanctioned junior volleyball club at the conclusion of the USA Volleyball Junior National Championships. North Country Region will develop a more clear process on a how junior member would unaffiliated her/himself from a junior club at the conclusion of the USA Volleyball Junior National Championships.

**Fall Huddle – Club Directors and Officials**

And finally, the Region's inaugural FALL HUDDLE is scheduled for Saturday, October 19. This event is intended as an informational, educational and inspirational meeting for our member Club Directors and Officials. Please mark your calendar! More details will be sent out later next week.

The Huddle will also provide an opportunity to meet new staff members and learn more about all that North Country Region provides to its members.

I look forward to an exciting 2019-20 volleyball season!

**Laura Bush**

**Executive Director/Region Commissioner**

**North Country Region – USA Volleyball**

[laura@ncrusav.org](mailto:laura@ncrusav.org)

T: 800.657.6967 x 1

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\*email sent to club directors with active clubs on USAV Webpoint